



DON WILLIS  
DIRECTOR

P.O. BOX 227, GOLDSBORO, NC 27533-0227

SHYCOLE SIMPSON-CARTER  
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
March 25, 2021***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at the City of Goldsboro Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

**Members in attendance:** Shycole Simpson-Carter, Chairman, Berry Gray, Secretary/Treasurer, Gene Aycock, Steve Wiggins, and Freeman Hardison, Jr. (via Phone)

**Members absent:** Bob Waller and Brent Heath, Vice Chairman

**Others in attendance:** Borden Parker, Don Willis, and LaShonda Oliver

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Steve Wiggins and seconded by Freeman Hardison, Jr., the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2021.

**Directors Report**

***Financial***

The rural program is showing a gain of \$1,909.11 in February and a loss of \$43,108.83 fiscal year to date. Budgeted revenues have not been realized due to the ongoing pandemic impacting ridership. There are CARES act funds allocated to the GWTA which will be sufficient to cover the operating deficit created as a result of the pandemic. The urban program is showing a loss of \$1,097.27 in February and a loss of \$54.88 fiscal year to date. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

On March 11th, GWTA has timely submitted our annual budget request to Goldsboro for operating match of \$303,129 and match to replace a vehicle of \$75,000. We have seen a preliminary allocation table from the recent federal recovery legislation which included approximately an additional \$300,000 in funds for transit in Goldsboro. GWTA is awaiting guidance from FTA on how we may access and use any funds allocated. These funds may again reduce the normal needed matching funds from Goldsboro to maintain bus services. GWTA is working on our annual budget request to Wayne County, which is due on March 26th.

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***Outreach and Activities***

Don Willis met with vendor from Alliance AutoGas on Friday, February 26th to discuss propane fuel options. Willis participated in statewide virtual meeting with NCDOT on March 3rd. Willis participated in County Managers monthly department head teleconference meeting on March 4th. Willis participated virtually in a statewide Medicaid Transportation Roundtable on March 10th. GWTA held the quarterly Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) meeting on March 11th. GWTA held monthly team meetings and training on March 16th. Willis participated in RPO meeting on March 18th.

***Training***

Operators will receive refresher training on Defensive Driving.

**Mount Olive Service Update**

The Mount Olive Bus service has experienced decline in ridership during the pandemic. A trends analysis of the last 20 months was provided to Board members for reference. Services connecting Mount Olive and Goldsboro has suffered most with a 79% decline, while the town circulator is operating at 50% of prior year levels. The circulator service is performing similar to the other rural services GWTA provides. The decline in the connector service is likely a result of less employment and education related trips between Mount Olive and Goldsboro. Service typically costs just under \$6,000 in a month. Mount Olive has continued to provide the required 50% local match for the grant that funds this service. GWTA has applied and expects to receive the grant funds again in the coming year.

**Other Business**

Willis discussed the ongoing contract negotiations with the two brokerage companies, Modivcare (formerly Logisticare) and OneCall. OneCall is the private transportation broker hired by Wellcare. Modivcare is the larger private broker and has been retained by the remaining four health plans, Healthy Blue, United Health Care, AmeriHealth Caritas, and Carolina Complete Health. Willis stated he is seeking to finalize agreeable terms to contract prior to making a counter proposal on rates offered. In addition, the brokers will be required to send trip requests through their software directly into our software, CTS. Trip costs are up significantly over the last year due to the pandemic, and it is not clear when these costs will return to normal. This will make it more difficult to determine fair rates. It is expected to be only 15% of the total Medicaid transportation program that will transition with the remainder expected over the next one to two years. This provides an opportunity to work with the brokers to determine whether they will be good partners. Brokers will begin to receive trip requests on June 1, 2021, for services beginning on July 1, 2021.

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Upon motion of Gene Aycock and seconded by Steve Wiggins, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to allow the Executive Director, Don Willis, to execute the contracts with the brokerage companies with guidance and review from the Attorney, Borden Parker, and Board Chair, Shycole Simpson-Carter.

**Closed Session**

Upon motion of Gene Aycock and seconded by Berry Gray, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to go to closed session to discuss personnel matters.

Board of Directors came out of closed session at 10:44 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver