

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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### HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

January 8, 2008

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey  
Gary G. Meade

**REGRETS:** Linda Mosher  
Gary Martin  
Reg Rankin

**STAFF:** Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - November 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the minutes from December 4, 2007 and December 11, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Fougere entered at 1:08

**C TAXI OWNER LICENCE ISSUES**

Deputy Chief McNeil submitted a presentation to Council. In the presentation, Deputy Chief explained that the issues could be divided into three parts; the recommendations that staff are making to Regional Council; what the current situation is of each of these issues and what the desired situation would be; and what Municipal regulations should focus on.

Highlights of the presentation were:

- C The Taxi industry is an industry that HRM does not own,
- C HRM issues two different types of licences,
- C A "Driver's" licence allows a person to obtain a licence to drive a taxi or limousine in a municipality,
- C An "Owner's" Licence allows a person to obtain a roof light. Not every drivers has this licence. These licences are controlled by HRM and cost \$50.00 per licence,
- C HRM controls the "Owner's" Licence not the physical roof lights.
- C Not all drivers are attached to a broker, so long as they can be contacted, they can have a Driver's licence,
- C The limitations on the Owner licences which was introduced in 1995 are Halifax - 610, Dartmouth - 200, and Halifax County - 190,
- C The waiting lists are: Halifax - 304, Dartmouth - 107, and Halifax County - 7. These lists have a very slow turn around time.,
- C These waiting lists have created bidding wars for owner's lights which have caused the cost of the licence to go upwards to \$5000.00,

Councillor Brad Johns entered at 1:32

**MOVED by Councillor Hensdbee, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Regional**

**Council:**

1. **Approve in principle, that:**
  - (a) **limitations on the number of taxi owners licenses that may be issued in Halifax Regional Municipality be eliminated;**
  - (b) **taxi owner licenses only be issued to taxi drivers licensed and in good standing in the HRM;**
  - (c) **taxi owner licences be limited to one per licensed driver;**
  - (d) **taxi owners licenses be cancelled if the licensed driver loses his or her taxi driver's license;**
  - (e) **taxi owner and driver licenses continue to be untransferable; and**
  - (f) **zones with the HRM be eliminated.**
  
2. **Instruct staff to bring forward amendments to By-law T-108 to formally enact into law the items approved in principle in recommendation number 1.**

Councillors discussed the motion with the following comments and concerns being expressed:

- C Growing communities such as Musquodoboit can not obtain an owner licence to drive in that zone because the zone limits have already been reached.
- C Multiple licences that are held in the Halifax zone were grandfathered in prior to the new regulations. On a go forward note, an Owner Licence can not be issued to anyone that already has one.
- C Multiple Owner licences are allowed in the Dartmouth zone.
- C Considerable amount of staff time is being used for the administration of these Owner Licences.
- C Holders of Owner's Licences are and should be held accountable to ensure that said licence is operating compliance with all regulations.
- C Municipal regulations should focus on ensuring the regulations that control licencing fees are enforced and promote equal opportunity for people entering or working in the industry; vehicle safety and appearance is adequately maintained and easily identifiable; and, vehicles and drivers are adequately insured, trained and licensed and a maximum rate schedule is established.

**MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Snow, to remove the Taxi Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Discussion continued with the following highlights noted:

- C The municipality is not forced to licenced taxis; maybe HRM should get out of the

- business all together; the drivers and owners can take care of their own business.
- C The municipality has no control over the taxi stands.

**MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Uteck, that those on the waiting list be dealt with first. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Discussion on the motion continued with the following highlights noted:

- C there should be an amendment in the *Motor Vehicle Act* so that HRM can regulate what is charged for licencing so that our fees are equitable to what the province is charging.
- C if we removed zones, the color of the lights would not be an issue
- C are we going to put time limitations on the amount of hours that a taxi driver works much the same as we did for our bus drivers.
- C we should not get involved in private lease arrangements between a car owner and a driver.
- C there are concerns how it will affect Dartmouth if the zones were removed

**MOVED by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Sloane, to allow an advertising on cars and drivers to be given ability to ask for reasonable amount of money up front before proceeding. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Motion as Amended was now before Council.

**Moved by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Regional Council**

**1. Approve in principle that:**

- (a) Limitations on the number of taxi owner licences that may be issued in the Halifax Regional Municipality be eliminated;
- (b) Taxi owner licences only be issued to taxi drivers licenced and in good standing in the Halifax Regional Municipality;
- (c) Taxi owner licenses be limited to one per licensed driver;
- (d) Taxi owner licences be cancelled if the licensed driver loses his or her taxi driver's license;
- (e) Taxi owner and driver licenses continue to be untransferable;
- (f) Zones within the Halifax Regional Municipality be eliminated;
- (g) Remove the Taxi and Limousine Committee;
- (h) Those that are on the waiting list be dealt with first;
- (i) Allow any advertising on cars;

- (j) Drivers to be given ability to ask for reasonable amount of money up front before proceeding.**
- 2. Instruct staff to bring forward amendments to By-law T-108 to formally enact into law the items approved in principle in recommendation number 1.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Julia Horncastle,  
Acting Municipal Clerk