

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2005**

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Cal Demont
Dave Withrow
Bob Richards
Don Shannon
Derek Mathers

STAFF: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Dave Steele, Taxi Inspector
Mr. Kevin Hindle, Operations Coordinator
Ms. Sherrill Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Addition:

Information Item:

- Correspondence dated April 15, 2005 from Nancy Dempsey re Taxi Driver and Owner's Lists.

The agenda, as amended, was accepted.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 21, 2005

MOVED by Mr. Mathers, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the minutes of the March 21, 2005 meeting of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Presentation - Don Jenkins, Halifax Police Department - Diffusing Hostilities

Constable Jenkins extended regrets as he was unable to attend due to other work responsibilities.

4.2 Status - By-Law T-1-33 - Amendment to By-Law T-108 re Limousine Licensing

- This matter was last discussed at the previous meeting of the Committee at which time the Committee responded to questions from members of the By0Law Rationalization Group regarding their rationale for the proposed amendments.

Mr. Anstey reported that the By-Law Rationalization Group had reviewed the proposed amendments. Staff will not be recommending that limitations be placed on limousines nor that a distinction be made between executive and stretch class. Mr. Anstey indicated that staff will now prepare a report including both the recommendations of this Committee and the staff's recommendations.

MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Richards that the report from staff

regarding this matter be brought back to this Committee prior to it being forwarded to Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Mathers pointed out that the Taxi and Limousine Committee may not have the right to require the report come back to the Committee before it goes to Council.

4.3 Draft Terms of Reference - Taxi and Limousine Committee

- Draft Terms of Reference dated April 8, 2005 were before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Anstey briefly reviewed the Terms of Reference and the process to date noting that the document before the Committee included input received from the Hotel Standards Committee. Mr. Anstey advised that following this meeting, he would prepare a report for Council which would include the input received from both the Hotel Standards Committee and the Taxil and Limousine Committee.

During discussion of the Terms of Reference Committee members made the following points:

- Proposed mandate appears to be limiting in terms of dealing with issues/problems such as rates, limitation, and transferability
- Question raised as to why such groups as the Chamber of Commerce and the Halifax Port Authority are proposed and the Restaurant Association is not
- In current system, all drivers from all zones are represented. Driver in one zone would not necessarily know the market of a driver in another zone
- Why is the Chamber of Commerce suggested as a member. The Chamber has not brought forward any concerns over the last number of year
- One member of Council alllows for only one point of view to be taken to Council
- There is a risk with appointing a driver who is not an owner that the driver will be in a lease arrangement
- Concern regarding the frequency of meetings proposed - meetings should be held monthly

MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Richards the Committee reiterate its recommendation of January 21, 2005 that the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee be retained with the addition of one representative from the Hotel Association and one from the Tourism industry and that the Hotel Standards Committee be disbanded, with an amendment that a representative member from the Persons with Disabilities Committee also serve on the Committee and further that the mandate remain as it presently exists in By-Law T-100, Respecting a Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee.

Mr. Withrow noted that one of the problems with the existing Committee is that the membership of the Committee has not been maintained. When members resigned/did not attend they were not replaced (i.e. member of public, owner and driver representatives for the County). Thus the Committee was not effective.

Following a brief discussion, the Chair clarified that this matter was referred from Council to the Taxi and Limousine and the Hotel Standards Committees. The input from these Committees will now be reported back to Council in a staff report.

The Committee requested that the Taxi Committee recommendation for membership appear within the staff report as follows:

- (2) The Committee shall consist of fourteen (14) members who shall be appointed by Council on the recommendation of the Mayor and shall consist of:
 - (a) two (2) Councillors;
 - (b) two (2) citizens of the Region which are not and have not been involved within the last five years prior to their appointment in taxi or limousine industries;
 - (c) three (3) taxi brokers (owners or managers) one from each zone);
 - (d) three (3) taxi drivers/owners (one from each zone);
 - (e) one (1) limousine representative;
 - (f) one (1) representative of the Hotel Association
 - (g) one (1) representative of the Tourism industry
 - (h) one (1) representative of the Persons with Disabilities Committee.

5. GOOD NEWS STORIES

There were no good news stories offered.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Amendment to By-Law - Advertising on Taxis

- This matter was referred to this meeting from the April 5, 2005 meeting of Regional Council. Minutes of the August 16, 2004 meeting of the Committee and a photograph depicting advertising on a roolight were before the Committee for consideration.

A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Anstey clarifying that the intent was not to require that drivers advertise, but that it be permitted. He indicated that a By-Law amendment would be necessary to allow for advertising.

Mr. Shannon addressed the matter indicating that taxi drivers have not asked to be able to advertise on their vehicles nor have brokers inquired about advertising. Mr. Shannon requested clarification as to where the request had originated.

In response, Mr. Hindle indicated that different media companies have inquired. He noted that he is not aware of any driver or other industry interest. Mr. Hindle pointed out that the only restriction to advertising in the By-Law at the present time relates to the placement and visibility of the rooflight.

MOVED by Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Richards the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council not pursue advertising on rooflights.

Mr. Withrow requested that the report to Council include that the drivers are presently permitted to advertise on their taxis, but not on their rooflights. Advertising is permitted on the body and windows of the vehicle and some drivers are doing so.

Mr. Mathers noted that permitting advertising on the rooflight would create confusion to the traveling public. The rooflight is considered to be a unique identifier and the Committee does not currently see the merit in changing that.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. MOTIONS

7.1 Motion of Reconsideration – Dave Withrow

- Mr. Withrow gave Notice of Motion to Reconsider at the March 21, 2005 meeting of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee regarding the following motion:

“That HRM Council lobby the Province to allow HRM to monitor and modify the number of accessible taxis.”

Mr. Withrow noted that T-100 quite clearly states the mandate of the Taxi and Limousine

Committee and the action suggested above is already within the mandate of the Committee.

MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Committee reconsider the motion.

Mr. Anstey clarified that the effect of this motion is to place the original motion back on the floor for debate and another vote. He indicated that if members are satisfied with the motion, they should vote against the motion to reconsider.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER PUT AND PASSED.

The original motion was now before the Committee, as follows:

MOVED by Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Richards that HRM Council lobby the Province to allow HRM to monitor and modify the number of accessible taxis.

Mr. Shannon addressed the matter indicating that he believed that the best avenue to avoid difficulties was through the Province. He went on to indicate that he was concerned that obtaining an accessible taxi would become a way of circumventing the waiting list.

A brief discussion ensued and it the **MOTION WAS PUT AND DEFEATED.**

8. **ADDED ITEMS** - None

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Mr. Richards proposed a Notice Motion to repeal Schedule 4 of By-Law T-108 and amend By-Law T-108 to provide that taxi drivers licensed to operate from the Halifax International and transporting passengers to and from the airport shall abide by the zone fares which will be established by the Halifax International Airport Authority.

Mr. Anstey indicated that this motion would be out of order as Council is not permitted to delegate its authority to set fares.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Richards gave Notice of Motion to amend Schedule 4 to comply with rates presently designated by the airport.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** May 16, 2005

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Legislative Assistant

The following Information Item was distributed to the Committee:

1. Correspondence re accessible taxi service originating from Kevin Penny

