



PO BOX 870
 MOSES LAKE, WA 98837
 509-765-0898 | 1-888-482-2877
 www.granttransit.com



PTBA MEETING MINUTES
 September 16, 2021

Held at: Grant Transit Authority, (ZOOM Meeting)

Board Members Present

Vice Chair, Councilman Don Myers, Moses Lake
 Mayor, Kevin Newland, Wilson Creek
 Mayor, ShirleyRae Maes, Coulee City
 Councilwoman, Michelle Agliano, Soap Lake
 Mayor, Diane Kohout, Electric City
 Councilman, Byron Starkey, Warden
 Commissioner, Cindy Carter, Grant County
 Rhonda Bowers, ATU Representative

Board Members Absent

Chair, Mayor Bruce Reim, Ephrata
 Councilman, Dylan Kling, Quincy

Staff Present

Greg Wright, General Manager
Saira Martinez, Administrative & ACCESS Coordinator/Board Clerk
Kendra Moos, Human Resources Manager
Stephanie Guettinger, Financial Resources Manager
Thomas Leighty, Maintenance & Facilities Manager
JoBeth Carlson, Operations Manager

The meeting of the Grant Transit Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Board Vice Chair, Councilman Myers at 6:30pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken by Saira Martinez, GTA Board Clerk, 8 Board Members were present and 2 were absent.

WSTIP Safety Star Award

WSTIP Executive Director, Tracey Christianson, presented GTA’s Safety Award. This award is to recognize member agencies who maintain impressive and stable safety records.

Councilman Kling entered the meeting at 6:34pm.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Maes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Kling seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

Treasurers Report, review and approval of vouchers

Finance Officer, Amy Allred, went over the expenses for the month.

Public Comments

None

Battery Electric Bus Project – Update

General Manager, Greg Wright, explained that there has been some delay due to fine-tuning agreements with sub-contractors, but the project will move into engineering right away once signed.

Greg also explained that he will be traveling to California to review vehicle quality, check the delivery schedule and see firsthand the integration in each vehicle.

Unfinished Business

NONE

New Business

a. Resolution NO. 21-18, GTA/PFP Health Shuttle Amended Agreement

General Manager, Greg Wright, explained that the Health Shuttle Agreement with People for People had a term of 1 year and was not extended for 2021. This amendment extends the agreement through the end of the biennium at \$1000 per month. GTA is a project partner with PFP and WSDOT on this project which provides weekday service from Moses Lake to Wenatchee for individuals receiving cancer treatment. Mayor Maes made a motion to approve Resolution NO. 21-18, GTA/PFP Health Shuttle Amended Agreement. Councilman Kling seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

b. Resolution NO. 21-19, Martinez General Construction Agreement

General Manager, Greg Wright, explained that the shop located at Operations needs some concrete work done. After a short discussion, Mayor Newland made a motion to approve Resolution NO. 21-19, Martinez General Construction Agreement. Councilman Starkey seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

General Manager's Report

- **American Recovery Plan Act (ARP) Funding Update**

Recent messaging from WSDOT indicates that they are working on agreements and GTA will be receiving funding, but it's not yet known the amount. It will be considerably less than what we received from The CARES Act and CRRSAA. ARP, like the Cares Act and CRRSSA, has no match requirement and can be used to pay for operating costs of public transit through the public health emergency.

- **2021 Public Transportation Conference Update**

The Washington State Transit Association hosts the annual Public Transportation Conference and just announced that the conference will be held virtually vs in-person this October. This conference rotates every other year from the eastside of the state to the westside of the state, and next year the conference will be held in Spokane.

- **Fare Collection Suspension Discussion**

Back in March of 2020, staff recommended to the board that to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus, GTA suspend fare collection until further notice to ensure the continued health and safety of our employees, passengers, and general public. Suspending fares helps with social distance challenges our drivers face when encountering passengers as they board and pay fare.

The issue was discussed again at the November 2020 board meeting, as well as the March 2021 board meeting, each time keeping the fare suspension in place. Understanding that if the board decides to reinstate fares, it will take at least 2 months to order passes and get the word out to passengers.

Staff Recommendation: Continue with the suspension of fares throughout the biennium ending June 30, 2023. This coincides with the WSDOT Consolidated Grant program and will help with budgeting for 2022.

After a short discussion, Mayor Maes made a motion to keep fares as is with an end date of June 2023 and re-visit in March 2023. Councilman Kling seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried. Vice Chair, Councilman Myers suggested to re-visit earlier. Mayor Newland agreed, either mid 2022 or late 2022. Board members agreed to re-visit in September 2022. Mayor Maes made a motion to include re-visiting in September 2022. Councilwoman Agliano seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried. Commissioner Carter abstained from the vote as she currently rides the GTA bus.

The Operations, Financial and Maintenance report were available for the board to review.

People for People

The People for People report was presented to the Board of Directors.

Other:

Mayor Newland noted that due to owning stock in Greenpower, he will be abstaining from any votes in the future that have to do with the company.

The next regular GTA Board of Directors Meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 6:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Attested:



Saira Martinez
Administrative & ACCESS Coordinator
Board Clerk

I certify that this is a true copy of the accepted GTA meeting minutes.


Board Member