



DON WILLIS  
DIRECTOR

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BERRY GRAY  
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
May 25, 2023***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the City of Goldsboro Mayor's Conference Room, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

**Members in attendance:** Berry Gray, Chairman; Octavius Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer; Robert Dingess (phone) and Gregg Batts

**Members absent:** Steve Wiggins; Hiawatha Jones, Vice Chairman; and Barbara Aycock

**Others in attendance:** Don Willis

**Call to Order**

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. And welcomed Board members. There was a roll call to assure a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Gray requested the Board review and approve the minutes provided. A motion was made by Gregg Batts to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2023. Octavius Murphy seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

**Director's Report**

Director presented Board members with a report on the details of the changes and increased costs expected to be part of the upcoming budget. Many of these topics have been discussed in prior meetings, and Director sought to assure the Board was aware of what the proposed budget ordinances would include. Topics included a report on pay scales at peer organizations and enhancements the Director intended to make for incentives and benefits as well.

Recommendations will include addressing pay scales for office operations staff, and also pay differential for drivers holding different levels of credentials. Incentives will help to address attendance and safety goals. Director also noted his intent to adopt Wayne County's approach to adding a new "floating" holiday that can be used for special days with prior approval.

Authorization for the Director to offer up to two additional full time urban driver positions, and up to an additional three full time rural driver positions is requested as part of approving the next budget. Workers Compensation Insurance is slightly lower, however property and liability insurance through the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) organization is much higher next year. The budget will include anticipated matching grant funds requested of both Wayne County and the City of Goldsboro. Director also provided and addressed the updated timeline of events to complete the budget process. A public hearing will be needed at the next Board meeting on June 22, 2023 to address the budget ordinances as well as the annual

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urban bus grant application. Octavius Murphy made motion to hold a public hearing for the stated purposes at the next board meeting. Motion was seconded by Gregg Batts and was approved unanimously. Depending on feedback received at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, a second June Board meeting date to approve the budget should be held tentative for Jun 29, 2023.

Director reported the NCDOT offered a short notice opportunity to apply for additional rural operating grant funds (no match required) for the coming fiscal year. Funds could be requested for specific operating costs, such as fuel and tires. Director submitted timely request and will keep the Board informed as we learn how much funding may be approved.

Director also noted that the slow vehicle contract approval process at NCDOT will mean that the budgeted funds to replace rural vehicles this year will need to roll into the new budget year as well. Director has requested Wayne County roll forward their approved matching funds, and the NCDOT has already extended the period of performance on the capital grant into the next fiscal year.

Director noted progress in catching up on grant and financial reports. The urban budget continues to be very tight. It is possible that the urban budget will exceed and that some of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds would need to be used at 100% to complete the budget year. Director may propose other options to the Board as well.

**Marketing and Public Relations**

Director noted that the contract with QCA is a three year with two 1-year options. Also, that the fourth year is ending, and as had been discussed the desire is to extend the contract for a fifth and final year. An RFP will need to be developed for the next contract period of time. After further discussion, Octavius Murphy made a motion for the Board to support the contract extension. Gregg Batts seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Director provided the Board with the proposed meeting schedule to be published for the coming fiscal year.

Director reported a request came from the community to provide city bus vouchers (50) for a special event supporting youth after the recent gun violence. The vouchers would help assure young people who want to participate have a way to get to the event. The event is on an existing bus route. Robert Dingess made a motion to provide the vouchers for the event on Saturday June 3, 2023. Gregg Batts seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

New brochures were created to promote the Mount Olive Bus connector and circulator services. These brochures will be produced in English, Spanish and French Creole. Director will work with the Town to get this information out to the public, employers, medical facilities, and other locations. Town has already posted on their website.

QCA completed annual ridership counts on May 2,3, & 4, 2023. Ridership counts are an indicator of popular origins and destinations across the bus system. This data is used to consider enhancements to amenities such as benches and shelters. Director provided a detailed report at the Board meeting. Report was on each route, and included the number of total stops, benches,

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shelters, busiest times of the day and the ridership counts as well as other “snap shot” information captured.

***Outreach and Activities***

Director reported assisting with traffic and parking for the Mayor’s Disability Walk held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Director met virtually with NCDOT/IMD on May 5<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Director participated and presented recommendation for QCA one-year contract extension at the MPO meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Director and staff attended Goldsboro City Council meeting and on May 15<sup>th</sup> and received Proclamation of May 2023 as GWTA Appreciation month. Director, Board Members Berry Gray and Octavius Murphy, and staff attended Wayne County Board of Commissioners meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> to be recognized as the North Carolina Transit System of the Year by David Rhew, Executive Director of the NCPTA. Director and staff met with representatives from the Senior Center on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Director participated in monthly virtual meeting with NC Division of Health Benefits to discuss ongoing challenges with Medicaid Transportation on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Director attended monthly virtual meeting with NCDOT/IMD and rural transit providers on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Director participated in the RPO meeting in LaGrange on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Director participated in monthly meeting of the Mayors Council on Persons with Disabilities on May 18<sup>th</sup>. GWTA team supported the Wings Over Wayne airshow event by supporting disabled parking shuttles on May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

***Training***

GWTA employees received Defensive Driving training at the May meeting.

Gregg Batts made motion to adjourn, and Octavius Murphy seconded. Motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis