

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**April 09, 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair  
Mr. Derek Mathers  
Mr. Earl Brown  
Mr. Robert Richards  
Mr. Gary Russell  
Ms. Lisa Dahr  
Ms. Joanne Coffey  
Mr. Richard McNeil  
Ms. Cathy Towers

REGRETS: Mr. Jamie Bolduc  
Mr. Tim Hosford

STAFF: Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi and Limousine  
Services  
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. at the Captain William Spry Centre.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 12, 2009**

It was noted that Mr. Earl Brown had been listed as present in the meeting of February 12, 2009, whereas he was absent.

**MOVED By Joanne Coffey, seconded by Richard Roberts that the minutes of February 12, 2009 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

ADDITIONS:

- 8.1 Richard Roberts - Revisit increasing size of Board membership to include Halifax Taxi Zone
- 8.2 The need for an entry at Main Avenue

**MOVED By Joanne Coffey, seconded by Lisa Dahr, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Alternative Meeting Locations for the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee (List of Options).**

The Chair gave the Committee an update on this item, advising that alternate locations are cost associated. The Committee will continue to meet at the present venue. Further clarification was given stating that there was no conflict with the Bloomfield Centre, that the issue was related to parking.

**4.2 Amendments to By-Law T-108 re: Introduction of Hybrid/Fuel Efficient Vehicles into the HRM Taxi Fleet (Update)**

Mr. Kevin Hindle advised the Committee that the Report is now in front of the Superintendent for signature, after which it will go back to Council, after meeting the by-law recommendations.

In response to a request from the Committee, Mr. Hindle advised he would obtain section #46 of By-Law T-108 regarding zone regulations, to be circulated to the Committee for the next meeting of May 14, 2009.

#### **4.3 Taxi Driver Rate Increases (Update)**

Mr. Hindle advised that this is a Report that was requested by Council for a mechanism to review taxi rate increases; the recommendation of Council that Staff review different mechanisms other than just fuel associated charges to establish taxi rates. He further advised that Staff is still working on this item, with information coming from other industry representatives. He stated that it should be ready to go to Council, with Staff's recommendations, in the very near future.

Upon a request from Mr. McNeil for a definitive date on the Report, the following motion was passed:

**MOVED BY Mr. Richard McNeil, seconded by Mr. Earl Brown, that Mr. Kevin Hindle provide the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee with a definitive date as to when the Report will be before Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

### **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Cost of Trip Exceeding Fares Received**

Mr. Hindle requested that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee provide the wording beyond what is already available through Administrative Order 39, in regards to what they are attempting to achieve. He requested clarity on what the Committee has recommended.

A discussion ensued with scenarios regarding special arrangements/agreements between driver and passenger, such as metered rates, flat rate fares (agreements made with the passenger prior to commencement of the trip) and circumstances where a negotiated fee cannot be met.

The Committee advised that there is nothing in the Clause that states that a fare can be refused if driver and passenger do not get to a negotiated fee, and that this may be some of the wording that the Committee should be looking at. Legal now states that, if a price cannot be negotiated prior to the trip, the driver has to revert to the metered rate or a flat rate fare.

The Committee agreed that Mr. Hindle would take the current Administrative Order, that addresses these issues, reconsider that Clause, bring it back to the Taxi and Limousine

Advisory Committee for review, and then have the Committee bring forward a motion to go to Council with new wording. The Committee agreed that they would like to see wording in the clause that will state agreed price prior to commencement of trip, and if an agreed price cannot be reached, that there will be an option for the refusal of the service.

The Committee discussed whether passengers should be responsible for return fares for destinations such as Cobequid Pass and the Airport, and for bridge fares. Requests for different routes to destinations were discussed as well.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### Delegations:

1. Mr. Hannah - To stop all discounting by brokers on contract work.

The Chair advised that this issue be sent to Staff to determine if it is within the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Board's mandate.

### Correspondence (Information Items):

1. Mayor Peter Kelly and Mr. Bob Woods re: Taxi Zoning Regulations/Legislation
2. Elizabeth May/Mike Gillis re: The Lack of Ecological Wisdom regarding the Taxi Industry within HRM

A discussion ensued regarding the Taxi Zoning Regulations and the Committee made the decision to defer this item to the next meeting for more detailed discussion on what the current regulations mean. The part of the By-law that pertains to wording that is currently in the legislation will be brought forward to the Committee in the May 14, 2009 meeting.

The Committee agreed that they would like to have, from Staff, clarification with respect to the zoning regulations as it applies to the Airport, Cruise ships ports, and all other zones.

The Council minutes regarding zoning regulations will be brought forward to the next meeting.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 Removal of 3-car Stand on Green Road (Update)**

This item has been deferred to the meeting of May 14, 2009.

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Richard McNeil - Board Membership**

Mr. McNeil expressed concerns of not having enough representation from the Halifax side regarding the taxi industry, after which the Committee moved the following motion:

**MOVED by Mr. Richard McNeil, seconded by Mr. Earl Brown that the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee recommends to Council to appoint a licensed Halifax taxi owner/operator to the Committee for representation of taxi industry concerns in Halifax. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting will be held on May 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Captain William Spry Centre.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Sandra T. Riley  
Legislative Assistant