



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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FREEMAN HARDISON, JR.
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at the City of Goldsboro Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Freeman Hardison, Jr. Chairman, Shycole Simpson-Carter, Vice Chairman, Bob Waller, Secretary/Treasurer (via phone), Berry Gray (via Phone), and Brent Heath (via phone).

Members absent: Gene Aycock (via phone) and Ed Cromartie.

Others in attendance: Don Willis, Borden Parker, Tim Salmon, Tim McCoy, Michael White, and LaShonda Oliver.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Shycole Simpson-Carter and seconded by Bob Waller, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of April 30, 2020.

Operators of the Year

Don Willis recognized the operators of the year. The urban operator of the year is Tim McCoy. McCoy has been employed for eleven years. McCoy has been the driver of the quarter this year three times. The rural operator of the year is Michael White. White has been employed for four years total. The drivers understand that GWTA is an essential service and how important our services are to the community. The operators are recognized and selected by their peers and staff. In addition, Chairman Freeman Hardison, Jr. expressed his gratitude for their work ethic and what they do for the community.

FY 2020-21 FTA Grant Public Hearing

At 10:10 a.m., a public hearing was held on the FY2020-2021 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Operating and Capital Assistance application.

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020
Page 2

Don Willis gave an overview of the FTA grant application. The FTA application includes the operating assistance which is 50% federal and 50% local match. In addition, the ADA and preventative maintenance which are 80% federal and 20% local. The grant budget for the fiscal year is \$1,415,161. The federal total is \$821,574 and local match total is \$593,587. The local match is from the City of Goldsboro and SMAP from NCDOT. Willis invited public for comments.

No public comments were received.

The public hearing was closed at 10:12.

FY 2020-21 GWTA Budget Public Hearing

At 10:13 a.m., a public hearing was held to consider the FY 2020-2021 Rural and Urban Budget Ordinances.

Willis gave an overview of the rural and urban budget proposals. The cost to provide GWTA service will increase the next fiscal year. The Health insurance cost will increase about 23%. It is anticipated that the ridership for the fiscal year will be down 25%. This is due to the slow demand of ridership from the pandemic. Willis informed the Board that GWTA will not be able to recover the cost of Medicaid no-show trips from the County in the coming year. However, the Wayne County Commissioner's approved the cost per trip from \$13.50 to \$15.00. This will help recover some of the costs. The urban budget shows an increase of 2% for preventative maintenance. This is due to the aging urban bus fleet and additional maintenance. It is anticipated that the Dial-A-Ride will increase. The rural budget increased due to the replacement of ten vehicles. The replacement vehicles are approximately \$750,000. The Mt. Olive bus service will be funded at the same level as last fiscal year. Willis invited public for comments.

No public comments were received.

The public hearing was closed at 10:16.

Director's Report

Financial

The rural program is showing a loss of \$43,716.48 in May and a gain of \$9,564.14 fiscal year to date. GWTA earns rural revenue based on trips provided. Due to the pandemic, trip volume has been down significantly and budgeted revenues have not been realized. The urban program is showing a gain of \$576.06 in May and a gain of \$246.55 fiscal year to date. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners met on June 2, 2020 and accepted the GWTA rate increase from \$13.50 to \$15. If ridership recovers and the NCDOT releases sufficient additional CARES Act funding, then no further rate adjustment will be needed.

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020
Page 3

After follow up discussions with Goldsboro the city staff's budget recommendation is \$200,000. We will apply FTA CARES Act funds to assist with the deficit, and also are expecting the full state SMAP allocation of \$195,000 for the remainder of local match required. Loss of SMAP would impact the budget and need for additional local matching funds from Goldsboro.

NCDOT's cash flow challenges have worsened with lost revenue due to the pandemic. GWTA has been approved for initial CARES Act funds in the amount of \$260,994 by NCDOT for county services, which will help us cover costs the remainder of this fiscal year and the beginning of FY21. NCDOT has not committed additional CARES funds yet for Wayne County and we are actively communicating the need for those funds to be made available.

Health Insurance Status

GWTA followed up again with both EbenConcepts and with Wendy Maready Insurance to determine whether procuring private insurance would be beneficial. However, at this time remaining with Wayne County for health insurance for FY21 is recommended. It is estimated staying with Wayne County for health insurance will add \$35,000 to the budget and also leave open the possibility of having to cover claims above the county's self-insurance threshold of \$10,000 in claims.

COVID-19 Update

Willis stated that new posters have been put on the vehicles and transfer center to remind and encourage passengers to wear masks. Seats have been blocked off on the bus and transfer center to promote social distancing. In addition, passengers are asked to not ride if they or anyone in their home have been diagnosed or show symptoms of the flu or COVID-19. In addition, on the rural side, drivers are screening passengers.

Outreach and Activities.

Director teleconferenced with DSS Director on May 29, 2020 to discuss budget and also further coordination needed to address COVID. Director teleconferenced with NCDOT Intermodal Division Interim Director Heather Hildebrand on June 3, 2020 to discuss availability and need for CARES act funds. Director attended NCPTA Board of Directors annual meeting by teleconference on June 10, 2020.

Training

Operators will receive refresher training on the ADA on June 25, 2020.

Marketing and Public Awareness Efforts

QCA is assisting GWTA to develop a safety awareness campaign. An initial effort would include providing each rider with a "safety recommendations to ride" card and a single scarf embossed with the GWTA logo.

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020
Page 4

Other Business

Willis briefed the Board on House Bill 77. This is a bill last year that was originally to regulate electric scooters. The bill has been adjusted with budget reduction items from NCDOT. The bill includes deleting the ROAP and SMAP funds. This will cause an issue to GWTA funding. These funding sources are needed in our operation that could result in reducing the services we provide dramatically.

Meeting recessed until Friday, June 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the City Hall Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, NC.