



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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

BERRY GRAY
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2024***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at the City of Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Berry Gray, Chairman; Hiawatha Jones, Vice Chairman; Octavius Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer; and Robert Dingess

Members absent:: Barbara Aycock; Steve Wiggins; Jamie Taylor

Others in attendance: Don C. Willis, Borden Parker

Call to Order

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM and welcomed Board members.

There was a roll call to assure a quorum was present of appointed Board members.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Gray asked the Board members to review and approve the proposed agenda. Hiawatha Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as is. The motion was seconded by Rob Dingess and received unanimous approvals.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gray requested the Board review and approve the minutes provided. A motion was made by Rob Dingess to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2024. Hiawatha Jones seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

Director's Report

Director reported continued research and preparation for the proposed FY2024-2025 Urban and Rural budget ordinances as well as matching fund requests to be submitted to Goldsboro and Wayne County. Director stated he anticipates drawing down the remaining rural ARP operating funds this fiscal year. Also, Director anticipates being able to fully tap into all of the available "one time" operating funds for fuel costs this fiscal year. Director noted that the remaining urban ARP funds are largely set aside to cover 100% of the cost of bus replacements, and also may be used to help cover any urban operating budget shortfall at year end.

Director stated that staff continues work to fulfill information requests from Nunn Brashear and Uzzell and complete the audit for FY23.

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2024
Page 2

Director shared that GWTA was informed by our bus supplier, Model 1 Commercial Vehicles, that El Dorado Bus Manufacturing will be “winding down” operation of their bus building operations. The GWTA was prepared to receive the two buses recently built in the coming month. However, GWTA was given a short window of time to exercise the option to decline the vehicles if there were any concerns about the procurement at this time. Director discussed the situation with Board Chairman Gray. Given the cost of the procurement, the impact on an organization the size of the GWTA, and the many unanswered questions about how the parts and warranties for these buses will be honored in the coming years, Director recommended declining and seeking new options for replacing vehicles. In future years maintaining these expensive vehicles could become very challenging and even cost prohibitive for GWTA. GWTA communicated timely our intent to decline given the factors and the timeline for a response offered. Director will be attending training opportunities and researching new options for replacing the aging fleet of vehicles. Board discussed methods to monetize the costs to GWTA, including creation of a trust of funds to be held in reserve to manage these costs. Board members discussed fleet needs and challenges expected to maintain current fleet pending replacement vehicles. Board authorized the Director to take additional steps and make further decisions as needed.

Marketing and Public Relations Update

Director discussed work with QCA to develop materials to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the GWTA this year. Director also noted that QCA has almost completed development of a second informational animated video starring “Seymour the bus” that will detail how the Trip Finder works on the GWTA website. GWTA is obtaining quotes and will move forward to deploy the redesigned bus stop signs in Goldsboro and Mount Olive. This may occur incrementally by using existing signs that are refreshed. Director noted that there are 250 stops throughout the GWTA network to be replaced across the 5 bus routes plus the circulator in Mount Olive.

Director again discussed the process underway to develop a new RFP for these services. Director is updating the RFP that will be used and is attending training to receive updated references to federal requirements for the RFP. Director ask for feedback from the Board regarding makeup and appointments to the review committee.

Training

Director noted that GWTA employees received Blood Borne Pathogens refresher training at the January meeting.

Other Items

Director reported on various meetings, outreach activities and efforts over the last month. The GWTA team celebrated going 141 days without a preventable accident on Sunday January 28th.

Chairman Gray asked if there was any further business. Hearing no further business, Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:51am.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis