



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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

BERRY GRAY
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at the City of Goldsboro Mayor's Conference Room, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Berry Gray, Chairman; Hiawatha Jones, Vice Chairman; Octavius Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer; Barbara Aycock; Steve Wiggins; Robert Dingess; and Gregg Batts

Members absent:; none

Others in attendance: Don Willis, John Hagens, Jr, Ms, Wiggins

Call to Order

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. And welcomed Board members. There was a roll call to assure a quorum was present.

Recognition of Bus Driver of the Year

GWTA Bus Driver of the Year, John Hagens Jr attended and was appreciated by the Board. John commented on how much he enjoyed GWTA and making his passengers laugh. He has been with GWTA for 12 years and 7 months. Van Driver of the Year Lee Sutton had a conflict and hopes to attend the July meeting. Board members commented on the excellent and critical services GWTA provides to the community and thanked Mr. Hagens for his years of service and on his recognition as the Bus Driver of the Year.

FY2023-2024 FTA Grant Public Hearing

At 10:05 a.m., a public hearing was held on the FY2023-2024 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Operating and Capital Assistance application.

Willis gave an overview of the FTA grant application. GWTA's allocation of available FTA 5307 funds has increased for the coming fiscal year by \$19,000 after having already increased in the prior fiscal year by a significant \$238,000. The allocation of funds from NCDOT is \$1,081,997 for the federal total. The local funds will come from the SMAP provided by NCDOT; and, the remainder will be provided locally. The total grant budget is \$1,782,590. The local match is \$700,593. The operating assistance is 50% federal and 50% local match. The preventative maintenance and ADA is 80% federal and 20% local match.

Willis invited the public for comments. No public comments were received.

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023
Page 2

The public hearing was closed at 10:08.

Upon motion of Rob Dingess and seconded by Steve Wiggins, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to submit the FY2023-2024 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 grant application.

FY2023-2024 Budget Public Hearing

At 10:09 a.m., a public hearing was held to consider the FY2023-2024 Rural and Urban Budget Ordinances.

Willis gave an overview of the FY2023-2024 rural and urban budget proposals. The current annual inflation rate in the United States is 4.5%, down from 8% in 2022 and 4.7% in 2021. GWTA needs to adjust budgets to align with ongoing inflation increases in recent years. This has a significant impact on GWTA's proposed urban and rural budgets. The proposed FY-2023-24 rural budget is \$2,888,151. Excluding the capital budget (which varies tremendously) the rural budget has increased over the current fiscal year by approximately 14%. The proposed FY2023-24 urban budget is \$2,595,101. Excluding the capital budget (which varies tremendously) the urban budget has increased over the current fiscal year by approximately 11%. The Mt. Olive bus service will be funded at the same level as last fiscal year.

GWTA remains in a good overall financial position to manage the uncertainties in the economy in the coming fiscal year. GWTA maintains over \$500,000 in the NC Capital Management Trust (NCCMT) in addition to our bank account with TRUIST. There are still available ARP funds remaining which may be used to help GWTA to cover the urban and rural budget expenses in FY2023-24. Rural ridership is gradually returning and Director may recommend trip rate adjustments where appropriate in the coming year. Rural ridership is estimated to be 10,000 trips below pre-pandemic levels. It is important to position GWTA in the coming fiscal year for FY2024-25 when the ARP funds may no longer be available. Director will continue to assess budget performance and whether further adjustments may be needed in FY2023-24.

Willis stated that a rural vehicles are planned to be replaced in the new budget to include funds approved in fy23 as well as new capital funds needed in fy24. The matching funds will come from the County.

Willis invited the public for comments.

No public comments were received.

The public hearing was closed at 10:18.

There was discussion among Board members about the budget proposals. Rob Dingess asked for clarification of how funds available will be used to cover vehicles costs. Use of available federal and state grant funds was discussed, as well as local matching requirements. Potential use of ARP funds to assist with the capital and operating budgets in fy23 and fy24 was also discussed. Upon motion of Steve Wiggins and seconded Octavius Murphy, the Board of Directors of

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023
Page 3

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved to accept the FY2023-2024 Rural Administrative, Operating and Capital Budget Ordinance.

Upon motion of Hiawatha Jones and seconded by Greg Batts, the Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority unanimously approved the FY2023-2024 Urban Operating and Capital Budget Ordinance.

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 May 25, 2023. Rob Dingess seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

Director's Report

Director reported there was informal notice from Goldsboro that the budget request for \$350,129 was approved by Council. This will make a significant difference for the GWTA in the coming fiscal year, as additional available federal funds will be available as a result. Director reported the NCDOT has given informal notice that the additional rural grant opportunity will be funded. The amount is still pending, but will be a significant support for rural operations in FY24.

Director noted Goldsboro was asked to approve the contract with QCA for a fifth and final year under the current RFP. GWTA will need to develop and execute a new RFP process for these services in the coming year. This will be done in coordination with the Board, Goldsboro staff, MPO staff, and also human service agency representatives.

Approval of Annual Audit Contract

Director presented to the Board recommendation to renew the annual audit contract with Nunn, Brashear, and Uzzell. Director noted the firm has demonstrated a strong understanding of the complicated federal and state programs that govern the GWTA. Also, that they continue as the auditor for Wayne County government. Director noted the firm had asked for a formal approval from the Board for the new contract. After discussion Steve Wiggins made a motion to approve the contract. Hiawatha Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

FY23 Budget Amendments

Director discussed the impacts of increased costs on the GWTA. Also that the fy23 budget was only a small increase over fy22. It is possible that salary and wage costs and also vehicle operating and maintenance costs could cause the overall budget to exceed the current authority for expenditures. An ordinance to amend the budget was presented for Board members to review. Director noted there was unappropriated fund balance that could be used, and also other avenues to cover these expenses, including federal ARP funds at 100%. Capital budget for replacement of rural vehicles was not expended during the current fiscal year, and the FY24 budget includes funds for the fy23 vehicle replacement as well as the fy24 expected vehicle replacement as a result. After further discussion Rob Dingess made a motion to execute the budget amendments as presented. Hiawatha Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023
Page 4

Other Actions Requested

Director referenced a memo to the Board covering requested action items. Each of these items had been discussed over the last several meetings, and the approved FY24 budget allows for these actions, if approved by the Board.

Director requested authority from the Board to create up to two additional full time urban operator positions, as may be needed. Also, to add up to three new full time rural van operator positions as may be needed. Director discussed and responded to questions about how these positions could help with covering the work demands better, and reduce overtime pay as well. Hiawatha Jones made a motion to approve the authority to add positions as requested. Barbara Aycock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Director requested authority to increase hiring wages and to modify current wages as had been discussed and over recent meetings. Hiring wage for non-credentialed drivers and employees increases by \$2, and existing employees receive commensurate raises. Hiring wage for Dispatch, Reservations, and Scheduling to increase by \$3, and existing employees receive commensurate raises. Hiring wage for credentialed drivers, supervisors, and managers to increase by \$2.50 and existing employees receive commensurate raises. There was further discussion that these proposals would bring GWTA closer to peers and competing employers. Steve Wiggins made a motion to approve these changes as requested. Hiawatha Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of fy24 Meeting Schedule

Last month Director provided the Board with the proposed meeting schedule to be published for the coming fiscal year. Director noted there is a single meeting combining November and December. Also that the June meeting is earlier to allow additional time in the budget approval process. Octavius Murphy made a motion to approve the meeting schedule. Barbara Aycock seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Outreach and Activities

Director reported he had been appointed and attended Wayne County Commissioners Council for Older Adults meeting on May 31st. Director discussed a meet with citizens to help coordinate bus vouchers for a Safe Spaces for Kids event on June 1st. Director met with Todd Williams to review Workers Comp Insurance and also consider Property and Liability Insurance quotes on June 1st. Director reported participation in virtual statewide roundtable meetings on Medicaid Transportation with Brokers and Health Plans on June 7th. Director also attended and presented information on GWTA at a seniors meeting on June 13th. Director attended monthly virtual meeting with NCDOT/IMD and rural transit providers on June 14th. Director facilitated quarterly TAB meeting on June 15th. Director participated in monthly virtual meeting with NC Division of Health Benefits to discuss ongoing challenges with Medicaid Transportation on June 20th.

Training

Director reported GWTA employees received ADA and Sensitivity training at the June meeting.

Director noted that annual elections for officers are scheduled for the July Board of Directors meeting. Director also noted GWTA will follow a Saturday schedule for Independence Day.

**Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023
Page 5**

Barbara Aycock made motion to adjourn, and Greg Batts seconded. Motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis