

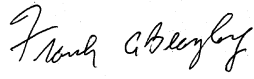


PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

## Item No. 3

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**September 8, 2009**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Frank Beazley, Chief of Police

**DATE:** July 29, 2009

**SUBJECT:** General Tax Rate Increase

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

On September 9, 2008, Regional Council requested a staff report that provides for options with regards to fare increases including but not limited to an increase in the drop rate per kilometre charged for extras. Further, that a mechanism be developed to allow for the automatic increase on a regular basis.

#### BACKGROUND

In November 2003, the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee was requested by Regional Council to develop a mechanism to allow for future increases to be incorporated into the By-law and further that any proposal for increases be based on a three to five year basis.

In April 2004, following the review of an information report and a brief discussion at the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee, it was commented that an automatic mechanism would not be workable and no further discussions resulted.

On October 11, 2005, Regional Council approved By-Law T-135, which granted an 8.1% increase to taxi rates. The initial (drop) rate was increased from \$2.90 to \$3.00 and the additional travel rate was increased from .11 cents to .12 cents (a blend increase of 8.1% in total). At that time the average fuel price in Nova Scotia was \$1.39 per/litre. Also with the approval of By-law T-135, the rate schedules were moved from By-law T-108 to Administrative Order #39, to expedite future requests for rate adjustments.

On April 29, 2008, the topic of a taxi fare increase was raised at Regional Council. It was noted by several councilors that there had been no formal request from the taxi industry regarding a fare increase. The matter was referred to the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee for direction.

On May 26, 2008, a report to Regional Council ( attached as Appendix A) from the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee, indicated that current gas prices had not increased to the level they were in 2005 when the last taxi fare increase was implemented and recommended:

*1/ The report to council be deferred for a period of three months to obtain input from the drivers, and*

*2/ To monitor the ongoing gas prices since the date of the last increase in 2005.*

Today's current gas prices are below the October 2005 prices, (Price index chart\* attached as Appendix B).

In November 2008, the topic of a fare increase was reviewed at Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee. It was felt that with gas prices dropping, it would not be a good time to increase meters. (Minutes attached as Appendix C)

## **DISCUSSION**

In the fall of 2008, staff surveyed other major municipalities regarding Taxi Rate review mechanisms and found there does not appear to be a consistent approach to addressing the issue. The majority of the municipalities, including the HRM, rely on a request for a rate increase from the taxi industry to trigger a rate review. In general their review processes includes input from the public and industry stakeholders prior to any recommendations being forwarded to the Municipality Council for consideration. Some municipalities are considering developing a regular review mechanism.

Options for the Halifax Regional Municipality could include a three or five year review process using the Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI would be reviewed by staff at the end of January for the applicable year and a report would be forwarded to the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee. The report would outline the average CPI for the three or five previous years. If the average three or five year CPI adjustment is between plus or minus 0.00% to 1.00%, a review of the taxi rates would not be required. If the report indicates changes in the CPI greater then the aforementioned, the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee would then conduct a review in consultation with the industry, to determine if a recommendation to adjust taxi rates should be forwarded to Regional Council for consideration.

\* Historical Gas Price Chart, [www.torontogasprices.com/retail\\_price\\_chart.aspx](http://www.torontogasprices.com/retail_price_chart.aspx)

There are no budget implications as a result of this report.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1/ Regional Council may decide to maintain the current practice, whereby a rate review is conducted on the request from the industry.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: May 26, 2008, report to Regional Council from the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee

Appendix B: Fuel Price index chart

Appendix C: November 2008, Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee minutes

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Robin McNeil, Staff Sergeant, Halifax Regional Police, 490-4817

Report Approved by:



Deputy Chief F. A. Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police, 490-7138



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 11.6.1

Halifax Regional Council  
June 10, 2008

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Adams", written over a horizontal line.

Deputy Mayor Steve Adams, Chair,  
Taxi And Limousine Advisory Committee

**DATE:** May 26, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Review of Taxi Fares to Increase Taxi Rates

**ORIGIN**

Regional Council referred the decision to the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee as to whether a staff report regarding a taxi fare increase is needed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. The report to Council be deferred for a period of three months to obtain input from the drivers, and
2. To monitor the ongoing gas prices since the date of the last fare increase in 2005.

**BACKGROUND**

At Regional Council on April 29, 2008, it was requested to have staff to do an immediate review of taxi fares with a recommendation on increasing taxi rates, as a result of ever-escalating gas prices which will have serious repercussions on drivers earning a fair wage. At that time, it was noted that no formal request from the Taxi Industry had been received.

**DISCUSSION**

Discussion ensued with it being noted that gas prices had not increased to the point that they were at in 2005 when the last increase in taxi fares was implemented. It was also noted that there were not enough drivers at the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee meeting to give a clear view of how the industry felt and the lack of drivers could indicate that they would be opposed to it.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

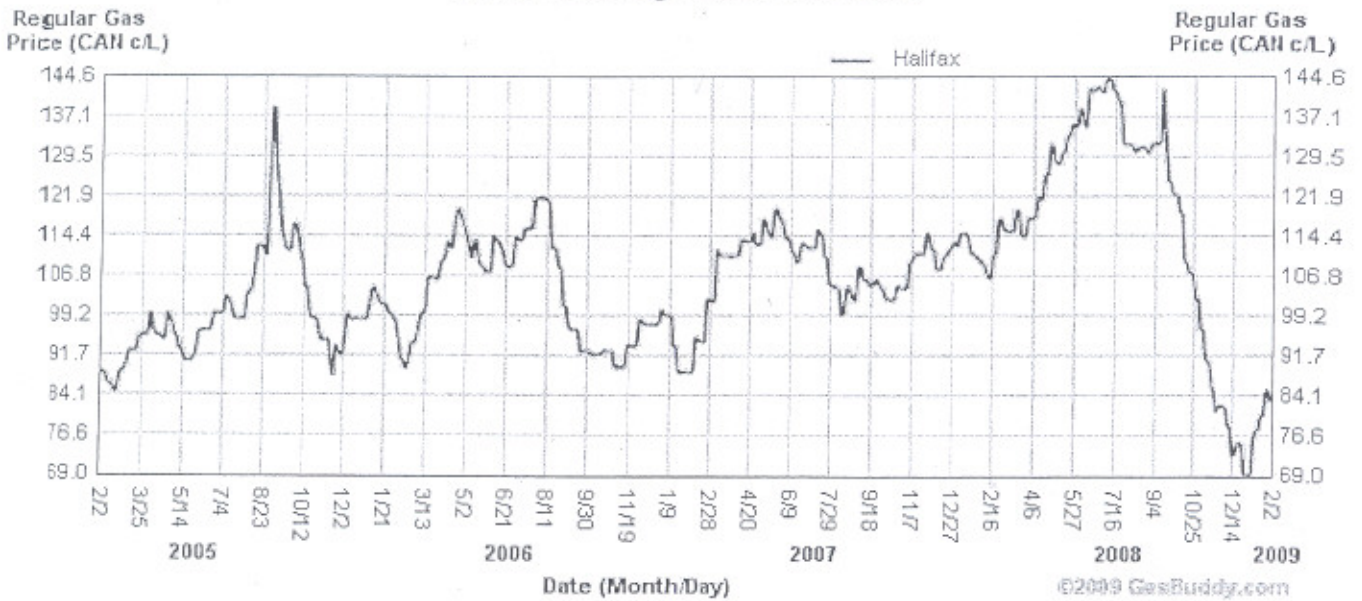
A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

Historical Price Charts

Quick charts: [1 Month](#) | [3 Month](#) | [6 Month](#) | [9 Month](#) | [1 Year](#) | [18 month](#) | [2 Years](#) | [3 Years](#) | [4 Years](#) | [5 Years](#) | [6 Years](#)

48 Month Average Retail Price Chart



Add these dynamic charts to your website

**Customize price charts**

Area 1:  Time Period:  US \$/G

Area 2:   Show Crude Oil Price Canadian c/L

Area 3:

TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 13, 2008

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams, Chair  
Mr. Derek Mathers, Taxi Broker  
Mr. Earl Brown, Licenced Taxi Driver  
Mr. Robert Richards, Limousine Driver/Owner  
Mr. Jamie Bolduc, Hotel Association of Nova Scotia  
Mr. Gary Russell, Rep. HRM Advisory for Persons with Disabilities  
Ms. Lisa Dahr, NS Tourism Human Resource Council

REGRETS: Ms. Joanne Coffey, Citizen Representative  
Mr. Tim Hosford, Citizen Representative  
Ms. Cathy Towers, Halifax International Airport Authority Board  
Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi and Limousine  
Services

STAFF: Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant, HRM  
Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Taxi and Limo Services

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - May 8, 2008 .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	
6.1	Correspondence .....	3
6.2	Petitions .....	3
6.3	Delegations .....	3
7.	NEW BUSINESS	
7.1	Transferability of Ownership of Roof Lights .....	3
7.2	Retire Roof Light # .....	3
7.3	Meter Increase .....	4
7.4	Policy Regarding Seeing Eye Dogs .....	4
8.	REPORTS .....	4
9.	ADDED ITEMS .....	4
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - December 11, 2008 .....	4
11.	ADJOURNMENT .....	4



1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Deputy Mayor Adams welcomed the newest member of the Committee, Mr. Richard McNeil, Licenced Taxi owner.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - May 8, 2008

Correction: Item 7.1 - Mr. Hindle's name was changed to Mr. Jamie Bolduc as the seconder of the motion.

**MOVED** By Mr. Mathers, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the minutes of May 8, 2008 be approved as amended. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

**MOVED** By Mr. Mathers, seconded by Mr. Richards, that the the Order of Business be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Transferability of Ownership of Roof Lights

Mr. Richards brought this matter forward to the Committee. He advised with a different Council, the decision of this matter may be different. He suggested that it be brought forth to Council again. Deputy Mayor Adams advised that no clear decision was made in this matter and that a package of reports and motions from the last Council session that this was brought forward would be distributed to the Committee.

7.2 Retire Roof Light # 279

**Ms. Andrea MacDonald** advised the Committee that she would see that the roof light number, Halifax #279, of Mr Frank Robert Horwill be retired in memory of Mr Frank Robert Horwill . Mr. Horwill was 71 years of age and drove taxi for 50 years.

7.3 Meter Increase

The Committee was advised that a petition had been circulated but it was not very reflective of all drivers nor was there enough drivers at today's meeting to give any further reflection of the feeling of the industry. It was felt that with the gas prices dropping, it would not be a good time to increase meters.

Mr. McNeil also suggested that the taxi industry needs to find another way to regulate fare increases. Gas prices are too volatile.

7.4 Policy Regarding Seeing Eye Dogs

Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chairperson for Advisory Committee For Persons With Disabilities, spoke to the Committee on the need for educating drivers around the use of Service dogs. She spoke to the fact that some drivers refuse to allow the dogs in their cars.

Ms. McDonald advised Ms. McFadyen and the other members of the Committee that a driver must have a valid reason for refusing a dog in their car. Like any other health issue it must be registered with the Taxi office.

Deputy Mayor Adams, at the invitation of Ms. McFadyen, agreed to go to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee For Persons With Disabilities.

8. REPORTS

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Change in Location of Taxi Office

Ms. McDonald advised the Committee that the taxi office was moving to the Burnside park area on Mellor Ave, however no date had been set as of yet. Ms. MacDonald further advised that as soon as the date is known, a full communique would go out.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - December 11, 2008

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Barbara Coleman  
Legislative Assistant