

Tri-County Council

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes October 30, 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, October 30, 2013, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:10 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Rex Simpkins, Somerset County; Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Virgil Shockley, Worcester County; Renee Stephens, MD Department of Business and Economic Development.

Mr. Shockley had Mr. Merrill Lockfaw's proxy.

A quorum was present.

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

On a motion by Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Mr. Boston, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on July 24, 2013, were approved as written.

Mrs Sample-Hughes asked Mr. Shockley to discuss the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) that has been proposed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The PMT was not to go into effect until 2017 but MDA wants it to go into effect immediately. The PMT was to go before the Administrative, Executive & Legislative Review (AELR) Committee of the Maryland Legislature, which approves amendments to laws, for an emergency hearing on August 24 but the item was pulled at the last minute. It is scheduled to go before the AELR Committee again on November 20.

The PMT would not allow farmers to spread manure on fields with a phosphorus reading of more than 150. This would impact about 85% of the fields on the lower shore. To use commercial fertilizer in place of manure would add about \$100 per acre to the cost of corn. The state has not devised a plan for disposing of the manure if farmers can't spread it on their fields.

MDA Secretary Buddy Hance has agreed to meet with lower shore legislators on November 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the TCC Multi-Purpose Center to discuss the PMT and its economic impact on the region. Mr. Shockley estimates that the PMT will have a \$70 million impact on Worcester County alone.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Bellacicco reported that Shore Transit has ordered five new buses on the FY2014 capital grant. Routine maintenance of the fleet has improved greatly with the addition of the new maintenance facility. Both the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) did a site visit recently and they were impressed by the facility

Shore Transit currently has 48 fulltime drivers and 2 part-time drivers. For the 1st quarter of FY14, the passenger count was 130,000. This is 10,000 more than the 1st quarter of FY13.

Mr. Bellacicco noted that he has learned that it takes about 6 weeks for a MTA requisition to be processed. At this time, Shore Transit is still owed over \$1 million by MTA. The line of credit will need to be accessed next week for payroll if no funds come in from MTA.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes stated that she sent a letter to MTA Secretary Smith expressing the Tri-County Council's concern about Shore Transit not receiving their FY2014 grant paperwork for signature until almost the end of the 1st quarter.

Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy

Mr. Pennington reported that the Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy was discussed at the last Tri-County Council meeting and members had asked some questions about the policy. The policy is for safety sensitive employees and is required by MTA. There would be additional cost if all employees were tested and it would make the pool larger so the safety sensitive employee would not be randomly tested as often. Shore Transit has budgeted for testing but other departments have not. Following discussion, on a motion from Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Mr. Boston, the Tri-County Council Executive Board unanimously voted to approve the Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy as written for safety sensitive employees.

TCCMPC Annexation

Mr. Pennington reported that a request has been made to MTA for \$35,000 for the annexation application fee to the City of Salisbury. We may be able to share some of the construction costs with a nearby school and others in the area with failing septic systems.

New Business

Citizenship Award

Mrs. Sample-Hughes stated that there were four nominees for the Citizenship Award and their information was included in the meeting packet. A vote was taken and the Executive Board decided to present the Citizenship Award to the Alan Hudson Family. The presentation will be made at the Tri-County Council meeting in December.

Nominating Committee

Mrs. Sample-Hughes noted that a Nominating Committee is needed to choose the slate of officers for 2014. The Nominating Committee must consist of 3 members of the Executive Board and 2 Tri-County Council members not on the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee usually meets by conference call. Mr. Boston volunteered for the committee and the Executive Board directed Mr. Pennington to recruit the volunteers needed.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington reported that Great Bay Wind in Princess Anne has requested a letter of support for their windmill project. On a motion by Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Simpkins, the Tri-County Council Executive Board unanimously voted to send a letter of support to Great Bay Wind.

Mr. Pennington reported that the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) police chief and officers have recently been visiting the One Stop Job Market. They feel that access to the building is not well controlled. They would like to close the entrance by the Maryland Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Support Enforcement office and have only the one entrance into the One Stop Job Market available to visitors. All visitors would be required to pass through a metal detector at that entrance. There is a metal detector at the DSS Child Support Enforcement entrance which is paid for and staffed by DSS. There is no metal detector at the entrance to the One Stop Job Market. Offices throughout the One Stop Job Market are equipped with panic buttons. He does not feel that this change is viable at this time but wanted to make the Executive Board aware of the DLLR police's concern

Mr. Pennington also noted that a building wide Safety Committee has been formed. They are determining safe rooms in all offices in case of an emergency and will be conducting safety drills in the near future.

Mr. Pennington reported that Wor-Wic Community College is considering leasing the vacant space in the TCC Multi-Purpose Center as they will be running the adult education program beginning in July 2014. Wor-Wic will be the GED testing site starting in January 2014.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Pollitt, seconded by Mr. Boston, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.