

Tri-County Council

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes October 29, 2014

Jim Purnell, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland Executive Board to order on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:20 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston, Somerset County; John Hall, Rick Pollitt and Sheree Sample-Hughes, Wicomico County; Merrill Lockfaw, Worcester County.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Doug Taylor, Somerset County

Mr. Taylor had Mr. Rex Simpkins' proxy.

A quorum was present.

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

On a motion by Mr. Lockfaw, seconded by Mr. Hall, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on July 30, 2014, were approved as written.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update

Mr. Bellacicco reported that passenger fares were good for the first quarter of FY15. There is \$280,000 for FY14 and \$250,000 for FY15 in funding requisitions that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has yet to process. There is \$735,000 in Shore Transit's accounts receivable. Capital funding of \$80,000 has been received for Phase III of construction.

A route reduction, 1200 hours per week to 750 hours per week, was implemented in October. The transition went very well. Passengers were given advance notification and there were very few complaints or issues.

The 5 new small buses have been received and are in service for Origin to Destination (OTD) transportation which has helped in reducing the number of taxis being used. Two of the new buses have been converted to also use propane fuel. There is currently a need to hire 5-10 new drivers.

The Salisbury trolley, which runs between Salisbury University (SU) and downtown, has been averaging 100 passengers on Thursdays, 50 passengers on Fridays and 15 on Saturdays. The higher passenger count for Thursdays is due to college night at Brew River Restaurant.

Mr. Bellacicco is in preliminary discussions with SU to do a short route from the SU campus to the student housing complexes. SU would provide the funding for this route.

The Somerset County Health Department has gotten vehicles to use for the medical transportation but have not started using them. They have agreed to a new contract for medical transportation for the rest of FY15 based on revenue hours at the rate of \$36 per hour.

The Wicomico County Health Department has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for their medical transportation. Shore Transit is not planning to respond due to competing against private sector businesses. The Executive Board agreed with this decision. On a motion from Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Boston, the Tri-County Council Executive Board unanimously voted to send a letter stating this and, in addition, asking for a State Attorney General's ruling on the eligibility of Shore Transit to respond to the RFP be to the Wicomico Health Officer.

TCCMPC Annexation

Mr. Bellacicco reported that he met with the Salisbury City Council during a work session when they discussed the annexation and our request is moving forward. Our water and sewer lines will be hooked into the city's system at Wor-Wic Community College and the State Highway Administration has approved the lines being run under Route 50. The sewer will be hooked up first so that the water lines can be run through the current septic drain field. MTA has stated that funding for the project is in the FY15 Capital Budget but they have not sent written confirmation of this yet. MTA has also stated that they will approve the purchase and installation of the wash bay equipment prior to hook up of lines.

New Business

TCC Meeting in December

Mr. Purnell stated that the next Tri-County Council meeting is scheduled for December 3 which is the day after the county elected officials are sworn in. He asked if this would give the counties time to decide on their 2015 voting Tri-County Council members and Executive Board nominations or if the meeting should be rescheduled. Following discussion, on a motion from Mr. Lockfaw, seconded by Mr. Pollitt, the Tri-County Council Executive Board unanimously voted to change the date of the next meeting to the afternoon of January 8, during the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) conference.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Purnell noted that the next Tri-County Council meeting will include the election of officers so the Nominating Committee needs to be convened. As per the Bylaws the Nominating Committee shall consist of three Executive Board members and two non-Executive Board members. The Executive Board agreed that the county administrators will be the three members representing the Executive Board and asked Mr. Pennington to get the two other Nominating Committee members.

Citizenship Award

Mr. Purnell reported that there were five nominees for the Citizenship Award. Following discussion, on a motion from Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Boston, the Executive Board unanimously voted to table the decision until the first Executive Board meeting of 2015.

Other Business

Taste of the Eastern Shore Legislative Event

Mr. Pennington reported that the Taste of the Eastern Shore Legislative Event will be held on February 19, 2015, at the Loews in Annapolis. There are already 8 sponsors for the event. He is working with the Mid-Shore Regional Council and the Upper Shore Regional Council to get new sponsors.

Mr. Pennington reported that the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) has been replaced by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and it contains a lot of changes to the programs. Mr. Milton Morris, Lower Shore Workforce Alliance Director, will do a presentation on WIOA at the Tri-County Council meeting in March.

Members of all five of Maryland's Regional Councils' are invited to a networking luncheon on January 8 during the MACO Conference in Cambridge.

The Worcester County Health Department will be holding a Health Coverage Kickoff in the One Stop Job Market on Saturday, November 15 to talk to the public about enrollment in state health insurance exchange. Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Atlantic General Hospital, the county health departments and other regional agencies will be conducting health screening and providing information on their services. All Shore Transit rides that day will be free.

Mr. Pennington distributed an information sheet on the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund, which was passed by the legislature in 2006 but never funded. The Rural Maryland Council is leading an effort to get this included in the FY16 budget as it would have a positive impact on all the rural areas in the state.

Mr. Pennington noted that the cafeteria in the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center is planning to open about the end of November. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Hebron Saving Bank issuing a loan for construction costs for the building.

There is about 2500 sqft of unoccupied space left in the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center. The building is starting to have some extra funds each month since the rent increase.

The line of credit with Hebron Savings Bank has been paid back and has not had to be used during this fiscal year.

Mr. Pennington noted that the Tri-County Council vehicle that he uses is now 10 years old and has about 180,000 miles on it. If the cash flow remains good he would like to purchase a new vehicle on the state contract and put the current vehicle in the motor pool. On a motion by Mr. Lockfaw, seconded by Mr. Pollitt, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to authorize Mr. Pennington to purchase a new vehicle.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Boston, seconded by Mr. Hall, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.