

# **Tri-County Council**

For the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland  
Serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes February 28, 2013

Sheree Sample-Hughes, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland Executive Board to order on Thursday, February 28, 2013, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:15 p.m.

Voting Member in attendance: Jerry Boston, Somerset County; Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County; Merrill Lockfaw and Jim Purnell, Worcester County.

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

A quorum was present.

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

On a motion by Mr. Lockfaw, seconded by Mr. Boston, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on October 25, 2012, were approved as written.

### **Old Business**

#### **Shore Transit Update**

Mr. Bellacicco reported that Shore Transit operated at 48% of their annual budget for July through December 2012. The FY14 budget is due to Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) by March 8.

Mr. Bellacicco reported that Shore Transit has been approached by the Town of Ocean City about purchasing buses that look like trolleys which they no longer use from them. The trolley buses were inspected and found to be in good condition. As the trolley buses were purchased with MTA funds, after discussions with MTA, Shore Transit could purchase the trolley buses based on a pro-rated matching fund schedule for \$7,000 each. Proceeds from Grayhound ticket sales would be used to purchase two trolley buses. Possible uses for the trolley buses would be Pork in the Park, Delmarva Chicken Festival and other special events in the area. He is also looking at using the trolley buses to transport tourist from West Ocean City to other venues in Worcester County and will be meeting shortly with the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce to ask for their support of this proposal.

Mr. Bellacicco reported that Shore Transit will be modifying the bus routes in the area of the Wicomico Civic Center on March 15 and 16 to support the Eastern Shore Mission of Mercy dental clinic.

Shore Transit has been asked if they would make transportation to the polling centers in Salisbury easier for constituents on Election Day which is April 2, 2013. There are already bus stops close to all the polling centers. Following discussion, the Executive Board decided to bring the matter before the Tri-County Council with possible implementation for the 2014 General Election.

Mr. Bellacicco stated that since Shore Transit was awarded a Bikeways Grant, he is researching what type of bike racks to purchase and where to install them.

Mr. Bellacicco stated that there have been problems with a group of vagrants using the shelters at the Calvert Street transfer point and causing problems for our customers resulting in the police being called on several occasions. The shelters have now been removed and the problems have ceased.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Maintenance Facility is about 4 weeks ahead of schedule and should be ready to occupy well ahead of the June 29 deadline. He has started to move some Shore Transit employees into the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center.

Mr. Pennington noted that he is looking at holding the ribbon cutting for the Maintenance Facility August 14, 15 or 16 at the same time as the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Conference in Ocean City. More information will be distributed as soon as a date is finalized.

Mr. Johnson reported that he has not yet gotten the official report on the fatal bus accident, which occurred in September, from the Fruitland Police Department or notification from the State's Attorney's office regarding charges. The driver of that bus has since resigned.

### **Taste of the Eastern Shore Legislative Event**

Mr. Pennington reported that about 322 people attended the Taste of the Eastern Shore Legislative Event. There were 29 event sponsors including 4 new sponsors. As the cost of the event is going up we will be evaluating the price of sponsorship for 2014. We are also looking at extending the event from 2 hours to 2-1/2 hours next year.

### **New Business**

#### **Substance Abuse Policy**

Mr. Pennington, reporting for Mrs. Tiger, stated that the Tri-County Council has had a Substance Abuse Policy for several years but MTA is requiring that the policy be approved by the Executive Board. The policy follows Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines and applies to bus drivers, road supervisors and any other personnel who could drive a bus. On a motion by Mr. Purnell, seconded by Mr. Lockfaw, the Executive Board unanimously voted to approve the Substance Abuse Policy as written.

### **Resolution**

Mr. Pennington reported that MTA needs a resolution authorizing him to apply for and execute transportation grants on behalf of the Tri-County Council. This has been done several times in the past for MTA. On a motion by Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Mr. Purnell, the Executive Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution to authorize Mr. Pennington to apply for and execute transportation grants on behalf of the Tri-County Council.

### **Solar Power for TCC Multi-Purpose Center**

Mr. Donegan reported that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was done for solar power prior to renovation of the TCC Multi-Purpose Center. At that time solar would have cost considerable more than was already being paid for electric. Since the building has been completed, several solar companies have approached us about installing solar. As available space at the building is currently limited and with Perdue's solar farm in the same electric grid, it was suggested that the Tri-County Council lease about 6 acres of land, outside of our electric grid, and install the solar panels there. Solar power would cost about 2 to 3 cents less per kwh than we are currently paying and would save about \$525,000 over 20 years.

The Executive Board asked Mr. Donegan to continue to pursue this and keep them updated on the matter.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tri-County Council was given a grant by the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development to facilitate an Aerospace Feasibility Study for the region. A local vendor, based out of Wallops Island, has been contracted to do the study. The first draft is due in March and the final draft is to be completed by May 1. This will be used as a guide for our training and infrastructure to meet the potential needs of the region.

Mr. Pennington noted that the annual review of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) will be held in late April. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires that this document be reviewed annually as part of our Economic Development District (EDD) qualifications. All of the members of the Executive Board are also members of the CEDS Committee and their input in the review is appreciated.

Mr. Pennington noted that the draft FY14 budget will be presented at the Tri-County Council meeting on March 27.

Mr. Pennington reported that the Shore Transit Bus Rodeo will be held on Sunday, April 7 and the Annual Employee Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28. Tri-County Council members are welcome to attend both events.

Mr. Pennington reported that Delmarva Education Foundation (DEF) is a new tenant in the One Stop Job Market. They are leasing about 600 square feet. The space is currently under

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construction with a target move in date of April 1. Hot Desks, which is a business incubator being run by the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center, will be opening on April 19. There is still about 4,000 square feet of space available for lease in the building.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Purnell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.