

Tri-County Council
For the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland
Serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2012

Craig Mathies, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at the Pocomoke Fire Department in Pocomoke City at 6:25 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston, Somerset County Commissioners; Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County Executive; Bob Culver, Wicomico County Council; Bud Church, Merrill Lockfaw, James Purnell and Virgil Shockley, Worcester County Commissioners; Laura Mitchell, Salisbury City Council; Tracey Cottman, Pocomoke City Council; Delegate Charles Otto.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Gerald Mason, Worcester County.

Mr. Virgil Shockley had Mrs. Louise Gulyas' voting proxy. Mr. Gerald Mason had Mr. Madison Bunting's voting proxy. A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly, John Donegan, Riggin Johnson and Patricia Tiger.

Guests in attendance: Keith Hall, Shore Transit Advisory Board.

On a motion from Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Mr. Church, the minutes for the meeting of June 21, 2012, were approved as written.

Old Business

Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center Update

Mr. Donegan reported that the work on the front parking area has been completed. Some of the landscaping did not survive the summer weather but it is warranted and will be replaced. There have been some minor issues with some of the building systems and they are being worked out.

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Keith Hall who is a member of the Shore Transit Advisory Board.

Mr. Johnson reported on the accident in Fruitland on September 13. The Maryland State Police inspected the bus at the accident site and again in the bus yard a week later and found no violations. The Maryland State Police and the Fruitland Police reports are pending and will be reviewed by the State's Attorney's Office prior to release. The bus driver is on administrative leave.

Mr. Johnson praised the Fruitland Police, Fire Department and Emergency Services for their handling of the accident scene.

Mr. Johnson noted that at the recommendation of our insurance company, Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), the Bus Roadeo scheduled for Saturday, September 22 has been postponed.

Mr. Johnson reported that construction on the maintenance facility is underway. The foundation has been poured and several rows of block have been laid. The slab is scheduled to be poured this week. The contractor is also working on grading the bus lot.

Shore Transit was at 95.5% of budget and had 414,042 passengers for FY12. Farebox recovery was up 12.7% for the year. Shore Transit is still offering the \$1 rides on the first Saturday of the month.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has approved the FY13 Operating Budget of \$2,047,854. MTA approved a fuel provision in the Capital Budget of \$152,175 which is about 6 weeks of fuel. Shore Transit has received a \$152,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) which will be used to purchase buses. A grant was also awarded to Shore Transit for \$7,000 from the Maryland Bikeways Program which will be used for bike racks for on the buses and at stops.

Mr. Johnson distributed a letter from Sandy Adkins, Chair of the Shore Transit Advisory Board (STAB). At their last meeting, the STAB reviewed the close-out of the FY12 Operating Budget and the proposed FY13 Operating Budget. They unanimously voted to recommend that the Tri-County Council approve the proposed FY13 Operating Budget.

New Business

Budget for FY13

Mr. Pennington reported, for Finance Director Kristen Kerchner, that all FY13 grant amounts have been received. Funding for FY13 is basically level. The Maryland State Retirement System has reduced the employer contribution by 2% for FY13. He asked the Tri-County Council to consider giving this 2%, which was already included in the budget, to the employees as a pay increase effective November 1, 2012. Following discussion, on a motion from Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Purnell, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the Tri-County Council FY13 Budget and give the Tri-County Council employees a 2% pay increase effective November 1, 2012.

Patuxent River Naval Air Station Visit

Mr. Pennington reported that a visit to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station has been planned for

Friday, October 12. A bus will take participants from Salisbury to Crisfield where we have
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chartered a boat through Prime Time Fishing for the trip across the bay. More details on the trip will be sent out in a few days.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington noted that the Executive Board meeting scheduled for October 18 is being moved to another date. Executive Board members will be notified of the new date when it is confirmed.

The Tri-County Council meeting scheduled for December will be held in Somerset County.

Planning is underway for a joint lunch meeting for the Eastern Shore Regional Councils and the Southern Maryland Council at the winter MACO conference.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Shockley, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.