

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes (Corrected)
July 27, 2011

Louise Gulyas, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland Executive Board to order on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at the Tri-County Council office in Snow Hill at 6:25 p.m.

Voting Member in attendance: Jerry Boston and Craig Mathias, Somerset County; Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Delegate Norman Conway; Bob Hawkins, Pocomoke City Council.

Delegate Conway has Senator Mathias' voting proxy.
Mr. Hawkins has Mr. Jim Purnell's voting proxy.

A quorum was present.

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

Guest in attendance: Ellen Payne, Shore Transit Advisory Board.

On a motion by Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on April 28, 2011, were approved as written.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Johnson introduced Ellen Payne, Shore Transit Advisory Board (STAB) Chair, who was in attendance to support the STAB recommendations for service reductions in Wicomico County. He reported that STAB held a special meeting on June 28 to discuss service reductions in the amount of \$200,000 for Wicomico County which was defunded by budget cuts by the Wicomico County Council.

STAB recommended that Route 121, serving North Salisbury, be eliminated as it follows almost the same route as Route 111. Stops from Route 121 that are not on Route 111 will be covered by other service options. Eliminating Route 121 cuts \$188,955 from the Shore Transit budget.

STAB also recommended that Route 151 in Fruitland be altered to eliminate some low or no rider stops and add a stop at the Food Lion store. One of the two current stops at the Salisbury Mall will also be eliminated. These actions, along with some other small route modifications, will be an additional \$12,000 in savings. There will be no reduction in Shore Transit staff.

The STAB recommendations were presented at a Public Hearing on July 21. Consensus from the public in attendance was that this was a favorable solution.

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Boston, seconded by Mrs. Sample-Hughes, the Executive Board unanimously voted to approve the changes to the Shore Transit routes as recommended by the STAB.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is for Salisbury and the surrounding area, is having a route analysis done based on Shore Transit moving its base of operations to the new building. Route analysis has been done by riding buses and counting passengers boarding or disembarking at stops but with computers on the buses he is starting to get more sophisticated data.

Mr. Johnson reported that the July 24 issue of *The Daily Times* contained an editorial about Shore Transit's budget cuts and subsequent cutting of services. He distributed a letter that was drafted in response to the editorial. The Executive Board reviewed the letter and requested that Chair Gulyas sign it.

New Facility Update

Mr. Donegan reported that Phase 1 of the building remodel, or all the areas not occupied by Shore Transit, is about at the halfway point and should be completed in November. The roofing contractor started work a few days ago. Work has been started by R.D. Meredith on Phase 2, which is the Shore Transit areas of the building. Phase 3 of the project, which is for the site work and front parking areas, is out to bid now and should be completed in December. The contractor will be using non-porous concrete for all the parking areas. Phase 4, which is the bus roads and maintenance facility, will be going out in a few weeks and should be completed in mid-2012.

Mr. Donegan reported that the Low Voltage RFP portion of the project has fallen behind due to waiting for approvals. This could change the move in date to February or March of 2012. At this point the project is on budget and moving forward.

Mr. Donegan also noted that on August 15 the building will be open all day for visits if any Tri-County Council members would like to see the progress.

PAC14 Proposal

Chair Gulyas asked the Executive Board if they were interested in pursuing a regional public access channel as suggested by PAC14 at the Tri-County Council meeting on June 16, 2011.

Following discussion, it was decided that a committee be formed to look at the costs associated with an expansion and if the cable companies would pay for it with no cost to the counties. Sheree Sample-Hughes agreed to chair the committee and Jerry Boston agreed to be a member.

Regional Visioning

Mr. Pennington reported that we are working with Wor-Wic Community College, BEACON at Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce to engage community leaders in developing a regional strategic plan. Dr. Ray Hoy from Wor-Wic Community College has agreed to chair the regional visioning effort. The first meeting will be held in September.

New Business

Mileage Rate Change

Chair Gulyas reported that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) increased the mileage reimbursement rate to .555 per mile as of July 1, 2011. The current Tri-County Council rate is .51 per mile. Somerset and Worcester Counties pay .50 per mile and Wicomico County pays the IRS rate. Following discussion, members of the Executive Board asked for information on the impact to the budget if they would implement an increase. The item was tabled until the next Executive Board meeting.

Dover Air Force Base Visit

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council and the Mid-Shore Regional Council are organizing a visit to Dover Air Force Base. He has contacted public relations at the base and learned that they only do tours on Fridays and groups are limited to no more than 40 people. The first available date would be September 23.

Several Executive Board members expressed interest in the trip but asked Mr. Pennington to get a date in October if this is agreeable with the Mid-Shore Regional Council.

Other Business

Mr. Morris reported that the first Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) class has graduated. Of the 10 graduates, 6 were hired at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, 1 was hired in the aerospace industry in Virginia, 2 have job offers and 1 decided to return to construction work.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mrs. Sample-Hughes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.