

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

Tri-County Council Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2018

Randy Laird, Chair, called the meeting of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland to order on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at the Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center in Salisbury at 6:00 p.m.

Voting Members in attendance: John Cannon and Larry Dodd, Wicomico County; Bud Church, Ted Elder, Joe Mitrecic and Diana Purnell, Worcester County; Dennis Williams, Town of Princess Anne; Doug Gosnell, Sharptown; LaToya Purnell, Town of Snow Hill

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Laura Hurley, Wicomico County

Mr. Laird had Mr. Jerry Boston, Mr. Charles Fisher, Mr. Craig Mathies and Mr. Rex Simpkins' proxies. Ms. Hurley had Mr. John Hall's proxy.

A quorum was present.

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

Guests in attendance: Bill Reddish, Congressman Harris' Office; Ryan Snow, Governor's Office; Reverend George Patterson.

On a motion from Mr. Elder, seconded by Mr. Church, the minutes for the meeting of June 20, 2018, were approved as written.

Old Business

A. Shore Transit Update – Brad Bellacicco

Mr. Bellacicco reported that FY19 Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) operating and capital grants have arrived. Shore Transit was flat funded except for Statewide Special Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP) which is down due to the end of a legislative action. The Mobility capital grant will need matching funds as MTA is not providing the match. Shore Transit has been operating since July on county matching funds and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) grant.

The West Ocean City trolley ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day and averaged 16 passengers per day. Planning has started for the fall route reductions. At the request of the Princess Anne fire department, the downtown stop is being moved to the park. The Salisbury University routes have started and in the three weeks since there have been

almost 10,000 riders. Origin to Destination (OTD) continues to increase with 268 rides today.

There are currently 43 buses in the fleet. A surplus bus was purchased from Ocean City Transit and after it is titled it will be used for OTD. A 30 passenger bus that was 10 years old with 550,000 miles had to be permanently taken out of service last week. There are two medium buses on order that are expected to arrive the end of September. MTA has confirmed FY2019 capital purchases will be two medium buses and one small bus to be ordered off the state contract.

There are 92 employees with 55 drivers and two part-time drivers in training. Five more drivers are needed along with dispatchers and customer service representatives.

Shore Transit was on standby to transports residents several times in August for the Wicomico County cooling center and for the Hurricane Florence evacuation center which was not activated. Shore Transit also provided the shuttle service for the National Folk Festival in Salisbury and had about 2,300 riders.

The Phase III water and sewer project are progressing. The City of Salisbury still needs to install the water meter. The bus wash equipment has arrived and installation has started.

Mr. Pennington stated that at the February 21 meeting the Executive Board approved Resolution 18-01 that allows the Tri-County Council to apply for and accept funding for transit. The resolution, which is required by MTA, lists the MTA section number for the grants and this year MTA is providing funding under a section number not listed on the resolution. A new resolution with the additional section number is needed.

On a motion by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Dodd, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve the resolution to apply for and accept funding from the MTA for transit.

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

Mrs. Webster reported that there are still vacancies on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). There are 15 business representatives and six vacancies, three for Somerset County, one for Wicomico County and two for Worcester County.

The mobile One Stop Job Market has been permanently taken out of service due to structural and mechanical problems. The repairs are too extensive and costly for the age of the vehicle. The WIB has approved replacing the mobile with a smaller one.

The name of the One Stop Job Market has been changed to the American Job Center. The building signage and the sign by Route 50 have been changed to the new name.

C. Skipjack Loan Fund – Kristie Eberly

Mrs. Eberly reported the Tri-County Council Executive Board has appointed the members of the Loan Review Committee. The members are John Hickman, Dan Kuennen, Reid Tingle, John Hall, Danny Thompson and Dave Ryan. Michael Day has also agreed to serve on the committee and this appointment will come before the Executive Board at their next meeting.

An applications was made to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for their Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) and USDA has approved the application in the amount of \$140,938.

Mr. Pennington thanked the Tri-County Council members for approving to accept the grant from the Maryland Department of Commerce for the benefit Worcester County. These funds help to make the application to USDA stronger.

New Business

A. FY2018 Budget vs Actual – John Donegan

Mr. Donegan reported that the FY2018 actual expenses were very close to the budget. The TCC Multi-Purpose Center needed some capital improvements and therefore high in a few line items.

The FY2018 audit is going very well. Some processes and procedures have been changed and the auditors are pleased with the results. The audit should be completed before December 1.

B. Transfer of Signature Authority – Mike Pennington

Mr. Pennington explained that he signs documents such as grants and funding requisitions on behalf of the Tri-County Council. With his retirement approaching in December, he asked the Tri-County Council to approve Chair Laird signing a letter which transfers signature authority from him to Mr. Greg Padgham. The letter will be sent to our funding sources now as it may take them some time to update their records.

On a motion by Mr. Cannon, seconded by Mr. Dodd, the Tri-County Council unanimously voted to approve Chair Laird signing a letter transferring signature authority from Mr. Pennington to Mr. Padgham.

Other Business

Mr. Pennington reported that our realtor at Sperry VanNess has received a serious inquiry

about leasing the parcel on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road. We are in negotiations on the terms of the Letter of Intent (LOI). The interested party is a convenience store.

Mr. Pennington stated that there have been several inquiries about a celebration of his retirement. He has decided to have an Open House on December 14 in the American Job Center. More information will be sent out closer to that date.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Dodd, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.