



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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SHYCOLE SIMPSON-CARTER
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at the City of Goldsboro Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Shycole Simpson-Carter, Chair, Berry Gray, Secretary/Treasurer, and Steve Wiggins.

Members absent: Brent Heath, Vice Chair, Gene Aycock Hiawatha Jones, Barbara Aycock.

Others in attendance: Don Willis and LaShonda Oliver.

ARP and CTP Grant Update and Actions

Don Willis gave an overview of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant applications. Willis stated that NCDOT announced a call for projects for ARP fund. Willis stated that the CARES funds will be used during the current fiscal year; however, it may not be enough for the fiscal year. The ARP period of performance for these new pandemic assistance funds is from March 3, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Willis made the recommendation to apply for \$725,000 in ARP funds. These funds may also be used to assist with covering any operational deficit and there is not a local match required. The application is due on February 1, 2022 and a public hearing is not required.

The present Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority affirmed their support for the submission of the ARPA application.

Willis stated that GWTA has applied for the CTP grant for administrative and capital funds. Willis informed the Board that NCDOT wants to increase the funds by \$7,827 for administrative support. GWTA will have to commit local funds in the amount of \$1,174. In order to receive the funds, the updated local share commitment form needs to be executed by the Board and submitted.

The present Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority affirmed their support for the authorization for the Chair to execute the updated local share commitment form for additional funds of the Community Transportation Program application with GWTA to provide the local match.

Mid-Year Rate Proposal

As a result of the ongoing pandemic and reduced ridership the GWTA billing rate continues not to cover costs for services. In addition, GWTA has had to increase pay and bonuses to attract and keep operators and staff. Additional grant funds have come available to support the GWTA operations. One method to draw available funds is a rate adjustment that will allow GWTA to better recover costs for trips provided.

Half way through the fiscal year:

- 1) Incomes are at 74% of the budget, while expenses are running at 92% of the budget.
- 2) The YTD deficit is \$94,000. Last year at this time the YTD deficit was \$51,000. The three-year pre-pandemic average at mid-YTD has been a surplus of nearly \$49,000.
- 3) Ridership remains significantly depressed due to the pandemic and transition of Medicaid transportation to private brokers. Ability to earn revenue for trips performed is impacted.

Director proposes to raise the \$15 billing rate to \$20 and the \$18.50 billing rate to \$24.50. Exception would be for the Senior Center program, as those programs can't support a mid-year adjustment. Director would work to assure no unexpected impact to County funds.

The present Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority affirmed their support for mid-year rate increases.

Medicaid Broker Contract Updates

Willis stated that there is not an ongoing contract with Modivcare as of yet; however, the current agreement has been extended through the end of January. The draft of the new contract has been sent to Borden Parker. The broker OneCall will be ending their contract with the PHP WellCare as soon as a transition plan is in place, and it has been announced another broker MTM will be replacing OneCall. Director has a virtual meeting scheduled with MTM, representatives from WellCare and the state to discuss transition efforts.

Director's Report

Financial

The rural program is showing a loss of \$21,794.02, and a loss of \$94,220.60 year to date. Fuel costs for the month continue to be running much higher than prior year, a significant increase for the urban and rural programs. The urban program is showing a loss of \$302.85, and a gain of \$975.94 year to date. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

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Marketing and Public Relations

GWTA ran “fare free’ bus services on Christmas Eve, (Friday 12/24/21) providing 324 trips. Beginning in January, Harris Teeter will run GWTA information on their plastic prescription bags to inform the public of the opportunity to use GWTA services. GWTA will recognize February as Black History month.

Outreach and Activities

Director participated in NCDOT virtual meeting of transit systems on December 14th and January 12th. Director participated in Mayor’s Council for Persons with disabilities on December 16th. Director participated

Training

Operators received training on Blood Borne Pathogens in January. In addition, the Safety and Training Supervisor received professional training to become a Certified Community Transportation Supervisor (CCTS).

Other Business

Willis informed the Board that Wayne Community College(WCC) has received grant funds for transportation. WCC is interested in partnering with GWTA for transporting students to college. In addition, there may be an opportunity in sponsoring or donating to the fixed Green route that goes to the college.

Meeting recessed until Monday, January 31, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the GWTA Transfer Center, 103 N. Carolina St. Goldsboro, North Carolina and virtually.