

**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.

## **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:**

Jamsetta 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

ATTACHMENT A

Good Evening Board My  
name is Jamesetta Bright. I am  
a driver and have been employed  
with the company for 14 1/2 yrs.  
I stand here on behalf 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 giving to  
myself and the other IT drivers  
which have now been revoked.  
I myself feel we have earned  
that time and Mr Woods agreed  
to that as well, and by so he  
placed hrs owe in our vacation  
banking 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 thats why most of  
us requested the cash out option



ATTACHMENT A  
(CONTINUED)

AND NOW WE ARE BEING TOLD  
ALL HRS 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 OWE TO US INSTEAD  
OF PLAYING TAT FOR TAT.

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/ 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 <sup>yrs</sup> AND STILL ONLY RECEIVING 2 weeks.  
~~only receiving 2 weeks this yr~~ I only accumulated  
3 weeks. ~~Something is wrong HERE~~

259 hrs  
owed.

## ATTACHMENT B

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. <sup>149.06</sup>

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*

Florence Marshall-Darrow

*(Actual hrs 149.06) Florence Marshall-Darrow*