

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR THE LOWER EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND
SERVING SOMERSET, WICOMICO AND WORCESTER COUNTIES

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2012

Craig Mathies, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, March 15, 2012, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:05 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Charles Fisher, Somerset County Commissioners; Bob Culver, John Hall and Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County Council; Madison Bunting, Bud Church and Merrill Lockfaw, Worcester County Commissioners; Dennis Williams, Town of Princess Anne Commissioner; Laura Mitchell, City of Salisbury Council; Tracey Cottman, Pocomoke City Council.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioner; Doug Taylor, Somerset County; Wayne Strausburg, Wicomico County; Gerald Mason, Worcester County; Renee Stephens, Maryland Dept of Business and Economic Development.

Mr. Virgil Shockley had Mr. Jim Punell's voting proxy. Mr. Wayne Strausburg had Mr. Rick Pollitt's voting proxy. A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly, John Donegan, Riggin Johnson and Milton Morris.

Guests in attendance: Wayne Clark, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; Chris Jarboe, Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

On a motion from Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the minutes for the meeting of December 8, 2011, were approved as written.

Old Business

Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center Update

Mr. Donegan reported that the work on the front parking area, including the paving, pond area, irrigation and landscaping, has restarted and should be completed by May 15th. There are still a few items that will be completed shortly within the building.

He thanked the Tri-County Council members for their support during this portion of the project.

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson reported that the FY12 revenue is higher than anticipated. Operating expenses are

at 61% of budget for seven months of the year.
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The Annual Transportation Plan (ATP) for FY13 has been completed and submitted to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Shore Transit has requested \$3.9 million. Funding for buses was requested but it is doubtful that it will be included.

In the past occasional driver's meetings were held to allow the driver's to voice concerns and ideas with the senior management. Several drivers have requested holding these meetings again and the first one is scheduled for March 21 at 5:00 p.m.

The state bus roadeo will be held on April 28. Three Shore Transit drivers have qualified to compete. Shore Transit's bus roadeo is being planned for mid-September.

Mr. Johnson reported that Wicomico County Tourism has asked Shore Transit to provide shuttle bus service from Perdue Stadium to Winterplace Park during Pork in the Park on April 20-22. They have contacted several local for profit bus services to provide this service but none are interested. Following discussion, on a motion from Mrs. Sample-Hughes, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve Shore Transit providing shuttle bus service for Pork in the Park.

Mr. Johnson reported that the \$1 Saturday program has increased ridership. He asked the Tri-County Council if they would like to extend the program for another 3 months or longer period of time. Discussion followed. Mr. Boston made a motion to end the \$1 Saturday program and return to the regular fares on Saturdays. The motion died with no second. On a motion from Mr. Shockley, seconded by Mr. Hall, the Tri-County Council voted, all in favor and two opposed, to have \$1 Saturday once a month and regular fares the rest of the month.

The Shore Transit area in the TCC Multi-Purpose Center is complete. Initial projections show that there will be about \$35,000 in construction carryover for the next phase of the project. The bids for the maintenance facility and bus yard are currently being reviewed by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

New Business

Patuxent River Naval Air Station Joint Land Use Study

Mr. Wayne Clark, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and Mr. Chris Jarboe, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, discussed what a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is and how it will affect the lower shore. Patuxent River Naval Air Station will be conducting the study with funding provided by the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment. A 10% local match is needed which will be paid by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. The study is a planning effort between the military installation and the surrounding jurisdictions to promote compatible community growth. Somerset and Wicomico counties were asked for a resolution in support of the JLUS and input as the study is being conducted. Worcester County is not a part of the area included in this study.

Grand Opening of TCC Multi-Purpose Center

Mr. Pennington reported that he is working on plans to hold the grand opening of the TCC Multi-Purpose Center on June 25, June 26 or June 27 as Federal and State level elected officials will be in the area at that time for the Maryland Municipal League Conference in Ocean City.

2012 Annual Employee Meeting

Mr. Pennington reported that the 2012 Annual Employee Meeting will be held in the cafeteria of the TCC Multi-Purpose Center on April 22. Light refreshments will be available beginning at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. Tri-County Council members are welcome to attend and meet the employees.

Budget for FY13

Mr. Pennington distributed a preliminary draft of the Tri-County Council FY13 budget. Shore Transit is being closely monitored due to cash flow problems. While the fixed routes are unchanging expenses, the demand response routes costs keep going up with no increase in funding. Other options to control demand response costs are going to have to be investigated next year.

Mr. Pennington noted that the Tri-County Council will be borrowing some additional funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to cover final building renovation cost overruns.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Boston, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.