

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE MINUTES January 31, 2005

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

**ABSENT WITH
REGRETS:** Jeff Rozee
Bob Richards

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

ALSO PRESENT 12 members of the taxi industry

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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

Additions:

Information Items:

1. Information Report dated January 27, 2005 from Brian Taylor, General Manager, Metro Transit, to Regional Council re Accessible Taxi Service
2. Correspondence from Mayor Kelly to Mayann E. Francis, Director and CEO, Human Rights Commission and to Todd Hacquoil, Chair, Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Cal Demon that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NOVEMBER 15, 2004 AND DECEMBER 20, 2004

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Cal Demont that the minutes of the meetings of November 15 and December 20, 2004, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Committee observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Dennis Schofield Sr., a 30 year Halifax taxi driver who had recently passed away.

Mr. Don Shannon advised that Mr. Bob Richards had undergone surgery as the result of injuries sustained in a recent fall. The Committee requested that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Richards wishing him well and a speedy recovery.

3a. Presentation: Alexander Sang-lam (Capital Limousine) - Change to Legislation to Permit a Sport Utility Vehicle to Be Used as a Taxi or Limousine

Mr. Sang-Lam sent regrets as he is unable to attend this evening.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Taxi Driver Incident Forms

- A copy of the HRM Taxi Driver Incident Report Form was before the Committee for consideration.

A brief discussion ensued with note being made that drivers do not appear to be willing to complete the incident forms.

Following a further discussion it was **MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that a letter be forwarded to the major brokers to encourage them to assist drivers in completing the forms and to forward the completed forms to the Safety Committee c/o of the Clerk's Office. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Taxicab Driver Safety by Gord Barton

The Committee agreed that the information was very helpful. It was agreed that a copy of this information is to be provided to all new drivers through the Taxi Office. Staff will also forward six copies to each of the major brokers requesting that they post one copy.

Defusing Hostilities - Community Relations and Crime Prevention

An outline of the Defusing Hostilities training delivered by the Community Relations and Crime was before the Committee for consideration.

The Committee agreed that the Police Department be requested to present to Taxi and Limousine Committee relative to this training. The Committee also requested that the Department comment on the Taxicab Driver Safety by Gord Barton.

5. GOOD NEWS STORIES

There were no good news stories offered.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 English Language Testing Update

- An outline of the Oral Test of English Proficiency for HRM Taxi and Limousine Committee was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Hindle briefly reviewed the English Language Test noting that the re-test period had been adjusted as per the Scoring section of the outline. He went on to advise that East Coast Language had recently assumed the testing for HRM. The test had been developed with input from staff and was introduced in January 2005.

Mr. Withrow proposed that the test be distributed to the Committee to determine whether it is an appropriate test.

Following a further short discussion, Mr. Hindle indicated that he would arrange for East Coast Language to make a presentation to the Committee relative to the testing.

6.2 Future Structure Taxi and Limousine

- The following motion from Regional Council was before the Committee for consideration:

This matter be referred back to staff for a report following consultation with both the Taxi and Limousine Committee and the Hotel Standards Committee regarding the feasibility of combining both Committees.

The Committee agreed that members of the industry/public would be permitted to speak.

Members of the Committee and members of the industry seated in the gallery commented regarding the above motion and the future structure of the Committee as follows:

- Hotel Standards Committee membership duplicates that of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee in terms of driver representative, broker representative, and a member of Council.
- The standard for new drivers is to complete national certification, there is only one standard for vehicles (those cars that have hotel standard designation are inspected twice annually while those that aren't are required to have one inspection). What is the purpose of the Hotel Standards Committee.
- As they are not governed by By-Law T-108, brokers should not have a vote on the Committee, they could sit on the Committee and have input but not be a voting member.
- There are 2000 members of the taxi industry in HRM and, in order to be just, the Taxi Committee must represent that group of people.
- Brokers are an integral part of the taxi industry and are serious stakeholders at this Committee. Brokers deserve a place at this Committee and a vote. Brokers should be asked if they would want to be regulated by T-108.
- Comment on original report: The Committee's numbers were reduced by resignations and the three meeting missed rule was not enforced. Both these things had an impact on the Committee's ability to maintain a quorum.
- Halifax zone has 610 vehicles with one driver representative. The Dartmouth and County zones have many fewer vehicles with the same representation. Believe that the

Halifax zone should have one additional driver representative.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Don Shannon 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. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **MOTIONS** - None

8. **ADDED ITEMS**

The Added Items were for the information of the Committee

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION** - None

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 21, 2005

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Legislative Assistant

The following information items were circulated to the Committee:

1. Did not re-offer - Donald Hatcher (see correspondence attached)
Resignation - Donald Swinimer (has indicated in a phone conversation that he has allocated his volunteer hours to another endeavour)
2. Report from the Taxi and Limousine Committee to Regional Council dated January 4, 2005 re Accessible Taxi
3. Letter of Recognition - Councillor Stephen Adams
4. Guidelines for Taxicab Owner/Operators and Disabled Passengers
5. Information Report dated January 27, 2005 from Brian Taylor, General Manager, Metro Transit, to Regional Council re Accessible Taxi Service
6. Correspondence from Mayor Kelly to Mayann E. Francis, Director and CEO, Human Rights Commission and to Todd Hacquoil, Chair, Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee