

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

**Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes**  
September 20, 2017

Merrill Lockfaw, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at the Glen T. Robinson Community Center in Salisbury at 11:05 a.m.

Voting Members in attendance: Jerry Boston and Randy Laird, Somerset County; Bob Culver, Wicomico County Executive; John Cannon and John Hall, Wicomico County; Ted Elder, Worcester County; Dennis Williams, Princess Anne Town Council; Muir Boda, Salisbury City Council; Esther Troast, Pocomoke City Council; Delegate Carl Anderton; Delegate Mary Beth Carozza; Delegate Charles Otto;

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Senator Addie Eckardt; Delegate Chris Adams, Bunky Luffman, Governor's Office; Weston Young, Wicomico County.

A quorum was present.

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

Guests in attendance: Scott Warner, Mid-Shore Regional Council; Bob Cook, George Tasker, Pocomoke City Council.

On a motion from Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Boston, the minutes for the meeting of June 21, 2017, were approved as written.

## **Old Business**

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

Shore Transit is returning to regional routes as this will provide more service while using fewer buses and drivers. A Public Hearing will be held in October and the schedule changes will go into effect after Thanksgiving. The new schedules will also include information on certain stops that will not be served in inclement weather.

The Salisbury University route has been running for three weeks and has carried 11,530 riders during that time.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) grants should be arriving soon and Shore Transit is expecting the operational funding to be flat funded for FY18. Capital funding will be less in FY18 as some of the funding was shifted to Phase III Construction costs.

Shore Transit has 96 employees of which 56 are drivers and there are three in training.

There are three dispatchers in training and then dispatch will be fully staffed with nine employees.

There are 49 buses in the fleet. Two of the large buses are at the end of their usefulness. The 8 new small buses are helping greatly.

The first five segments of Phase III construction are underway. The pipes which will run under Route 50 are scheduled to arrive in a week. The contractor hopes to finish boring by mid-October. The next Request for Proposal (RFP) to be released is for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant water and sewer lines.

Delegate Carozza stated that she has been working with Shore Transit to provide rides for veterans and connected them with Delmarva Community Transit (DCT) to get them to Baltimore for care. DCT has received a grant for call center equipment to provide information to veterans on services and rides.

DCT comes into Salisbury five times per day and Shore Transit pays DCT for providing this service. Shore Transit connects to all medical facilities on the shore.

Mr. Elder asked about the size of the new buses and if they are dual gas and propane fuel.

The new buses are smaller (16/2). There are 19 propane buses currently in the fleet and the 8 new buses will be converted to dual fuel when MTA gives concurrence.

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

The new LSWA Deputy Director started on September 18. She comes to the position with a background in workforce programs.

Two local training programs are being funded by EARN (Employment Advancement Right Now) grants. The welding class just graduated and had three LSWA funded students. The construction class started in early September with 12 students and has 5 LSWA funded students. The next construction class will start in January

There are still a few vacancies on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and we will be contacting the counties for appointments. The Youth Committee Chair has resigned and we will be looking to fill that as the committee is working on the strategic plan.

The mobile One Stop is operating well and is going to locations in all three counties on a regular schedule.

### **C. Revolving Loan Fund – Mike Pennington**

We did not receive funding for the creation of a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) through an application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Intermediary Relending Program (IRP). Our application will remain active for two years. We are working with the Maryland Department of Commerce (DOC) for a small amount of seed funding. We have also talked to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) about funding and they are encouraging us to apply.

### **D. 2017 Citizenship Award – Merrill Lockfaw**

The 2017 Citizenship Award was presented to Mr. Bob Cook. As Mr. Cannon made the nomination, Mr. Lockfaw asked him to make the presentation. Mr. Cannon talked about a few of the various organizations that Mr. Cook had either founded or participated in founding, including the Greater Salisbury Committee, Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, Private Industry Council, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore. Mr. Cook thanked the members of the Tri-County Council for the honor.

## **New Business**

### **A. 2018 Legislative Items – Merrill Lockfaw**

Mr. Lockfaw led a discussion of potential items for the 2018 Legislative session. Some of the items that the Tri-County Council members are interested in are:

- Highway User Revenues
- BAT System Requirement Changes
- Industrial Size Solar Farms
- Healthcare Providers in the Rural Areas (Healthcare Committee Report is due at the end of the year)

## **Other Business**

Mr. Culver announced that 2017 is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wicomico County and a celebration is being planned.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Boston, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.