

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

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

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Rueben Pascual

Cindy Parra
Leasa Engel

Jim Baldwin

DIRECTOR ABSENT:

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Deidre Brown
Victor Honorato

Robert Williams
Denise Sailes
Amanda Villanueva

Steve Barnes
Candra Cheers

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rudy Le Flore Bob Snoddy Jeff Grant Tim Murray

Buddy Lee Graham

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

Roll Call was taken, Directors Cindy Parra, Rueben Pascual, Jim Baldwin, Carlos Bello, and Leasa Engel were all present for the Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Jim Baldwin moved and Director Rueben Pascual seconded to approve the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of July 21, 2020 and July 28,2020, Accounts Payable Check Disbursements, Resolution Federal Transit Administration 5339 Formula Funds, Purchase of Eight (8) GET-A-LIFT Vehicles, and Dispatch Software Procurement.) The motion carried on the following Roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, Baldwin, Pascual
ABSENT: NONE

NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Public Comments:

1. Mr. Buddy Lee Graham spoke on two issues the first issue was, Operators are accelerating prior to passengers taking a seat. This has been going on about 2-10 years. Mr. Graham had another issue to discuss, he stated hand rails need to be more convenient on the buses, if they were lowered 12 inches for seniors. He has fallen before because the rails are not low enough to reach.

ZERO EMISSION BUSES ROLL-OUT PLAN

Deidre Brown introduced the LeFlore Group who gave a presentation on Zero Emission buses. The plan included execution over the next 20 years, this is only a plan which may need change(s). All buses will achieve their full useful life none will be retired. This plan also included the possible relocation of Golden Empire Transit given the situation with the High Speed Rail. Director Pascual stated he appreciated the plan. Director Engel stated she liked the road map even though it may change. Director Baldwin stated it was exactly what the board expected, inquired if there would be a penalty with CARB for any changes. Chief Executive Officer Karen King stated there would not be any penalties as they know this is a plan that has foreseeable changes in its future. Director Bello asked if there would be changes to the ICT rollout or will they happen every year; the amount of capital that would be lost due to relocation and what can be assumed by the High Speed Rail? Karen King stated there would be yearly reviews of the plan to see what may need to be updated. As far as High Speed Rail that is still to be determined.

Director Leasa Engel moved and Director Ruben Pascual seconded to approve that the Board adopts by Resolution the Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan required by the California Air Resources Board- Article 4.3 Innovative Clean Transit-2023. The Resolution was adopted with the following Roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, Baldwin, Pascual
 ABSENT: NONE

NOES: NONE
 ABSTAIN: NONE

AVL MEDIUS UNIT

Victor Honorato shared that the upgrade in the AVL medius unit would provide infotainment, onboard, wifi for the future and would be useable for the next ten years. This project is being funded with local TDA funds.

Director Jim Baldwin moved and Director Rueben Pascual seconded to amend the previous project budget and approve the purchase of new AVL Medius Units from Connexionz in the amount of \$408,000. The motion carried on the following Roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, Baldwin, Pascual
 ABSENT: NONE

NOES: NONE
 ABSTAIN: NONE

PUBLIC ACCESS TO MEETINGS

Mrs. King stated Golden Empire Transit compared what others are doing in the county for their public meetings. The public will have the opportunity to attend in person. In addition, they can contact the Clerk and have a link to a zoom meeting or phone into the meeting. Larger numbers of participants would require new software. Should anyone have any public comment the Board Clerk would read the public comment into the record

Director Leasa Engel moved and Director Carlos Bello seconded that the Board of Directors adopts a policy for remote public access to Board of Directors' meetings and directs staff to implement it beginning with the September 15, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting. The motion carried on the following Roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, Baldwin, Pascual
ABSENT: NONE

NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

JULY 2020 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Barnes discussed with the Board the July 2020 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

Director Cindy Parra deferred item until after closed session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello thanks Karen King and staff for response to concerns from the last Board meeting, he looks forward to hearing about Non-Emergency Medical Transit and Ryde Services as they are the future during these tough times. Director Bello also thanks the Drivers for everything they do.

Director Parra, asked on behalf of Bike Bakersfield if someone can please contact them. They are looking for bikes if GET has any, or anyone has any gently used ones.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Mrs. King updated the Board members on COVID-19 matters, having sent over 120 employees to test. In some of those cases a few have tested twice. The Attendance Policy was suspended for child care issues, beginning in September it is being reinstated. The American Public Transit Association is awarding GET in March of 2021 for Innovation for Books on Buses. This program was initiated by Jill Smith in Marketing. Due to COVID-19 we have had to place a hold on it so as not to share any books at the moment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 6:57 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1); [Government Code Section

54956.9(d)(2); and [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) and 54957.6] – Discuss Performance Evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer. The Board returned to open session at 7:35 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated that the Board met with legal counsel on the items referenced in executive session on the agenda. 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 2019-2020 year and noted the exceptional work of the CEO during this past year, especially in light of the current pandemic. The CEO's leadership, transparency and commitment to safety during the pandemic were highlighted. The Board also wants it known that the CEO declined to accept a raise noting that she did not feel it was appropriate in light of the uncertainties caused by the pandemic. Director Baldwin moved and Director Bello seconded to commend the CEO on her exceptional work this past year with an additional thank you to the CEO for considering the District when declining a pay raise.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Parra moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting concluded at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors