

Tri-County Council

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes May 15, 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 Wednesday, May 15, 2013, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:05 p.m.

Voting Member in attendance: Jerry Boston, Somerset County; Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County; Senator Jim Mathias.

A quorum was present.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly, Brad Bellacicco and Milton Morris.

On a motion by Mr. Boston, seconded by Senator Mathias, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on February 28, 2013, were approved as written.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes noted that she attended the Tri-County Council Annual Employee Meeting on April 28th. There was a good turn out and she enjoyed presenting awards to the employees.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Bellacicco reported that the Shore Transit incident resulting in the death of a passenger has been settled.

Mr. Bellacicco reported the use of the trolleys for a route to entertainment venues in Worcester County may have to be postponed until 2014 due to lack of funds. The initiative needs about \$100,000 to begin operations. Ocean Downs is supporting the initiative and we are talking to them about advertising by putting their logo on the trolleys.

Mr. Bellacicco noted that KFH Group, a transit consultant, will be doing a passenger survey for a several day period in early June. The information collected will be used to determine how to modify routes to incorporate the new transfer point at the TCC Multi-Purpose Center.

The maintenance facility construction is ahead of schedule. The customer service representatives will be moving into the building June 7-9. Bus maintenance, dispatch, ticket sales and the buses will be moving June 21-23.

Mr. Pennington noted the ribbon cutting for the maintenance facility is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26 at 1:00 p.m. The Tri-County Council meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. that day is being moved back to 3:00 p.m. or following the ribbon cutting ceremony. A presentation will be made to retiring Transit Director, Riggan Johnson, at the Tri-County Council meeting. He

asked that any retirement acknowledgements from the counties also be presented at that time. There will be a retirement celebration for Mr. Johnson on Friday, June 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Shore Transit training room of the TCC Multi-Purpose Center. All Tri-County Council members are welcome to stop by and wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. Bellacicco also noted that the Shore Transit Bus Roadeo was held on April 7th. The top 3 drivers represented Shore Transit at the Maryland TAM Roadeo but unfortunately did not have a top placement.

Solar Power for TCC Multi-Purpose Center

Mr. Pennington reported that he met with the manager of the Salisbury/Wicomico Regional Airport about leasing some land by the airport for solar panels. It was suggested by a solar company that the Tri-County Council lease about 6 acres of land outside of our electric grid, since Perdue's solar farm is in the same electric grid as the TCC Multi-Purpose Center, and install the solar panels there. A hurdle with this option is that the airport is in Delmarva Power's area and the TCC Multi-Purpose Center is in Choptank Electric's area. He is working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to determine what other options we may have.

New Business

Budget Amendment for FY13

Mr. Pennington explained that the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development's (DBED) grant requires that all budget line items be plus or minus 10% of the budgeted amount. We are making some adjustments to our budget to meet this requirement. On a motion from Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Mr. Boston, the Tri-County Council Executive Board unanimously voted to accept the changes to the FY13 DBED budget as presented.

Holiday Schedule for 2013-2014

Mr. Pennington noted that the 2013-2014 Holiday Schedule was included in the meeting packet for review and approval. On a motion by Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Senator Mathias, the Executive Board unanimously voted to approve the 2013-2014 Holiday Schedule.

Tawes Crab and Clam Bake

Mr. Pennington reported that the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake will be held on July 17th. The Tri-County Council will again partner with Somerset County Economic Development, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and Maryland Broadband Cooperative for a tent space. Tri-County Council members can contact the office if they would like tickets.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington reported that the health insurance for Tri-County Council employees will increase 14% for FY14.

Mr. Pennington reported that a survey of Shore Transit riders was done in 2007 to determine their county of residence. The results were 50% from Wicomico County and 25% each from Somerset and Worcester Counties. At that time the match from the counties for Shore Transit was split evenly between them. We are working each year to adjust the split to coincide with the survey results. For the FY14 budget, Wicomico County will be asked for about 37% of the match funds required.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes reported that she, Milton Morris and Brad Bellacicco attended an invitation only meeting with Senator Ben Cardin at Chesapeake College to discuss economic development on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Morris reported that the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA) will be losing about \$80,000 in training funds due to sequestration. We can apply for the new state Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) grant program.

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