

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

**FEBRUARY 18, 2020  
5:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Carlos Bello  
Rueben Pascual

Leasa Engel

Cindy Parra

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Jim Baldwin

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Jim Worth

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Candra Cheers  
Robert Williams  
Denise Sailes

Deidre Brown  
Jeanie Hill  
Victor Honorato  
Sharon Pierce

Steve Barnes  
Janet Sanders  
Ricardo Perez

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bob Snoddy  
Michael Hernandez

Norm Reynolds

Natalia Woolfolk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Denise Sailes led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**PUBLIC HEARING - UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS**

Director Parra opened the hearing at 5:31 pm and stated that GET will receive public testimony identifying and commenting on Unmet Transit Needs that may exist in the Bakersfield Metropolitan Area. Notices of the hearing were placed in *The Bakersfield Californian* and *El*

*Popular* newspapers as well as posted on the buses, the GET website, Facebook and twitter pages. The following is the definition of unmet transit needs:

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code 99401.5, “An unmet transit needs exists if an individual of any age or physical condition is unable to transport himself or herself due to deficiencies in the existing transportation system.

Excluded are: 1) Those requests for minor operational improvements, and 2) Those improvements funded and scheduled for implementation in the following year.

The term “reasonable to meet” is defined:

- A) Operational Feasibility. The requested improvement must be safe to operate and there must be adequate roadways for transit vehicles;
- B) Duplication of Service. The proposed service shall not duplicate other transit services;
- C) Timing. The proposed service shall be in response to an existing, rather than a future need; and
- D) Service must meet the legally required farebox ratio with fares close to fares of similar service.”

Any person wishing to present testimony related to unmet transit needs may do so at this time. Please state your name and address for the record. If you wish your statements to be verbatim, they must be in writing for inclusion in the official record of this hearing.

Receiving no testimony, Director Parra closed the hearing at 5:32 pm.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of January 16, 2019, Accounts Payable Check Disbursements, and Board of Directors’ Standing Committee Assignments). (See Attachment A – Standing Committee Assignments.) The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

#### **APPOINTMENT TO KERN COG TPPC AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Director Engle moved and Director Pascual seconded a motion to appoint Director Parra as GET’s TPPC and Board of Directors’ Representative to Kern Council of Governments. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

Director Parra moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to appoint Director Pascual as GET’s TPPC and Board of Directors’ alternate representative to Kern Council of Governments. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

## **APPOINTMENT TO AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Director Parra moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to appoint Director Engel and Director Pascual to serve on GET's High Speed Rail Ad Hoc Committee. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

## **REVIEW AND ADOPT BOARD POLICY #16: PURCHASE OF ALTERNATIVELY-FUELED VEHICLES**

Ms. Brown commented that the purpose of this Board Policy is to move Golden Empire Transit District towards California Air Resources Board (CARB) compliance with the purchase and use of vehicles that are only fueled by alternative fuels with the lowest possible emissions. GET is in the process of developing its Zero Emission Bus Plan and will present it at the Board's May meeting. Once approved by the Board, the plan will be submitted to meet CARB's July 2020 deadline.

Director Bello moved and Director Pascual seconded a motion to adopt Board Policy No. 16: Purchase of Alternately-Fueled Vehicles. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

## **CNG TRANSIT BUS PURCHASE**

Director Engel moved and Director Pascual seconded a motion to award a contract to Gillig in the amount of \$12,423,673.94 for the manufacture and delivery of 22 CNG Transit Buses. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin). Mr. Norm Reynolds, Gillig's Regional Sales Manager, shared that Gillig has a factory in Livermore, California and thanked GET for purchasing from Gillig – an American and California company.

## **FUEL CELL ELECTRIC TRANSIT BUS PURCHASE**

Director Engel moved and Director Pascual seconded a motion to award a contract to New Flyer in the amount of \$6,000,480.20 for the manufacture and delivery of five (5) fuel cell electric transit buses. The motion carried with four (4) ayes and one (1) absent (Baldwin).

## **STATE OF GOOD REPAIR AUTHORIZATION**

Ms. Sailes shared that the State of Good Repair (SGR) Program is one of two programs that allocate SB 1 funds to transit agencies through the State Transit Assistance formula.

Director Pascual moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer or her designee to obtain financial assistance from the State of Good Repair Program. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, and Pascual  
ABSENT: Baldwin

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

## **JANUARY 2020 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Barnes reviewed the January 2020 financial reports. This was an informational item only.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Pascual commented that he is excited to move forward with hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Director Engel commended Ms. Sanders on her great job performance.

Director Bello asked staff to provide a RYDE update next month. He would like to see a breakdown by age and hours of operation. He congratulated Ms. King and staff on their recognition by DBA and Kern COG.

Director Parra commented that there is a lot of activity – i.e. new buses, CHSRA activity. May is National Bike Month and that Bike Bakersfield will be participating in a Bike to Work program.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT/COMMENTS**

Ms. King shared that the Environmental Management System surveillance audit and Safety Management System GAP audit were held two weeks ago. Last Wednesday a Job Fair has held on property with ninety-one (91) applicants. Eighty-two (82) applicants were interviewed with thirty-two (32) moving to the next phase in the application process. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, GET will be receiving two awards from Kern COG. Ms. King shared the CHSRA Business Plan just released for comment contains comments on page 70 (Attachment B) regarding a possible early acquisition of this property. The Business Plan is scheduled to be confirmed in April.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors