

Tri-County Council

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center
July 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Gregory Padgham, Executive Director called roll call to establish quorum and the following were in attendance:

Somerset County Commissioners

Rex Simpkins – Chair
Eldon Willing – Third Vice Chair

Wicomico County Council

John Cannon – First Vice Chair

Worcester County Commissioners

Joe Mitrecic – Immediate Past Chair

At-Large

Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Members of TCC Board (As Guests)

Senator Addie Eckardt
Mindie Burgoyne

TCC Staff

Gregory Padgham – Executive Director
Brad Bellacicco – Shore Transit Director
Becca Webster – Lower Shore Workforce Alliance Director
John Donegan – Administrative Services
Stephanie Wilkins – Economic Development Coordinator
Monique Snyder – Regional Communications Developer

A quorum was present and the Chair, Rex Simpkins called the meeting to order at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center at 6:07 p.m.

John Cannon made a motion to accept the May 19, 2021 minutes as writing. Eldon Willing second the motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes were accepted.

Old Business

Shore Transit Update – Brad Bellacicco

- A. Ridership & Routes
 - 1. Fixed route ridership has leveled off for the summer at about 450 a day. Pre-COVID July 2019, Shore Transit averaged 632 per day.
 - 2. Origin to Destination is picking up now.
 - 3. Greyhound service is increasing toward their old level of service.
- B. Vehicles
 - 1. Revenue Fleet at 33, normally over 40
 - a. The two medium buses arrived in June, but had an acceptance inspection problem and they were sent back to the Virginia factor for modification.
 - b. The FY2021 ATP granted Shore Transit 2 small buses are now due in September
 - c. Delivery of the seven FY2019 & 2020 medium buses may be in fall.
 - 2. The delays are caused at the manufacturer by COVID, waiting for chassis, chips, steel, and employees.
- C. Staffing
 - 1. Shore Transit currently has 83 employees with 50 of them being drivers.
 - 2. The pay increase has stopped the loss of employees and has helped with recruitment.
 - 3. Shore Transit has one new driver in training, one driver that recently completed training, and one that starts next week.
 - 4. Shore Transit has hired a dispatcher, which starts on Monday. A Ticket Sales clerk and CSR started June 26.
- D. Funding
 - 1. Somerset DSS has the first quarter invoice for the FY2022 DHS grant
 - 2. FY2022 FTA Transportation Plan budget submission was approved. It was the same funding as last year, plus an additional bonus. Although, it is unclear on how this funding can be used.
 - 3. There are Federal funds available that Shore Transit can use to cover budget shortfalls.

Lower Shore Workforce Alliance Update – Becca Webster

- A. American Job Center Update
 - 1. The American Job Center opened its doors on June 14, 2021. At this time majority of the partners were seeing people by appointment only. This still remains in effect with the exception of the Department of Labor. They have been seeing clients without an appointment since July 5, 2021.
 - 2. The amount of people coming into the facility is significantly less, due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
 - 3. After Ms. Webster spoke with the Department of Labor, she stated that majority of the customers were there with unemployment related services.
- B. RELIEF Act Workforce Development Grant
 - 1. Grant funds shall be used to engage, upskill, and connect residents to employment, including providing subsidized employment opportunities for the unemployed.

2. The LSWA budget and narrative have been approved by the Workforce Development Board and accepted by the MD Department of Labor
- C. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
1. The purpose of the grant is to, “extend apprenticeship and employment training programs.”
 2. The Lower Shore Workforce Alliance is currently working with the Workforce Development Board and local constituents in the workforce development community to develop the core program activities and establish the budget.
- D. Virtual Job Fair
1. Date: August 4, 2021 at 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Administrative Services Update – John Donegan

- A. FY2021 Audit
1. Mr. Donegan informed the board that TCC would be closing its books by August 15th for FY21 and will formally begin the federal single audit for FY21 at that time.
- B. Profit and Loss by Department
1. This information is provided to the board at every meeting and no questions were asked.

New Business

- A. Broadband Update – Gregory Padgham
1. Mr. Padgham provided updates that he has received from Maryland Broadband Cooperative along with providing the Executive Board with the County updates.
- B. FY2022 Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Disbursement
1. Mr. Padgham reviewed the recipients of these funds to the board.

Other Business

- A. LESMD.net – Gregory Padgham & Monique Snyder
1. Mr. Padgham and Monique Snyder showed the board the LESMD.net website that was developed in house.
 2. Mr. Padgham also reviewed the marketing strategies that are currently being developed such as a glossy magazine, t-shirts, pens, water bottles, billboards, and conventions/trade shows.
- B. Adjournment
1. Mr. Eldon Willing made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. John Cannon second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.