

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
October 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, October 14, 2010, at the Tri-County Council Office in Snow Hill at 6:15 p.m.

Voting Member in attendance: Jim Ring, Somerset County; Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County; Linda Busick, Worcester County.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Bob Hawkins, Pocomoke City Council; Ted Shea, Wicomico County; Jerry Mason, Worcester County.

A quorum was present.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Busick, seconded by Mr. Ring, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on July 15, 2010, were approved as written.

Old Business

New Facility Update

Mr. Donegan stated that he had the final site plan for the Executive Board's review.

Mr. Pennington reported that the agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for funding is in place. An application for funding has been submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The application will be reviewed in December and notification of status will be made in January. All of the renovations, except the area to be occupied by Shore Transit, will be funded by USDA. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the renovations is currently under review by USDA and they have projected turn around in about two weeks. The building renovation will take about six months to complete. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has to get approval from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) before they can approve the RFP for the renovation of the Shore Transit area. We are working with the architect to do a phased construction project. Parking will be an issue during construction. The goal is to have the One Stop Job Market (OSJM) in the building by July 1.

Mr. Pennington reported that USDA has suggested that we close the loan sooner. The interest and principal payment on the loan is about equivalent to the current interest payment. If the loan is closed before the end of the year the interest will be 3.75% rather than 4.25%. We will be able to do a once a year interest only payment to USDA, which will be due one year from the date of settlement.

Mr. Donegan reported that the proposals to put in solar project a higher per kilowatt price than the price we are currently paying to Choptank Electric. This option will be revisited in 1 to 2 years.

Mr. Pennington reported that when Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC) runs fiber on Route 50 past the building we will have a direct connection run into the building.

On a motion from Mrs. Busick, seconded by Mrs. Sample-Hughes, the Executive Board unanimously voted to authorize Mr. Pennington to close the USDA loan prior to the end of the year to get the lower rate and payment.

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson reported that the Shore Transit has a commitment from MTA for \$3.9 million in funding for FY11. The MTA funding has been level for the past 3 years.

All of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds have been spent except for \$13,000 for the security system at the new facility.

The new Shore Transit website is scheduled to launch on November 15.

Mr. Johnson reported that Shore Transit applied for a 3311F grant for a route between Ocean City and Salisbury but the grant was awarded to Greyhound. Greyhound was also awarded the grant for the Salisbury to Baltimore route.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Shore Transit Advisory Board (STAB) is requesting that the Tri-County Council appoint Ms. Lori Carson to the board. On a motion from Mrs. Busick, seconded by Mr. Ring, the Executive Board unanimously voted to appoint Ms. Lori Carson to the STAB.

New Business

USDA Loan Documents

Mr. Pennington reported that as part of the loan closing, USDA is requiring an update resolution by the Tri-County Council which is enclosed in the meeting packet. On a motion from Mr. Ring, seconded by Mrs. Busick, the Executive Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution for the USDA loan.

TCC Meeting in December

Mr. MacLeod reported that the Tri-County Council is scheduled to meet and elect the Executive Board members in December. Based on the counties' swearing in ceremonies, he asked the Executive Board to determine the best time to meet. The Executive Board asked that he wait until after the General Election to determine the meeting date.

Nominating Committee

Mr. MacLeod noted that the Nominating Committee needs to be convened. The Nominating Committee consists of 3 Executive Board members and 2 non-Executive Board members. The Executive Board requested that Mr. Pennington ask the county administrators to serve and use his discretion to get two other members.

Citizenship Award

Mr. MacLeod noted that in past years the Tri-County Council has awarded a Citizenship Award. The award was not presented in 2008 or 2009. He asked if the Executive Board wanted to present the award this year. Following discussion it was determined that the award be postponed until 2011.

Legislative Agenda Items

Mr. MacLeod asked for suggestions of issues for the 2011 Legislative Agenda. Following discussion the following items were suggested:

- Restoration of Highway User Funds
- Environmental agencies coming down on eastern shore farmers for pollution violations but not waste treatment plants on the western shore
- Teacher pension charges from the state

The Executive Board noted that these are suggestions and that the next Executive Board should determine if these are the proper items to pursue during the legislative session.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington noted that a Tri-County Council Foundation meeting is needed to keep the Foundation viable.

We are working with the Mid-Shore Regional Council to arrange a joint lunch meeting during Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) conference. Details will be finalized after the general election.

Mr. MacLeod reported that the Water & Sewer Committee will be holding a meeting on October 27 and the speaker will be discussing storm water guidelines.

Mr. MacLeod and Mr. Pennington thanked both Mr. Ring and Mrs. Busick for their service to the Tri-County Council and wished them well in their future endeavors.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mrs. Busick, seconded by Mrs. Sample-Hughes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.