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BERRY GRAY  
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2025***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at the City of Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

**Members in attendance:**

Berry Gray, Chairman; Hiawatha Jones, Vice Chairman; Brenda Davis, Secretary; Rob Dingess, and Jamie Taylor

**Members absent:**

Barbara Aycock and Felicia Brown

**Others in attendance:** Antonio Williams, County Commissioner; Andrew Neal, Attorney; Don C. Willis, Director; Arnold Underwood, Karen Tinsley

**Call to Order**

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM and welcomed Board members. There was a roll call to assure a quorum was present of appointed Board members. Chairman Gray welcomed County Commissioner Antonio Williams and introduced Attorney Andrew Neal.

**Recognition of Arnold Underwood**

Director introduced Mr. Arnold Underwood, who is retiring from the GWTA after 17 years of services. Mr. Underwood has served in many capacities over the years including as interim Director for the GWTA. Board members thanked Mr. Underwood for his years of service and dedication to the GWTA. There was discussion about the many challenges in the community transit industry and Board members asked for Mr. Underwood's feedback. Mr. Underwood reflected on the challenges of getting and keeping staff as well as challenges presented by understanding and implementing the various types of grants in the transit industry. Board members congratulated Mr. Underwood and Director noted that the organization will be continuing the celebration by retiring Mr. Underwood's employee number "98" this afternoon.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman Gray asked the Board members to review and approve the proposed agenda. Rob Dingess made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Brenda Davis and received unanimous approvals.

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**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Gray requested the Board review and approve the minutes provided. A motion was made by Hiawatha Jones to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 30, 2025. Jamie Taylor seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

**Director's Report**

Director stated he continues research and preparation for the proposed FY2025-2026 Urban and Rural budget ordinances as well as matching fund requests to Goldsboro and Wayne County. The FY26 budget request for rural matching assistance is due to Wayne County by March 21<sup>st</sup> and the FY26 budget request for urban matching assistance is due to Goldsboro "as soon as possible." Director provided a handout an update on the budget process timelines and status. Director noted there will be a need to request additional matching funds from Goldsboro to cover increasing projected urban operating expenses. Billing rate increases for the rural services may also be necessary for FY26. Maintenance expenses, insurance expenses, fuel expenses, and other operating expenses which have all increased over prior years.

Board held further discussion regarding proposed budget requests, service costs and service demands. Robert Dingess made a motion that GWTA submit to Goldsboro and to Wayne County annual budget requests for local matching grant funds as presented. Hiawatha Jones seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

GWTA is continuing to monitor potential impacts from federal funding cuts currently. GWTA is a member of both the North Carolina Public Transportation Association (NCPTA) and the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). Director will share feedback received from these organizations and discuss potential impacts to GWTA should direct cuts be implemented. Board members expressed that Director should continue to monitor and report.

**Marketing Plan and Public Relations Update**

Director reported that QCA staff will be present at GWTA during the week of April 6<sup>th</sup> to conduct annual ridership counts and assessment of amenities. Also, to conduct annual customer surveys. Board members requested that the surveys be available in additional languages, such as French-Creole and Spanish.

Board members noted that it would be important to assess effectiveness of ridership and services in the current climate of budget cuts. Director agreed noting that the information gathered by QCA while they are onsite to complete annual ridership counts and customer service surveys will be helpful. This will provide another data point for consideration.

**Resolution for Urban Bus Replacement**

Director presented to the Board the need to replace eight urban buses that have all met useful life. Director noted there would normally be a significant local match from Goldsboro to replace vehicles through an FTA grant. However, that GWTA had planned and set aside available recovery funds for this purpose. Board members asked about the types of buses GWTA would like to procure and Director discussed vehicle size and the operating environment needs in Goldsboro. Director is seeking Board approval to begin the procurement process noting that the fy26 budget would reflect purchase of the vehicles once they arrive. A motion was made by Robert Dingess to approve the Resolution for urban bus replacement. Hiawatha Jones seconded

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the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval to authorize the Director to move forward with the procurement process. Board members asked about proceeds from sale of vehicles. Director noted that FTA does maintain their stake in the vehicle, even after it has reached and exceeded useful life. As a result most funds received must be paid back. Also, Director stated sale was handled through a state surplus process to assure the best possible return.

**Pocket Park Feedback Requested**

Board members discussed the details of a pocket park which Goldsboro would like to place on the northeast corner of the property leased by the GWTA. Board members expressed support for the amenity, and also concerns with potential liability associated with activities at the proposed park. A motion was made by Hiawatha Jones to provide feedback to Goldsboro stating the Board recommends that the pocket park's portion of the GWTA's leased plot be removed from the lease and that the only access to the transfer center should be the existing crosswalks. It was further stated that these safety concerns are important to the GWTA. Rob Dingess seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval. Don Willis, Andrew Neal, and Hiawatha Jones all stated they would follow up to discuss the details of these safety concerns.

**Training**

Director noted that GWTA employees received ADA refresher training at recent team meetings.

Chairman Gray asked if there was any further business. Hearing no further business, Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:21am.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis