

**GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**AUGUST 15, 2017
5:30 PM**

**1830 GOLDEN STATE AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Jim Baldwin
Cindy Parra

Carlos Bello

James Hunter

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Evelyn Young Spath

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Chris James
Emery Rendes
Sharon Pierce

Steven Woods
Bruce Seibel
Ricardo Perez

Candra Cheers
Deekay Fox
Denise Sailes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter Smith

Craig Pope

Dennis Heffernon

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Peter Smith led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Baldwin moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with three (3) ayes and two (2) absent (Bello, Young Spath).

PUBLIC COMMENTS None.

(Director Bello entered meeting at 5:37 p.m.)

COUNTY OF KERN BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Mr. Craig Pope, Kern County Director of Public Works, gave a presentation on the bus stop improvements. The highest concentration of complaints received by the County was along Route 46 on Virginia Avenue. This project includes 3,500 feet of ADA compliant sidewalk, 55 drive approaches, 22 curb ramps as well as relocation of six utility poles. PTMISEA funds have been used to improve access to seven bus stops. This was an informational item.

TOKEN TRANSIT

Ms. Sailes gave a presentation on the Token Transit app method of payment and how this approach to pass purchasing will make the commuter experience less cumbersome. Customers will be able to access this method of payment beginning October 1, 2017. This was an informational item only.

APPOINT AD HOC COMMITTEE

Director Baldwin moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to appoint Director Hunter and Director Parra to the Ad Hoc Committee to work with GET staff and meet with local community leaders regarding the California High Speed Rail Authority. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

CNG BUS PURCHASE

Director Parra moved and Director Hunter seconded a motion to approve a contract to New Flyer of America for 24 CNG transit buses and spare parts for \$13,988,246.16 and authorized staff to include \$150,000 in contingency funds for possible technical changes, modifications, and upgrades that may be required during production. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

2017 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Ms. King provided an update on the status of the Board initiatives, which implement the Strategic Plan. This was an informational item only.

FOURTH QUARTER FY 2016-17 PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR MOTOR BUS AND DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICES

Mr. Rendes stated that GET-A-Lift total unlinked passenger trips (14,850) decreased 7.2% for the quarter compared to the same period last year. Total unlinked passenger trips on fixed routes were 1,236,538, a 5% decrease from the same quarter one year ago. This was an informational item only.

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE

Ms. King stated that she does not have any new information. The CHSRA will be holding public hearings in November on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In January an appraiser for the CHSRA visited; GET has been contacted by another appraiser recently. Early acquisition for GET and the Homeless Shelter are still being considered.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

This item was deferred until after Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello shared that Cal Walks will be conducting a Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training program on August 22nd at the East Bakersfield Boys and Girls Club.

Director Parra commented that Bakersfield College has received a grant for a bike share program. Director Parra suggested that future customer surveys ask specific questions at the Downtown Transit Center about trip/route purposes.

Director Baldwin asked if the process GET uses to coordinate complaints could be presented at a future Board meeting.

Director Hunter stated that APTA will be merging some APTA conferences in the future.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. King introduced Deekay Fox, GET's new Marketing Manager. Ms. King commented that GET will be celebrating the completion of the Virginia Avenue bus stop improvement project from 9am to 10am on Friday, August 18, 2017 on Virginia Avenue, off Mount Vernon on the NW Corner near the bus shelter. The annual picnic at the fair will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2017. Five new GET-A-Lift vehicles have been wrapped to advertise employment opportunities with GET.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 7:23 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel Existing Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] – *Celious v. Golden Empire Transit District*, Kern County Superior Court Case No.: BCL-16-010895; and Conference with Legal Counsel – [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)] – Discuss Performance Evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer. The Board returned to open session at 7:40 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated that the Board met with legal counsel and staff on the item referenced in the executive session on the Agenda. Mr. Worth stated that no action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

The Board discussed the goals and accomplishments of the CEO during the 2016-2017 year in considering a potential salary adjustment. Director Baldwin moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to approve a five (5) year Employment Contract with CEO Karen King and that her new salary reflect a 3% (1% merit and 2.0% for cost-of living) salary adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2017. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Young Spath).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Hunter moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors