

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

---

## TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2004

PRESENT: Councillor Ron Cooper, Chair  
Donald Hatcher  
Cal Demont  
Bob Richards  
Donald Swinimer  
Don Shannon  
Jeffrey Rozee  
Dave Withrow  
Len Wilson

ABSENT  
WITH REGRETS: Councillor Steve Adams  
Derek Mathers

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	03
2.	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	03
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 19, 2004 .....	03
3A.	PRESENTATION - Diane Sagadore - Smoking in Taxis .....	03
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	
4.1	Transferability .....	03
4.2	Update - Taxi Driver Incident Form (Derek Mathers) .....	03
4.3	Increased Enforcement of Zone Infractions .....	03
4.4	Mechanism for Rate Increase .....	03
4.5	Concerns re Accessible Taxis .....	04
4.6	Hotel Standards Certification .....	04
4.7	Motion - Bob Richards - Cease Testing for New Drivers .....	05
4.8	Motion - Dave Withrow - Limousine Licensing .....	05
4.9	Presentation - Metro Transit - New Transit Service .....	06
5.	GOOD NEWS STORIES .....	06
6.	NEW BUSINESS	
6.1	Request to Reschedule March 8, 2004 meeting to March 22, 2004 .....	06
7.	MOTIONS	
7.1	Limitation in the County Zone - Dave Withrow .....	06
8.	ADDED ITEMS .....	07
9.	NOTICES OF MOTION .....	07
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING .....	07
11.	ADJOURNMENT .....	07

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**MOVED by Bob Richards, seconded by Dave Withrow, that the agenda be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 19, 2004**

**MOVED by Bob Richards, seconded by Jeffrey Rozee, that the minutes of January 19, 2004, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3a. PRESENTATION - Diane Sagadore - Smoking in Taxis**

Ms. Diane Sagadore, 211 Greenwood Avenue, Timberlea, addressed the committee regarding smoking in taxis. She noted that a legal ruling had been made that smoking could take place in a car that was used as a taxi when it was not being used as a taxi. She advised that even though there is no smoking in the car when it is used as a taxi, the smoke fumes linger and air fresheners do not eliminate the fumes, just mask them. She suggested that perhaps cars could be made scent free rather than just smoke free.

It was agreed that Mr. Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, would provide clarification at the next meeting.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**4.1 Transferability**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**4.2 Update - Taxi Driver Incident Form (Derek Mathers)**

As Mr. Mathers was not in attendance, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**4.3 Increased Enforcement of Zone Infractions**

No information received. To remain on the agenda.

#### **4.4            Mechanism for Rate Increase**

No information received. To remain on the agenda.

#### **4.5            Concerns re Accessible Taxis**

Mr. Dave Steele, Taxi Inspector, advised that Accessible taxis can pick up able bodied individuals and are zone free which means they can go into any zone to pick up passengers.

Further, Mr. Anstey, Municipal Solicitor, advised that even though they can go into any zone, they have to return to their zone stand while waiting to pick up passengers.

#### **4.6            Hotel Standards Certification**

- A memorandum, with recommendation, from the Hotel Standards Committee, was before the committee.

**MOVED by Bob Richards, seconded by Len Wilson, that:**

- 1. All fees for taxi licensing and Hotel Standard Certification be paid to the Taxi Inspector's office at the time of application for a Taxi License.**
- 2. That these fees be inclusive of the \$50.00 taxi licensing fee, \$57.50 for English Second Language testing and \$207.00 for Certification process.**
- 3. That the \$207.00 collected for each Hotel Standards Certification application be forwarded to TIANS on a monthly basis.**

Mr. Richards advised that his motion will have the effect of everyone going through the process.

Mr. Anstey advised that this motion would require an amendment to the By-law and it was agreed that Mr. Anstey would write the amendment in a form to be brought back to the Committee for consideration and recommendation to Regional Council.

In response to Mr. Shannon regarding how often an individual could take the test, Mr. Steele advised that a person could come back the following week to take the test for free but if he failed the second time, he would have to pay for any subsequent tests.

Mr. Withrow advised that a motion had been passed on December 14, 1998 that if someone failed twice, they would not be eligible to come back for a year.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4.7            Motion - Bob Richards - Cease Testing for New Drivers**

Mr. Richards withdrew his motion.

**4.8            Motion - Dave Withrow - Limousine Licensing**

**MOVED by Dave Withrow, seconded by Bob Richards, that By-Law T-108, Respecting Taxi and Limousines, be amended as follows:**

**Section 31 be amended to read:**

- 31.    No person shall operate a limousine within the Halifax Regional Municipality unless he or she holds a limousine driver's license, which shall be set out in Form VII**

**Section 32 to be amended to read:**

- 32.    A limousine driver's license shall be issued only upon successful completion of an English language proficiency test and a limousine driver's course approved by Halifax Regional Municipality and upon compliance with all other requirement of this By-Law which apply to limousine drivers.**

**Further, Section 20 (2) be amended to remove the words "....or a valid permanent taxi driver's license."**

Mr. Richards suggested future limousine drivers be required to take a course and be registered with TIANS.

Mr. Withrow suggested that the amendment to the By-law be written as to ensure that a limousine driver has passed a test. It was suggested that a driver can obtain a limousine license if they can prove they have been driving a limousine for the past six months while holding a permanent driver's license.

Mover and seconder agreed to withdraw the motion and, it was agreed that Mr. Anstey would provide the amendment in written form to the next committee meeting.

Mr. Steele will provide a report on what would be an appropriate course for limousine driver certification.

**4.9 Presentation - Metro Transit - New Transit Service**

It was agreed that the presentation would be deferred to the April meeting.

**5. GOOD NEWS STORIES**

Mr. Withrow read a newspaper article wherein a resident thanked a Casino taxi driver for his assistance when she experienced car trouble.

Mr. Hatcher suggested there be a taxi and limousine appreciation day. He suggested May 4<sup>th</sup> and advised he will bring a report to the committee on this matter.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 Request to Reschedule March 8, 2004 meeting to March 22, 2004**

The committee agreed to reschedule the March meeting to March 22, 2004.

**7. MOTIONS**

**7.1 Limitation in the County Zone - Dave Withrow**

**MOVED by Dave Withrow, seconded by Bob Richards, that the limit on the number of cars in the County Zone be set at 190.**

Without a vote being taken on the motion, the following amendment was placed:

**MOVED by Dave Withrow, seconded by Bob Richards, that the Taxi Inspector must create and maintain a waiting list for new applicants for owner's licenses in the County, issuing new licenses only when the prescribed number falls below the set number.**

Mr. Steele suggested those drivers who don't have a roof light presently, but hold a permanent license be first on the list.

A member of the public expressed concern and noted there has to be some latitude for those areas that are not currently serviced to be able to have service in the future.

A recorded vote was requested.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Those voting **in favour** of the motion were: Councillor Ron Cooper, Donald Hatcher, Bob Richards, Donald Swinimer, Don Shannon, Jeffrey Rozee, Dave Withrow and Len Wilson.

Those voting **against** the motion were: Cal Demont

Councillor Steve Adams and Derek Mathers were absent.

The motion, as amended, now reads.

**MOVED by Dave Withrow, seconded by Bob Richards, that:**

1. **The limit on the number of cars in the County Zone be set at 190.**
2. **The Taxi Inspector must create and maintain a waiting list for new applicants for owner's licenses in the County, issuing new licenses only when the prescribed number falls below the set number.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. **ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Don Shannon**

Take Notice that at the next regular meeting of the Taxi and Limousine Committee to be held on Monday, March 22, 2004, I intend to move a motion to amend By-law T-108, Respecting the Licensing of Taxis and Limousines, to provide that testing for new drivers cease for a two year period.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2004.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Legislative Assistant

