

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 19, 2004

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair
Councillor Ron Cooper
Donald Hatcher
Cal Demont
Derek Mathers
Don Shannon
Dave Withrow
Len Wilson

ABSENT: Bob Richards
Jeffrey Rozee
Don Swinimer

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 8.1 Amendments to by-law T-108
- 8.2 Distribution of By-law upon Renewal of License
- 8.3 Letter to Port from Hotel Standards

Councillor Adams advised that he would be placing an item on the agenda for the next meeting regarding rooflight ownership at which time a report will be distributed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

3A. PRESENTATION - METRO TRANSIT

Mr. Ken Silver, Manager, Metro Transit, gave a brief presentation regarding Service Plans for this and future years and reviewed with the Committee plans for the Bus Rapid Transit system. A copy of the presentation is on file.

Mr. Silver responded to questions to members of the Committee.

In response to a question from Mr. Withrow, Mr. Silver responded that Transit do provide holding spots which can be used by taxis when possible.

Councillor Adams thanked Mr. Silver for his presentation.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Transferability

MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Councillor Cooper that consideration of this matter be deferred until such time as Regional Council has dealt with the matter of limitation in the County Zone. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2 Update - Taxi Driver Incident Form (Derek Mathers)

Mr. Mathers advised that he would have a report relative to this matter available for the next

meeting of the Committee.

4.3 Increased Enforcement of Zone Infractions

- This matter was last discussed at the March 22, 2004 meeting of the Committee at which time staff were asked to contact the Police Department regarding zone infractions.

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Community Projects/EMS, advised that a meeting is scheduled with the Police Department to develop a strategy for after hours enforcement.

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Mr. Hatcher that consideration of this matter be deferred pending staff meeting with the Police Department.

Mr. Shannon expressed concern that brokers are dispatching their drivers to fares located in another zone knowing that they are to be dropped off in that same zone. He went on to suggest that a letter be sent to the brokers reminding them that picking up and dropping off in the same zone by a taxi licensed in another zone is a violation of By-law T-108, **to which the Committee agreed.**

MOTION TO DEFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.

4.4 Mechanism for Rate Increase

- A previously distributed information report dated March 22, 2004 was before the Committee for consideration.

Following a brief discussion, Don Shannon commented that an automatic mechanism would not be workable. He suggested that a specific timeframe each year should be designated to consider rate increases.

4.5 Review of Proposed Amendment to Bylaw T-108 re Limousine Licensing

- This matter was deferred to this meeting pending staff meeting with Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) regarding an appropriate Limousine Course.

Mr. Steele advised that a meeting is to be held with TIANS staff after April 29, 2004. He stated that TIANS staff is undergoing training on that date which may prove useful with regard to this matter.

Mr. Withrow requested that staff ensure TIANS is aware that a 'certification' is desired.

4.6 Taxi and Limousine Appreciation Day

Mr. Hatcher gave a brief update the highlights of which included:

- June 9, 2004 is to be designated as Taxi and Limousine Appreciation Day.
- To date no confirmation has been received relative to sponsorship of a meet and greet.
- Certificates of Long Service (driving for 20 years) will be awarded to retired Taxi and Limousine drivers for the years 2002, 2003, and 2004
- Over the next week materials will be prepared to go out to members of the Committee
- There has been a suggestion that special recognition be given to the oldest driver/greatest # of years driving taxi combination.

4.7 Lack of Reliable Service for Wheel Chair Users To and From the Airport

- This matter was deferred to this meeting from the March 22, 2004 meeting pending Mr. Mather's, the operator of the existing private service, being present.

Responding to questions, Mr. Mathers clarified that his company operated two accessible taxis. One van operates from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday. The second van works on weekends only on a backup basis. Mr. Mathers went on to note that the vans operate on a booking basis and are heavily used by dialysis patients.

Mr. Shannon noted that Ms. MacDonald had indicated in her e-mail that the para transit services in Ottawa are superb and **MOVED, seconded by Mr. Withrow that staff look into exactly what para transit services are provided in Ottawa. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Wilson that a letter be forwarded to the brokers requesting they remind their drivers that all taxi drivers can and should pick up person in wheel chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Hotel Standards Committee is also to be forwarded this information.

4.8 Rooflight Positioning

- A copy of Part 3 - Taxi Signs and Taxi Meters of By-law T-108 along with diagrams and a chart listing appropriate sign colours was distributed to members of the Committee.

Referring to the concern expressed by members of the Committee regarding positioning of the rooflight (rooflight on sideways), Mr. Anstey advised that the By-law does not provide for the specific positioning of a rooflight. He went on to indicate that more specific wording is required if the intent is that the rooflight will have a front view.

Following a further brief discussion, it was agreed that staff come back with a recommendation as to the position of the rooflight, the colour of the lights and the font to be used on rooflights.

5. GOOD NEWS STORIES

Mr. Withrow submitted a letter from Carol Evans, Metro Community Housing Association, commending Bob's Taxi on service provided in getting replacement staff to a small option home during the February 2004 blizzard.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Addition to Taxi and Limousine Committee Membership: Representative from TIANS and Tourism Halifax

Mr. Withrow commented on a breakdown in communication between the Hotel Standards Committee and the Taxi and Limousine Committee, and suggested that a representative of TIANS and Tourism Halifax sit on this Committee.

8.3 Letter to Port from Hotel Standards

Referring to the letter from Hotel Standards Committee to the Port Authority regarding the exclusive use of Hotel Standards drivers at the Port, it was **MOVED by Mr. Don Shannon, seconded by Cal Demont that a letter be sent to the Hotel Standards Committee requesting that it inform the Taxi and Limousine Committee in advance of actions to be taken by the Hotel Standards Committee which may impact drivers in the HRM. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. MOTIONS - None

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Amendments to By-law T-108

Referring to amendments which have recently been proposed by the Appeals and Hotel Standards Committee, Mr. Withrow suggested that there is a need for enhanced communication between the Committees dealing with taxis in HRM.

8.2 Distribution of By-law upon Renewal of License

Mr. Withrow suggested that an up to date By-law be distributed to drivers upon renewal of their license. He noted this may reduce the number of taxi licensing related appeals as very often the defence is "I did not know".

8.3 Letter to Port from Hotel Standards

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Mathers gave Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting of the Taxi and Limousine Committee to be held on May 17, 2004 he intends to introduce a motion to amend By-law T-108 to standardize the placement, lighting and fonts on taxi rooflights.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Taxi and Limousine Committee will be held on Monday, May 17, 2004.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Legislative Assistant