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

DECEMBER 5, 2017
11:30 AM

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON
5101 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93309

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Jim Baldwin
Cindy Parra
Carlos Bello
Evelyn Young Spath
Jim Hunter

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Chris James
Sharon Pierce
Steven Woods
Candra Cheers
Jeanie Hill
Deekay Fox

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gary Winters
Frances Rubio
Brian Bezdek
Yolanda Hamen
Tammy Romo
Bob Snoddy
Leetta Farley
Cynthia Thompson
Dennis Weaver, Jr.
Michael Harless
Jamsetta Bright
Nick Blanchard
Joel Watkins

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Hunter led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

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STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

The meeting was adjourned to the Strategic Planning Workshop at 12:37 p.m. The Board participated in a strategic planning workshop facilitated by Gary Winters. The workshop adjourned at 4:45 p.m. and recessed to the regular Board meeting.

The Board meeting reconvened at 5:31 p.m. with all Board members present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Parra moved and Director Young Spath seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jamsrta Bright, a GET bus driver of 14½ years, spoke to the Board about vacation time. (See Attachment A)

Joel Watkins, a GET bus driver of 14½ years also, echoed Ms. Bright’s comments. He did not understand the process being used and asked that the vacation issue be resolved. He would like the vacation time owed to him restored.

Yolanda Hamen, Shop Steward, read a letter into the record from Florence Marshall-Darrow, also a bus driver, asking for a fair and quick resolution to the vacation time issue. (See Attachment B).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDY – RESOLUTION 2017-10

Director Hunter moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2017-10, authorizing the Chief Executive Officer or her designee to obtain financial assistance from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Baldwin, Bello, Hunter, Parra, and Young Spath

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello commented that during a ride on the Oildale/Chester route the notification signage in the bus wasn’t working. The drivers he has encountered during his bus rides has been helpful and courteous. He asked about the artwork on some buses with a Minion/Star Wars theme. He also asked about upgrading buses to 3-bike racks.

Director Parra wished everyone a Merry Christmas and looked forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Parade on Thursday.
Director Young Spath asked about the status of the CSUB transit project and reminded staff that Patrick Jacobs, Associate Vice-President Facilities at CSUB will be retiring at the end of December. Dr. Mitchell will be retiring at the end of the academic year.

Director Baldwin wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Director Hunter inquired about the data for the Veterans Ride Free campaign in November. Christmas greetings to everyone.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. King stated that 7,671 veterans rode the bus during November’s campaign. Last year’s number was 9,568. The January 16th Board meeting will be held at Kern Council of Governments. The follow-up Board Governance workshop will begin at 2 pm, followed by the Board meeting. On December 19th at 3 pm there will be a hearing on the High Speed Rail’s EIR. Ms. King will be offering comments at the hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Hunter moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors
Good evening Board. My name is Jurnese Braghtt. I am a driver and have been employed with the company for 14 1/2 years. I stand here on be half of myself and my fellow co-workers. Reason being... I want to bring to your attention if not already known in regards to the vacation time given to myself and the other 17 drivers which have now been revoked. I myself fill we have earned that time and Mr. Woods agreed to that as well, and by so he placed his owe in our vacation banked slots. With no option of cashing out. Just being able to take the time when available. But upon request most of us were denied time off due to lack of man power to cover. Runs, so that's why most of us requested the cash out option.
And now we are being told all this have been revoked and placed on hold! Can you all give me or should I say ‘us’ a reason why? Because we all deserve what is owed to us instead of playing ‘tit for tat’.

Thank you.

In the contract it states 12-18yrs of service you are to receive 160 = 4 weeks. I’ve been here 14 1/2 yrs and still only receiving 2 weeks. Apparently this is why I only qualified 3 weeks. Something is wrong here.

259 hrs owed.
Dear Board Members,

My name is Florence Marshall-Darrow and I am a full-time driver at Golden Empire Transit. Around the end of Summer I was notified that there had been a mistake made with my paid vacation time hours. I was told I was owed back over 100 vacation hours and they even appeared on my pay stubs.

However, I have now been informed that these hours will again be removed from my account and this is unacceptable. I do not feel it is fair to make a mistake, try to amend it and then undue it all over again. I understand there may be a large amount of vacation hours across many employees and that this may cause loss of man power. If the vacation time is not available, then I feel that payment for these hours would be an acceptable alternative.

My hope is that you remedy this situation fairly and quickly. I appreciate you taking the time to read and consider my letter in your decision.

Sincerely, Florence Marshall-Darrow

(Actual hrs 149.06) Florence Marshall-Darrow