

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2010

David MacLeod, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland Executive Board to order on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at the Tri-County Council Building in Salisbury at 6:20 p.m.

Voting Member in attendance: Paul Ward, Somerset County; Delegate Page Elmore.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Sam Boston, Mike McCready and Rex Simpkins, Somerset County; Jerry Mason, Worcester County; Bob Hawkins, City of Pocomoke.

Mr. Mason has Mrs. Louise Gulyas' voting proxy. Mr. McCready has Mr. Ring's voting proxy.

A quorum was present.

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

On a motion by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Mason, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on October 15, 2009, were approved with a correction.

## **Old Business**

### **New Facility Update**

Mr. Pennington reported that there are two architects working on the project, one for the MTA portion and one for the remaining areas. All of the current One Stop Job Market partners have committed to leasing space and the building is basically full. Wicomico County Social Services is interested in more space and Wor-Wic Community College is interested in some space. There is the potential for additional income from the cafeteria or renting meeting space.

If the Wicomico County Health Department agrees to allow us to reduce the offset from the sewage reserve area, we are looking at making a separate entrance for buses. A request has been sent to the City of Salisbury to include the property in the water and sewer plan.

Mr. Pennington noted that renovation time is expected to take about a year. A more in depth evaluation of the HVAC system has been completed and the findings report is due this week.

Mr. Pennington was pleased to report that MTA will be providing an additional \$1 million for construction. The possibility of a fuel depot at the facility is being investigated as this would be a cost effective addition.

Mr. Pennington reported that a contest was held where the employees were given the chance to name the new building. The winning name will be announced at the Annual Employee Meeting in January and the employee who submitted that name will receive a prize. With over 50 entries there were only two duplicates. The senior staff reviewed the entries and narrowed the list to eleven names for the Executive Board's consideration. Following review and discussion, the Executive Board chose Tri-County Multi-Purpose Center.

### **Shore Transit Update**

Mr. Johnson reported that the final grant award figures for FY10 were received in November. Shore Transit was awarded \$2,042,216 in federal and state grants.

As of December 31, 2009, Shore Transit was at 48.5% of budget for the year. Diesel fuel prices are up but the budget is based on pricing of \$3.00 per gallon.

Mr. Johnson also reported that Shore Transit became the ticket agent for Greyhound Bus in October. Greyhound is stopping at the Adkins Building in Salisbury with 20 buses a day going to that location. Ticket sales for the first three months were \$45,000.

The Shore Transit Advisory Board (STAB) has a new chair, Ellen Payne. The state Director of Local Transit Planning attended the last STAB meeting.

Mr. Johnson noted that there will be more American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding available for transit and Shore Transit is eligible.

### **2009-2010 Budget**

Mr. Pennington reported that due to the budget situation at the state level, we were unable to get final grant amounts from MTA until December. The draft budget approved by the Tri-County Council included \$75,000 more for Shore Transit. As a result of this cut several line items have been reduced. On a motion from Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Ward, the Executive Board unanimously voted to approve the 2009-2010 Tri-County Council budget as presented.

### **Legislative Event**

Mr. Pennington reported, for Mrs. Gulyas, that there are now 14 sponsors for the Legislative Event is scheduled for February 11 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis. The Loews has agreed to let us have one of the back ballrooms along with the atrium and the room beside the atrium. All attendees will receive two tickets for drinks after which it is a cash bar. There will be no Tri-County Council meeting in the afternoon prior to the Legislative Event.

The Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC) will be doing an oyster sandwich lunch in the Senate office building on Friday, February 12.

## **2010 Legislative Agenda**

Chair MacLeod led a discussion about items to be included in the 2010 Legislative Agenda.

Following discussion, it was determined that the following items were a priority for the Tri-County Council:

1. Support Bill #SB37 (Oyster Legislation)
2. County Budget Security
3. Maintenance of Effort
4. We Support Our Farmers and Watermen

## **New Business**

### **Annual Employee Meeting**

Mr. Pennington reported that the Annual Tri-County Council Employee meeting will be held at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center on Sunday, January 31. We will have food starting at 2:00 p.m. and the meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. All Tri-County Council members are welcome to attend.

### **Amended Bylaws Resolution**

Chair MacLeod reported that at the Tri-County Council, at the December 2009 meeting, voted to approve updates to the bylaws as recommended by our attorney. Our attorney has now informed us that a formal resolution also needs to be approved. On a motion from Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Mason, the Executive Board unanimously voted to pass a resolution which updates the Tri-County Council bylaws.

## **Other Business**

Mr. Pennington reported that ARRA funds are available for paramedic training. The training will be held at Wor-Wic Community College. At this point, 22 applications have been submitted; 14 of which are from Somerset County.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. McCready, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.