

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

**MARCH 21, 2023  
4:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Carlos Bello  
Charles Van De Voorde

Leasa Engel  
Kay Henry

Cindy Parra

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

None

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Jim Worth

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen King  
Janet Sanders  
Michele Warren  
DeAnna Sanderson

Steve Barnes  
Victor Honorato  
Toddash Kim

Robert Williams  
Chris James  
Melissa Ash

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michael Harless

Tracey Mensch

Irene Enriquez

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Roll call was taken and all Directors were present.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Engel moved and Director Van De Voorde seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda items A-E (Agenda, Minutes of February 21, 2023, Accounts Payable Check Disbursements, Volkswagon Mitigation Trust application, and Unmet Transit Needs proposal) The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, Van De Voorde, and Henry  
ABSENT: None

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Tracey Mensch with the GET Community Transit Advisory Group (CTAG) wished to introduce herself to the Board Members. Ms. Mensch is an advocate for people with disabilities.

Mr. Michael Harless desired to discuss the Unmet Transit Needs proposal from the previous meeting. Mr. Harless was informed that the proposal had been addressed with the Consent Agenda.

### **AB 361 / AB 2449 REMOTE MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Ms. King recommended that moving forward all Board Members attend meetings in person. In accordance with the Brown Act, remote meetings should be reserved for emergency situations only. For the general public, Zoom will continue to be utilized at each meeting for viewing purposes only. Public comments need to be submitted prior to meetings or can be made in person. Director Bello moved and Director Henry seconded motion to approve. The motion carried on the following voice vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, Van De Voorde, and Henry  
ABSENT: None

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **FEBRUARY 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Mr. Barnes discussed with the Board the February 2023 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

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

Director Bello thanked staff for working hard towards overcoming the low staff issues that GET continues to face. He was also impressed with the design of the annual report.

Director Parra acknowledged Marketing for the excellent job done with the annual report. She also inquired when design for the new property would be contracted. Ms. King responded that once the property was secured, that a consultant would be hired for 30% of design and environmental surveys. Additionally, GET is still waiting on high-speed rail plans to be funded. Ms. King had attended a meeting with representatives from several cities within Kern County and the Director of the High-Speed Rail Project. Funding of \$10 billion is needed to complete the corridor from Shafter to Bakersfield. Director Parra commented that she had spoken with the CEO of Kern COG, Ahron Hakimi. Mr. Hakimi stated that he was impressed with Ms. King's comments.

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

Ms. King commented she attended the APTA Annual Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. and met with staff members for Senators McCarthy and Valadao. Ms. King submitted requests with Senator Valadao's staff for three community projects: (1) CNG buses; (2) a hydrogen storage trailer; and (3) safety equipment on buses. Ms. King reminded the Board of the upcoming Downtown Business Association's breakfast on Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 am, and the Board Reunion luncheon for past and current Board Members on March 30 at 11:30am. Board Members were reminded to submit their Form 700 forms by week's end and to please let DeAnna Sanderson know if any business cards or name plates needed to be ordered. A video was presented highlighting Ms. King's trip to Washington D.C. and upcoming GET 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.

Director Parra commented that she had received numerous positive comments regarding the truck convoy. Praised staff for continually putting their best foot forward.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 5:10 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel— [Government Code Section 54956.8] 2109 and 2011 Chester Avenue, District Negotiator: Karen King, Negotiating with: Property Owner. The Board returned to open session at 5:29 p.m.

### **OPEN SESSION**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary of the Board of Directors