



DON WILLIS
DIRECTOR

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

BERRY GRAY
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, 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; Jamie Taylor; and Barbara Aycock

Members absent: Robert Dingess; Steve Wiggins

Others in attendance: Don C. Willis, Director and Borden Parker, Attorney

Call to Order

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:03 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. Barbara Aycock made a motion to approve the agenda as is. The motion was seconded by Octavius Murphy and received unanimous approvals.

Public Hearing for the FY25 FTA 5307 Grant Application

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing at 10:08am. Director explained GWTA is the eligible applicant for FTA 5307 urban funding to operate the fixed route bus services. That each year the FTA provides an allocated amount of eligible funds that could be sought, and that this year the total amount was \$946,914.00. Director stated that the operating portion requires at least a 50% local match, and was \$596,556 this year. The ADA portion requires a 20% local match and this year was \$179,914.00. Finally, the amount for preventive maintenance requires a 20% local match and this year was \$170,444.00. The total local funds needed to leverage the grant as stated is \$684,146.00. Director asked if there was any member of the public in attendance or on the phone line that had questions or comments. None responded. Director noted that the public hearing had been advertised in the local paper including providing the public with a full week of time to review the application prior to the meeting. The public hearing was closed without public comment at 10:12am. Board members discussed the grant funding request and needs. Director noted that the NCDOT currently provides an additional \$196,772.00 in funds to assist in covering the local match. Also, it is anticipated that Goldsboro will provide matching funds at the same level as last year. Director noted that if there was not sufficient local match, then GWTA could consider whether and how to make service cuts. However, it is not anticipated that this will be necessary. After further discussion,

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024
Page 2

Jamie Taylor made a motion to approve submission of the FTA FY25 5307 application. Barbara Aycock seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Public Hearing for the FY25 Urban and Rural Budget Ordinances

Chairman Gray opened the public hearing at 10:12am. Director shared that operating expenses and inflation continue to rise. Service levels driving costs (miles traveled and hours of operation) have returned to pre-COVID levels. Most insurance expenses have increased significantly, even though we take advantage of the NCACC Insurance Pool and County Health Insurance. Director stated he has budgeted to continue the safety and attendance incentive program. Director noted Wayne County and Goldsboro are both expecting only COLA increases of approximately 2% for the coming year. Director recommends following the lead of other local government with a 2% increase for salaried employees, and for hourly employees an equivalent amount which is \$.30/hour. Director also recommended GWTA offer another ½% increase in matching participation in the employee 457B retirement plan. The total urban budget ordinance is for \$1,576,900.00. The total rural budget ordinance for operations is for \$1,976,862.00. Also, the rural ordinance includes capital for another \$1,142,423.00 for a total budget of \$3,119,285.00. Each budget ordinance would be effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Director asked if there was any member of the public in attendance or on the phone line that had questions or comments. None responded. Director noted that the public hearing had been advertised in the local paper including providing the public with a full week of time to review the proposed budgets prior to the meeting. The public hearing was closed at 10:20am. Board members discussed the expected increases to expenses and also the desire to adequately appreciate employees. Director noted the significant pay increases last year. Also, Director noted that there would no longer be available COVID recovery funds in the coming fiscal year to cover any potential deficit. Director stated he was not able to find cheaper property and liability insurance in the market than was available through the NCACC at this time. These costs went up again significantly this year as part of the NCACC risk pool. This impacted the ability to offer more than a COLA raise this year. Octavius Murphy made motion to approve both budget ordinances as presented. Jamie Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gray requested the Board review and approve the minutes provided. A motion was made by Barbara Aycock to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 30, 2024. Hiawatha Jones seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

Approval of Meeting Schedule for FY25

Director presented an update to the proposed meeting schedule of the Board of Directors for FY25 noting that the June meeting was moved to Wednesday June 18, 2025 in order to honor and celebrate the Juneteenth holiday. Board members discussed this change and expressed their desire to change the schedule so that this important day can be honored. Hiawatha Jones made a motion to approve the updated meeting schedule for fy25. Barbara Aycock seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Recognition of Van Operator of the Year

Each year the GWTA recognizes the bus and van operators of the year. Only drivers who have already been recognized as a driver of the quarter are eligible. GWTA has many excellent

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024
Page 3

representatives who could easily have earned this recognition. This year's Bus Operator of the Year is Chester McClarin. Mr. McClarin is celebrating on vacation and will join us for the July meeting. Director introduced Mr. Ed Royal was introduced to the Board as the van driver of the year. Director noted how many people who leave GWTA often desire and find a way to come back home and rejoin the team. Mr. Royal is one of those returning team members and on his second tour of duty he has been with GWTA for nearly five years. He is widely admired and appreciated by his co-workers for his work ethic and reliability. It is not unusual for him to start his day at 5am, and then be asked to help fill in when an afternoon shift is uncovered. GWTA Board members thanked Mr. Royal for his service and recognized him for his efforts to provide an excellent service to our customers who need us. Mr. Royal expressed his love for the work and for helping those in need.

Marketing and Public Relations Update

Director reported that he facilitated final RFP planning meeting on June 5th with representation from the Board of Directors, the MPO, and from the County Aging Department which is served by GWTA. The panel finalized their unanimous selection of the successful respondent to the RFP based on the agreed criteria to be used. Director noted that GWTA received questions from 7 companies about the RFP, and ultimately received 3 responses. Director stated he coordinated with Goldsboro procurement staff for the process. Recommendation will be presented to City Council.

Director stated that a brief infographic report of Customer Survey responses was provided at the last Board meeting. Director mentioned that 172 fixed route passengers completed surveys, and 24 rural passengers completed the survey. Director proceeded to present and share full results for the Board to consider. Some of the feedback presented included:

About 30% needed to transfer buses to complete their trip
89% of respondents do not have a car
36% are satisfied and 64% are very satisfied with the process for reserving trips
90% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the bus drivers
93% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with van drivers
85% are satisfied or very satisfied with customer services from office staff
87% of bus riders & 100% of van riders are satisfied or very satisfied with cleanliness of vans
9% of bus riders are dissatisfied with on time performance
In review of the trends over the last 4 years, the overall performance of GWTA is improved.

Training

Director noted that GWTA employees received ADA and Sensitivity refresher training at the June meeting.

Other Items

Director reported working with Goldsboro to support an event at Union Station on June 4th. The facility was kept open after hours so that participants could use the restroom and also come inside from the heat for a time. Director reported facilitating an RFP panel meeting on June 5th. Director noted he had participated in a virtual meeting with DHHS/DHB staff to discuss progress with the Medicaid Transportation Brokers on June 5th. Director also reported attending the annual CTAA national conference June 10th through 13th and having learned a good deal as well

**Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024
Page 4**

as making additional contacts that will be helpful for the GWTA. Director also noted he had participated in the MPO meeting on June 13th by call in.

Chairman Gray asked if there was any further business. Hearing no further business, Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:43am.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis