

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

**May 23, 2023
4:30 PM**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Cindy Parra

Leasa Engel
Charles Van De Voorde

Kay Henry

DIRECTOR ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Janet Sanders
Kathy Gillis
David Valencia

Steve Barnes
Chris James
DeAnna Sanderson
Angel Nieto

Toddash Kim
Ricardo Perez
Yolanda Hamen
Sheila Davis

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Ricks

Jenny Lee Mason

The Chair called the meeting to order at **4:34 p.m.**

Roll was taken and five (5) Directors were present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Bello seconded a motion by Director Engel to approve the consent agenda. (Agenda, Minutes of April 18, 2023, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, 2023 Board Goals Update, FY 2024-2025 CMAQ CNG On-Demand Purchase Authorization Resolution, Board Committee Minutes, Annual Review of Board Policies to Affirm, Amend, and Adopt). The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Sarah Ricks stated that she would like night service be restored and asked that drivers communicate more clearly with their disabled passengers.

Ms. Kim Sagardia submitted a written public comment describing difficulties that she experienced with the paratransit service.

FY 2023 – 2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP – (BARNES)

Mr. Barnes stated that the Administration and Finance Committee met to review the proposed FY 2023-24 budget and capital program. Mr. Barnes presented a PowerPoint slideshow for the proposed budget. The proposed budget with any recommended changes will be brought back to the Board for a public hearing on June 20, 2023. This was an informational item only.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Van De Voorde expressed his appreciation for the great job that the drivers were doing in light of the difficulties that they faced. He further inquired into the criteria for becoming a driver. Ms. King responded with the minimum qualifications, pre-employment testing, and training requirements necessary.

Director Engel asked that new drivers receive training on effective communication with passengers. Director Engel also requested marketing cards for recruiting that could be handed out in her interactions with the community.

Director Bello thanked the GET staff for their creativity and efforts in community outreach. He thanked the attendees for their feedback on paratransit and On-Demand services. Director Bello acknowledged that the situations could be stressful, but felt that any problems could be worked out. Director Bello asked if a recruitment presentation could be developed for community outreach or workshops.

Director Parra requested that the Maintenance Department provide a basic demonstration or presentation on the Hydrogen Fuel system and its processes so that the Board would have a better understanding of that function. Director Parra additionally asked Marketing for a 'cheat sheet' of GET services, buses, and service areas. The Director went on to thank the drivers present for their input and participation. She stressed that, despite the complaints, there was considerable praise for the drivers. The Board will always welcome employees to meetings and to Ms. King's office if they have concerns.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

A video was presented highlighting the GET 50th anniversary events, pop-up events around the community, the Service Awards barbeque, and Public Service Recognition Week events. After the video, Ms. King spoke about the recruitment Open House held in the Maintenance department with ROC and reminded the Board of the off-site Special Meeting on June 6, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 6:11 p.m. to discuss with Legal Counsel [Government Code Sections 54957(b)(1) and 54957.6]. The Board returned to open session at 6:28 p.m.

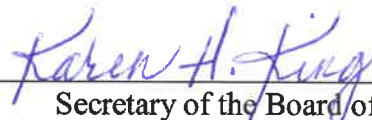
OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated that the Board met with legal counsel and staff on the items referenced in the executive session on the agenda. No action was taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary of the Board of Directors