



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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SHYCOLE SIMPSON-CARTER
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 28, 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, Hiawatha Jones (via phone), Barbara Aycock (via phone), and Steve Wiggins (via phone).

Members absent: Brent Heath, Vice Chair and Gene Aycock.

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

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Barbara Aycock, and seconded by Hiawatha Jones, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 31, 2022.

Director's Report

Financial

The rural program is showing a loss of \$3,117.57 and a loss of \$104,528.91 year to date. GWTA paid rural staff a quarterly bonus of \$13,603.54 in March and \$29,314.19 year to date. Fuel costs for the month continue to run much higher than prior year for the urban and rural programs. The urban program is showing a gain of \$3,528.65, and a loss of \$102.89 year to date. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

GWTA received notice from NCDOT regarding approvals for the Rural State Operating (RSO) portion of our annual grant requests. The RSO funds approved again this year is \$130,000 total budget requiring a 50/50 local match. A portion of these funds support Mount Olive Bus service (based on the ability to generate local match), and the remainder is used to support additional demand response trips in the rural area.

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Training

Operators received refresher training on Emergency Procedures and Fire Extinguisher techniques in April.

Marketing and Public Outreach Update

Marketing and Public Relations

GWTA plans to conduct the annual ride count with QCA this year during the week of May 2nd. The results will be compiled and could be presented at the May meeting.

Customer Survey results from March will be presented at the Board meeting, including an Infographical Summary of the results.

The contract extension for QCA was moved by City Council to their May meeting in order for staff to gather additional information. The QCA's three-year contract would end on June 30th without an extension approved by the City. There is a potential for two further one year options if agreeable. The MPO met on March 17th and supported the Board recommendation to City Council that the contract be extended an additional year and the scope amended.

Outreach and Activities

Don Willis participated in Wayne County Management training on April 4th. Willis attended the MTM (broker) town hall meeting on April 7th. GWTA staff attended the annual (in person) NCPTA conference on April 11th - 13th. Willis participated in another federal NEMT listening session on April 13th. Willis held virtual meeting with ModivCare (broker) staff on April 20th to discuss concerns and re-open contract negotiations. Willis will participate in leadership training beginning on April 25th, offered by Wayne County through the Professional Development Academy of the National Association of Counties. GWTA will receive an annual safety award from the North Carolina Department of Labor on April 26th. Willis will participate in an introductory call with Ohio DOT (facilitated by consulting firm RLS and associations) to discuss North Carolina's experiences and best practices in dealing with the NEMT issue on April 26th.

Medicaid Broker Updates

Willis informed the Board that OneCall will be replaced with MTM on May 1st. GWTA is working with MTM for a smooth transition. Willis stated that he has asked MTM and ModivCare to reopen the contract negotiations around cost issues as well as communications and trip errors.

Grants and Budget Schedule

Willis stated that the Board will need to set a public hearing schedule at the May meeting for the Federal Transportation Administration Grant which funds the urban system and the GWTA FY 22/23 annual budgets for the rural and urban system.

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Other Business

Willis informed the Board that the Federal Government could no longer enforce their mask mandate for public transportation. Willis stated that most peer transits are now not requiring their drivers to wear masks. Willis stated that he wants to encourage the staff to wear masks; however, GWTA has not required more than the federal mandate. Shycole-Simpson Carter stated that it would be a good idea to not enforce the mask and let individuals make that decision to wear a mask.

Willis stated that the GWTA attendance policy was last approved in 2015. The attendance policy has not been strictly enforced during the last two years due to staffing issues and COVID. GWTA and staff are having the conversations around poor attendance. Willis stated the he is in the process of updating the attendance policy and will have a draft at the May meeting for feedback.

Willis informed the Board that Shirley Moore has been with GWTA for 20 years and will be recognized at the employee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver