



MARYLAND MAYORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1 November 2016

MMA
*Helping its members
to better serve their
municipalities*

Restoring H.U.R.



Since August of 2009, when local governments lost 96% of their highway user revenues, MML has been working diligently to recover our transportation monies. Although we have yet to see a full restoration of municipal HURs to pre-recession levels, **we have been successful in recovering at least a portion of municipal HURs in all but one fiscal year** since monies were first diverted in 2009. In fact, because MML and our membership were able to convey to the Administration and General Assembly over the years that municipalities desperately need this funding, there has been an additional infusion of \$69.3 million **for municipalities only** in the last four State budgets.

During the last three General Assembly sessions, MML was faced with attempts to reduce the amount of money earmarked for municipalities. Although we were able to retain the majority of the monies added to the State budget last year, **the General Assembly did reduce the amount in the budget by \$2 million, basically level funding municipal transportation grant monies from FY 2016 to FY 2017.**

Last session, MML requested legislation to restore municipal Highway User Revenues. A bill was introduced with very strong sponsorship and wide bi-partisan support that would have restored municipal HURs to pre-recession levels over a period of four years. Although the bill passed the Senate in an amended form, it stalled in the House and ultimately ran out of time. The MML Legislative Committee felt strongly that the League must **continue to advocate for the return of municipal HUR funding in the fiscal year 2018 state budget.** The Committee reiterated their position that **we cannot continue to exist on "one-time grants" and single-year allocations because they do not allow municipalities to plan effectively on a long-term basis** for routine, ongoing road maintenance and infrastructure projects.

The MML Legislative Committee voted unanimously to again recommend the restoration of municipal Highway User Revenues, with an **emphasis on securing a commitment from the General Assembly and the administration to return to a stable, long-term municipal road funding program.**

MMA Officers 2016-2017

President

John Miller, Middletown

1st Vice President

Bruce Morrison,
Pocomoke City

2nd Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

Jeffrey Slavin, Somerset

Secretary

Marnitta King,
Capitol Heights

Next Month:

How and why to become
a Main Street
Community.



MML Legislative Initiative:

SAVE THE DATE:

**MMA Dues are due
now**

**MMA winter conference in
Annapolis FEB. 2-3**

**MMA Winter Conference
Registration begins NOV. 7**



MMA CHAPTER CAPTAINS

Chapter Captain is a position to help keep MD Mayors informed and aware of what is happening in their local MML chapter as well as member communities, if need be. And, share information from the MMA to the local MML chapter. This would require a short 3-5 minute sharing of this information at our 3 meetings.



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Meet our Mayor of the Month Robert Willey of Easton

What is it like being a Mayor? I have been a member of the Town Council for six years, Council President for six years and now starting year 14 as the Mayor of Easton. During that time, the one item you could always count on was the constant variety of issues and challenges that were always evident.

Every day was different, nothing ever the same.

What issues are you confronting in your town or city? Like many other small towns, our problems are similar; such as how to retain and recruit volunteer fire fighters, recruitment and retention of police officers is a challenge as well as affordable housing and quality job creation. Aging infrastructure including roads, storm water drains, water and sewer are also issues. We have a growing young population that requires parks, playgrounds and open space.

What is your "other" job or what did you do before you became Mayor? I retired from Waverly Press after 41 years as the Distribution/Warehouse Manager and Environmental Affairs Manager.

Why/how did you get involved in local government? After college, I became very involved in local affairs and organizations. I have been a member of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department for 54 years, Little League baseball and football coach for 14 years, 52 years as a member of the BPOE, Past President of the Kiwanis Club just to name a few of the accomplishments I am proud of.

Share a unique/unusual/funny experience you have had as Mayor. At an MML Convention a few years ago, I heard a name mentioned during a session that turned out to be one of my college roommates over 50 years before.

If you visit Easton, stop by the office and say hello.



**Find us at
mdmayors.org
Click under News Links**

Chapter Meetings with State Legislators

As was mentioned at our meeting at the MML Fall Conference, use your chapter meeting with your state representatives to advocate..

Make clear to our state

Delegates and Senators the legislative priorities of MML and MMA.

At your meeting have legislators share their position on these legislative priorities.

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