

**Tri-County Council**  
*for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland*  
Serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
July 25, 2018

Randy Laird, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland Executive Board to order on Wednesday, July 25, 2018, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:15 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Ted Elder and Joe Mitrecic, Worcester County; Senator Jim Mathias.

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Mindie Burgoyne, Maryland Department of Commerce.

Staff in attendance: Mike Pennington, Kristie Eberly, Brad Bellacicco, John Donegan, Greg Padgham and Becca Webster.

Mr. Laird had Mr. Rex Simpkins' proxy.

A quorum was present.

On a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Elder, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on May 16, 2018, were approved with one correction to change the number of diesel buses to 10.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Shore Transit Update – Brad Bellacicco**

Shore Transit will be flat funded for FY19 by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). FY19 matching funds from Wicomico and Worcester Counties will be used to cover expenses until the state grant funds arrive. The request for the Department of Social Services funding has been made.

There are 42 vehicles in the fleet. Two medium buses from FY18 capital funds are on order. Will be getting 2 medium buses and 1 small bus in FY19 Capital grants.

Shore Transit has 91 employees, 55 are drivers and 3 team leaders. There are currently 3 drivers on extended medical leave. There are 2 drivers in training and 2 more drivers are needed. Also need 2 dispatchers so that a dispatcher can go back to driving.

The Phase III water and sewer project continues to progress. The sewer hook-up has been completed and is functioning. The oil/water separator tank was completed today. Once the City of Salisbury approves the as-built plans then the water meter will be

installed. The bus wash area is prepped for installation of the equipment and the equipment is expected to arrive in September. This should be completed by the end of the year.

The passenger count for FY18 was down about 12%. The West Ocean City trolley has started for the summer and averaged 26 riders per day in June.

Mr. Mitrecic asked if dispatchers are needed 24 hours a day. Mr. Bellacicco stated that they are as buses run 22 hours a day, there can be Greyhound passengers in the cafeteria overnight, they watch the building and are on site if there is an emergency.

#### **B. Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA) Update – Becca Webster**

The Youth Program Coordinator, Ivonne Lomax, has presented the Youth Strategic Plan at a Commissioner or Council meeting in all three counties. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Out of School youth programs to start on October 1 has been released.

All the signage on the One Stop Job Market has been changed to the new name of American Job Center. The directional highway sign on Route 50, both east and west, still has One Stop Job Market and we will be contacting the State Highway Administration asking them to change it.

The mobile One Stop has significant rust damage along with holes in the floor. The estimate to repair just the rust damage is \$18,000. It also needs other repairs, including tires, for a total estimated cost of repairs of \$25,000. It has been taken off the road indefinitely. The mobile was being used four days a week for both regularly scheduled visits and special events.

Mrs. Webster asked the Executive Board members if repairs should be made to mobile or if she should look into purchasing a new one. Funds are available for the purchase but the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) would need to approve such a large expenditure. Following discussion, the Executive Board members asked Mrs. Webster to ask DLLR if they would approve using funds for the purchase of a new mobile, get information on the cost of a mobile and have information on the services the mobile provides for the Tri-County Council meeting in September.

The Maryland Department of Corrections held a job fair today in the American Job Center for positions at Eastern Correctional Institute (ECI).

The State of Maryland has applied for a U.S. Department of Labor grant to help opioid victims and their family members to get jobs.

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) currently has three vacancies for Somerset County and two vacancies for Worcester County. Requests to fill these vacancies will be sent to the counties.

### **C. Skipjack Loan Fund (SLF) Update – Kristie Eberly**

A new application for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) for capitalization funds has been submitted to the regional office where they will score it and then send it to the national office. We should be notified if the application was funded in September.

Working with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and our RLF consultant on an application for \$500,000 in funding which will be used to capitalize the SLF. We are waiting on DHCD to determine if the application should be submitted by the Tri-County Council or the Tri-County Council Foundation

The policies and procedures were approved by the Tri-County Council's at their June meeting. The Executive Board needs to appoint the members of the Loan Review Committee. The suggested nominees are:

Danny Thompson, Director, Somerset County Economic Development  
Dan Kuennen, Retired Executive Director, Rural Development Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Dave Ryan, Director, Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development  
John Hickman, Director, Small Business Development Center  
Kathryn Gordon, Interim Director, Worcester County Economic Development  
Reid Tingle, President, Bank of Ocean City  
John Hall, Retired Business Owner

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Elder, the Executive Board unanimously voted to appoint the suggested nominees to the Loan Review Committee with the exception of Ms. Gordon.

The Executive Board members were asked if Mr. Michael Day, Mainstreet Manager for the Town of Snow Hill, would be an acceptable candidate. As they were acceptable to this suggestion, Mrs. Eberly will contact Mr. Day to determine his interest.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Citizenship Award – Randy Laird**

There were three nominees for the 2018 Citizenship Award, Community Outreach Addictions Team, Dr. Mike Scott and Reverend George Patterson.

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Elder, seconded by Mr. Mitrecic, the Executive Board unanimously voted to give the 2018 Citizenship Award to Reverend George Patterson.

## **B. Regional Councils' Luncheon at MACO – Mike Pennington**

The members of the three Eastern Shore regional councils will be meeting for lunch on Friday, August 17 during the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Conference in Ocean City. A speaker from the Office of Rural Broadband has been scheduled and there may be another speaker.

### **Other Business**

Mrs. Burgoyne asked if the Tri-County Council had taken a position on the paid sick leave issue. The Tri-County Council did not take a position. She explained that some businesses have called the Maryland Department of Commerce (DOC) and stated that it is an economic development issue.

There being no further business, on a motion from Mr. Mitrecic, seconded by Mr. Elder, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.