

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

---

## TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE MINUTES June 21, 2004

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Adams  
Donald Hatcher  
Cal Demont  
Don Shannon  
Dave Withrow  
Bob Richards  
Jeffrey Rozee  
Len Wilson  
Derek Mathers

ABSENT: Councillor Ron Cooper (Regrets)  
Donald Swinimer (Regrets)

STAFF: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Mr. Dave Steele, Taxi Inspector  
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Legislative Assistant

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. CALL TO ORDER ..... 4

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS ..... 4

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 17, 2004 ..... 4

3A. PRESENTATION - KEN HOLLIGUM - RUSH HOUR MEDIA - ADVERTISING ON TAXI CABS ..... 4

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES ..... 4

    4.1 Transferability ..... 4

    4.2 Update - Taxi Driver Incident Form ..... 5

    4.3 Increased Enforcement of Zone Infractions ..... 6

    4.7 Petition - Taxi Owners License Waiting List - Amendment to consider Years of Service ..... 6

    4.4 Review of Proposed By-law 131 - Amendment to Bylaw T-108 re Limousine Licensing, Rooflight Positioning and Application for Flat Rate To and From the Airport ..... 6

    4.5 Accessible Taxis ..... 7

    4.6 Recommendation re Owners Licenses (Rooflights) - Councillor Adams . . . 7

    4.7 Petition - Taxi Owners License Waiting List - Amendment to consider Years of Service ..... 8

5. GOOD NEWS STORIES ..... 8

6. NEW BUSINESS ..... 8

    6.1 County Closing of Licenses - May 13, 2004 - Taxi Committee Member Proposal ..... 8

    6.2 Numbering of Buildings/Homes ..... 8

7. MOTIONS ..... 8

8. ADDED ITEMS ..... 8

9. NOTICES OF MOTION ..... 9

    9.1 Notice of Motion - Bob Richards - Limousines ..... 9

    9.2 Notice of Motion - Dave Withrow - Membership on Taxi and Limousine Committee ..... 9

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING ..... 9

INFORMATION ITEMS .....	9
1.    Report to Council - Hotel Standards Committee - Mandatory National Certification for all HRM Taxi and Limousine Drivers .....	9

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Operations, Community Projects; Inspector Stephen Sykes, Executive Officer, Halifax Regional Police; and Mr. Kevin Hindle, Operations Coordinator, Taxi and Limousine Services, Community Projects.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

**Deletion:**

3A Presentation - Ken Holligum - Rush Hour Media - Advertising on Taxi Cabs

**Additions:**

Information Items:

4. Slaunwhite v. Halifax Regional Municipality
5. Report to Council - Hotel Standards Committee - Concierge Representative from a Community Residential Facility - **Recommendation Approved by Regional Council June 15, 2004**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 17, 2004**

Note was made that the original motion relative to Item 4.4 was put and passed.

**MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Wilson that the minutes of the May 17, 2004 meeting of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee, as amended, were approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3A. PRESENTATION - KEN HOLLIGUM - RUSH HOUR MEDIA - ADVERTISING ON TAXI CABS**

This matter was deleted during the setting of the agenda.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**4.1 Transferability**

- Consideration of this matter was deferred to this meeting from the May 14, 2004 meeting of the Committee. A February 10, 2004 Information Report was redistributed to members of the Committee.

Mr. Withrow addressed the Committee noting that this matter has been before the Committee on a number of occasions. He commented that those who lease their licenses would like to be able to have those licenses transferred to their name.

**MOVED by Dave Withrow, seconded by Len Wilson that all taxi owner licenses in the Halifax Regional Municipality be transferable.**

A discussion ensued with the following points being made:

- Mr. Anstey indicated, in response to a suggestion by Mr. Withrow relative to transferring to a family member, that an amendment of this type would probably be in contravention of the Charter of Rights
- Condition should be placed on the transfer of the license that the individual to which the license is being transferred must hold a taxi drivers license
- The issue is much broader than was originally proposed. Criteria must be established including the number of years in the business, financial need, transfer only to an individual holding a taxi driver's license
- Any proposal to transfer licenses must protect the owner/operator system

Noting the complexity of the matter, it was **MOVED by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Hatcher that consideration of this matter be referred to a sub-committee for review and a report to include the criteria for transferability, and that the sub-committee report back to the Taxi and Limousine Committee at the September meeting.**

The sub-committee is to be comprised of Don Shannon, Len Wilson, Jeff Rozee, Bob Richards, and Dave Withrow. Mr. Anstey is to act as legal counsel and advise of the legality of any proposals from the sub-committee and the proper wording of any amendments to the By-law.

A further brief discussion ensued and the **MOTION TO REFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4.2 Update - Taxi Driver Incident Form**

Mr. Mathers advised that the Safety Committee has met and a cover letter has been drafted to all brokers. The incident forms will be distributed to all brokers and hopefully be available at a kiosk at the airport. Incident information will be gathered and analyzed over the summer.

#### **4.3 Increased Enforcement of Zone Infractions**

Ms. MacDonald advised that By-law Enforcement and the Police will provide joint enforcement on a complaint driven basis. Superintendent Sykes has written to the brokers regarding zone infractions.

Ms. MacDonald noted that action will be taken on any valid complaint (i.e. no anonymous complaints). She noted that limited weekend and after hours enforcement will be undertaken. If an individual wishes to make a complaint, he/she must contact the Taxi Office.

It was agreed that item 4.7 be dealt with at this time.

#### **4.7 Petition - Taxi Owners License Waiting List - Amendment to Consider Years of Service**

- A petition originally submitted at the April 20, 2004 meeting of Halifax Regional Council, requesting that Halifax Regional Council amend By-law T-0108 to allow for an equitable distribution of Taxi Owner Licenses, based on seniority, was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Wayne Nickerson, Harrietsfield, addressed the Committee noting that no consideration had been given to seniority when preparing the Halifax Taxi Owner's waiting list. Mr. Nickerson noted that many of the drivers appearing first on the list have only been in the business for a few years. A number of long-time drivers are much further down on the list. Mr. Nickerson requested that the Committee consider an amendment to the By-law recognizing seniority.

With the agreement of the Committee, **the matter was referred for consideration to the sub-committee on Transferability.**

In response to a question from Mr. Rozee regarding how the waiting list came to be, Mr. Anstey advised that the list had been prepared in accordance with the decision of the Taxi and Limousine Committee. Mr. Anstey went on to explain that the rationale was that as existing drivers had the opportunity to obtain an owner's license for one year following the institution of the limitation, drivers who had started in the industry after this time were given first consideration.

#### **4.4 Review of Proposed By-law 132 - Amendment to Bylaw T-108 re Limousine**

**Licensing, Rooflight Positioning and Application for Flat Rate To and From the Airport**

- A draft By-law including amendments relating to limousine licensing, rooflight positioning and the application of the flat rate to and from the airport, was before the Committee for review.

A review of the proposed amendment resulted in the following change:

*Section 3 (3):*

- (3) *Notwithstanding sub-section (1) and (2), a person who holds a permanent taxi driver's license and within 90 days of the effective date of this sub-section submits proof satisfactory to the Inspector that he or she has had not less than 6 month's of continuous experience as a limousine driver immediately prior to the effective date of this sub-section, may be granted a limousine driver's license, without completing any of the tests, examinations or processes set out in clauses (a), (b) and (c) of sub-section (1).*

**MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Richards that the Halifax Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve By-law 132, including the above change to Section 3(3).**

Upon approval by Council of By-law 132, copies of Schedule I are to be distributed to each of the brokers for posting.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4.5 Accessible Taxis**

- An information report dated June 14, 2004 was distributed to the Committee for consideration.

Noting that this report had only been received this evening, it was **MOVED by Mr. Rozee, seconded by Mr. Mathers that consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4.6 Recommendation re Owners Licenses (Rooflights) - Councillor Adams**

- An information report submitted by Stephen Adams, Chair, HRM Taxi and Limousine Committee, to Halifax Regional Council on February 26, 2002, was before the

Committee for consideration.

**MOVED by Don Shannon, seconded by Bob Richards that the February 26, 2002 information report be referred for consideration to the sub-committee on Transferability. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4.7 Petition - Taxi Owners License Waiting List - Amendment to Consider Years of Service**

- This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**5. GOOD NEWS STORIES**

Mr. Dave Withrow referred to the recent Taxi and Limousine Appreciation Day.

Councillor Adams thanked all those involved, in particular Mr. Don Hatcher, for the hard work in putting the event together.

Mr. Hatcher gave a brief overview of the event noting that 29 certificates of appreciation had been awarded to retired taxi drivers. He commented that the event had been well received and a success overall. Mr. Hatcher went on to thank all those involved in the planning and implementation of the event. A copy of Mr. Hatcher's overview is on file.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 County Closing of Licenses - May 13, 2004 - Taxi Committee Member Proposal**

- Information dated May 13, 2004 from the Halifax International Airport relative to obtaining an Airport Owners License was before the Committee.

Note was made that this matter was before the Committee as information.

**6.2 Numbering of Buildings/Homes**

- Correspondence dated April 30, 2004 from Iraj Afshari, Halifax Yellow Cab #207, regarding the positioning of building/resident numbers was before the Committee.

The Committee agreed this matter be referred to Civic Addressing with a request to provide a response relative to the positioning of location numbers.

**7. MOTIONS - None**

**8. ADDED ITEMS - None**

**9. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**9.1 Notice of Motion - Bob Richards - Limousines**

Bob Richards gave Notice of Motion of his intention to, at the next meeting of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee, introduce a motion to amend By-law T-108, Part One, Definitions and Administration - Limousine.

**9.2 Notice of Motion - Dave Withrow - Membership on Taxi and Limousine Committee**

Dave Withrow gave Notice of Motion of his intention to, at the next meeting of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee, introduce a motion to amend By-law T-100 to provide that the membership of the Committee include a representative from the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia and Destination Halifax.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee is scheduled for Monday, August 16, 2004

At this time, the Committee dealt with Information Item 1.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Report to Council - Hotel Standards Committee - Mandatory National Certification for all HRM Taxi and Limousine Drivers**

Note was made that this matter appeared to be within the mandate of the Taxi and Limousine Committee rather than the Hotel Standards Committee. The Chair advised that like the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee, the Hotel Standards Committee is advisory to Council and can make recommendations regarding amendments to the By-law.

The Committee requested that a compilation of complaints be provided to the Taxi and Limousine Committee on a monthly basis in order that the Committee can analyze the benefit of the National Certification Program to the industry.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Sherryll Murphy  
Legislative Assistant