



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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FREEMAN HARDISON, JR.
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2020***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 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), Gene Aycock, and Brent Heath (via phone).

Absence: Ed Cromartie and Berry Gray.

Others in attendance: Tim Salmon, Don Willis, Borden Parker (via phone), and LaShonda Oliver.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Gene Aycock and seconded by Shycole Simpson-Carter, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2020.

Director's Report

Financial

The rural program is showing a gain of \$8,573.94 in March and a gain of \$83,612.50 fiscal year to date. GWTA earns rural revenue based on trips provided. The trip volume began to drop at the end of the month. Revenues had begun to suffer for March as a result. The urban program is showing a gain of \$139.92 in March and a gain of \$5.08 fiscal year to date. The urban funds will remain about balanced throughout most of the year due to the grant reimbursement process.

GWTA has now received 100% of the FY20 ROAP and SMAP funds from NCDOT. NCDOT continues to experience cash flow challenges which is why the funds for the current year flowed so slowly. We have been told that the cash flow problems at NCDOT are increasing due to the pandemic and additional lost revenues.

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GWTA submitted the annual budget request timely to the City of Goldsboro and Wayne County. Wayne County recommendation to approve the budget request will be presented for consideration by the Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2020. Goldsboro has not prepared budget recommendations yet.

FTA has released a CARES Act allocation of \$2,325,649 for the urban services. These funds have no end date for use and could potentially be used 100% to fund urban operating and/or capital costs. FTA has begun providing guidance on how exactly these funds may be used noting that the matching requirements could change dependent on how we use these funds. NCDOT has not provided an allocation or rules of use for the rural services under the CARES Act yet.

Don Willis stated that he has consulted with the city and county representatives regarding budget projections and proposals. The process is behind schedule due to the health crisis. Willis will continue to coordinate with the City and County prior to making FY20-21 budget recommendations for GWTA.

Marketing and Public Relations Update

The annual spring customer surveys and ride counts have been put on hold due to the current pandemic. However, GWTA has implemented a “We Are Essential, We Are GWTA” campaign to highlight the importance of maintaining our services for the community. The campaign also highlights the need for trips actually taken to be essential consistent with the state Executive Order to stay at home.

Outreach and Activities

Willis participated in FTA conference call on April 2, 2020 and FTA webinar on CARES Act. Willis participated on COVID System Status weekly calls with NCDOT. Willis participated in the MPO meeting by conference call on April 13, 2020. Willis participated in an NCDOT required webinar training on the new Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan on April 21, 2020.

Mount Olive Service Update

Willis stated that he is working with the Mt. Olive City Council and provided them with a report of the trips provided this year. Mt. Olive indicates they have found sufficient matching funds for FY20-21 to continue the services. For the month of March, 176 hours of service was provided. There were 88 total trips performed. This was a significant decline from last March. The impact of the pandemic and the Executive Order to stay home has impacted the number of trips done. The cost of service (split 50/50 between grant and the Town) was \$6,019.01. GWTA received \$95 in fare box revenue from riders in March. The total trips through the first seven months was 1,561.

COVID-19 Impacts and Steps Taken

Willis gave an update on the steps taken in response to COVID-19. The response includes the continued engagement with Federal Transit and NCHHS for their update and recommended safety protocols. GWTA is screening staff daily with questions to determine if they are able to work. There have been several staff that were self-quarantined. The facility and vehicles are being cleaned consistently with the direction of FTA and HHS. In addition, a professional cleaning company was used to fog the vehicles and facility. At the recommendation of peers, GWTA has procured a backpack fogger/sanitizer for additional cleaning. GWTA is researching long term solutions such as plexiglass in the vehicles around the operator's cab area.

Health Insurance Option

Wayne County has notified GWTA of their plan to assess additional health insurance costs for the coming fiscal year. The projected increase is \$20,000 a year for GWTA. Willis received a quote from the League of Municipalities which were not as favorable as expected. The quote from the League would have added \$50,000 to the current cost of insurance. Willis has been in communication with a private provider for Blue Cross Blue Shield, which is comparable with the County and could save GWTA the \$20,000 in administrative fees. Willis met with a private provider/broker, Mr. M. Hughes Waren of EbenConcepts on April 23, 2020. Mr. Hughes provided three options, United Health Care, Cigna and Aetna. Their private quotes are not final until employees complete a personal health assessment survey.

Willis stated that the direct enrollment process for the County insurance will begin on May 4, 2020. The employees will need to complete the enrollment process with the County while continuing to seek other insurance options.

Upon motion of Gene Aycock and seconded by Shycole Simpson-Carter, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to remain with the County of Wayne for health insurance.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by: LaShonda Oliver