

Subject **5.1. Deliberative Session**

Meeting April 30, 2024 - Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board - Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 5:30 PM, Sharon Bushor Room, City Hall, 149 Church St. Burlington, VT 05401 or Remotely via Zoom.

Category 5. Deliberative Session

Department Clerk/Treasurer's Office

Type

Recommended Action

6. Discussion of the new rates

7. Discussion of signage at the airport

8. Discussion for other updates

9. Adjournment

9.1. Motion to adjourn



BURLINGTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE LICENSING BOARD
REMOTE ONLY VIA ZOOM
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 5, 2024

Member present: Paul Hines, Youness Jamil, Stephen Hamlin

Also present: Mark Barlow, Tenzin Chokden, Scot Barker, Byron Corcoran

Meeting start time: 9:05 am

1. Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda by Stephen Hamlin, seconded by Youness Jamil.
Approved unanimously.

2. Previous Minutes

Motion to accept the previous minutes by Stephen Hamlin, seconded by Youness Jamil.
Approved unanimously.

3. New Meter Rate

3.1. Discussion on the new meter rate rollout plan

According to Byron Corcoran, he spent thirty years working for Centrodyne, where he gained experience in reprogramming and calibrating meters. He also worked in Burlington. If the city requires him to adjust the new taxi rates and calibrate the taxi meters, he is capable of handling the task. The entire procedure, including calibration and reprogramming, takes 45 minutes to complete.

According to Youness Jamil, installing the meters could be challenging, but calibrating them is not difficult.

Paul Hines inquired about the cost of installing a new meter.

According to Jamil, installation and calibration can run up to \$500, depending on the model of the vehicle.

If Byron is up for the task and can train others to become certified, Paul Hines would like to write a language on the use of electronic meters in the future. However, the new meter rate change must come first.

Scot Barker stated that he has gotten in touch with a few app-based electronic meter companies, including Curb, Taximeter, and the vehicle for hire office in Washington, DC. He also has another meeting with Curb for later today, and he will provide the board with an update on that meeting after.

Mark Barlow asked what is holding up the new meter rates from being effective, even though the new meter rates have been passed.

Tenzin Chokden responded that the board was looking for a local certified technician to make the new rates convenient for business owners. Maybe taking into account the certification training of two drivers. He found out about Byron after contacting Centrodyne, and the business can train someone to become a certified technician for calibrating and reprogramming taxi meters.

Byron Corcoron said he would be able to start this project in the middle of March, after returning from vacation. He added that he could train two people chosen by the city to take over in his absence.

Youness Jamil suggested the board should think about price on meter calibration service. He will be out of the country from 03/06 through the middle of April. He can do the training before he leaves.

Byron Corcoron doesn't recall the board previously setting a rate on how much a company can charge for meter calibration. Companies are charging \$75-\$100 and that's what the drivers should expect to pay.

Paul Hines agreed that seems more micromanaging.

The motion to approve the new meter rates was made by Stephen Hamlin. The new rates will take effect on April 15, 2024 and drivers can only use the meter on or after that date if it has been reprogrammed, calibrated, and verified by a city certified technician. Up to three people may be certified by city staff to calibrate meters.

Youness Jamil seconded the motion.
Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

4. Public Forum

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No member of the public commented.

5. New Business

It was suggested by Youness Jamil that the board investigate why certain drivers refuse to take credit card payments from customers. He is adamant that anyone refusing to let customers pay with a credit card should be challenged by the board or the airport.

Paul Hines agreed with Youness, stating that in order to inform customers and drivers alike, this issue needs to be changed in the ordinance. Then a sign can be displayed at the airport indicating that credit cards are accepted.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20 at 5:30 p.m. Since Youness Jamil won't be able to make it to the upcoming meeting on March 20, Mark Barlow from TEUC will take over in order to ensure a quorum. Tenzin will check with Hayley McClenahan, the attorney for this board, to see if that is acceptable.

6. Adjournment

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Motion to adjourn by Stephen Hamlin, seconded by Youness Jamil.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.



Taxi Administration Office
Clerk/Treasurer's Office
149 Church St., Burlington, VT 05401
Phone: 802-865-7019, Fax: 802-865-7014

Taxi Complaint Form

If you have experienced a problem while using a taxi and would like to file a formal complaint, please fill out the form below. If your complaint involves a traffic offense, please contact the Burlington Police Department at (802) 658-2700.

Fields marked with an * indicates required information. We will contact you within 15 business days.

Personal Information:

First and Last Name:* Gary Margolis

Address: * [REDACTED] City, State, Zip* Shelburne, VT 05482

Daytime Phone Number: * [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Incident Information:

When did the incident occur date/time?* 2/7/2024

Location of Incident: * BTV Location of Pick-Up:* BTV

Name of the Taxi Company: JDs Taxi Driver's Name: Unknown

Taxicab Number: Unknown

Please explain the nature of the incident

According to the BTV website, the ride from the airport to my home in Shelburne (7.5 miles) should have been ~\$20.

The driver charged me \$40. I have the credit card receipt.

When I inquired, he rambled on about the meters not working and so they are using a zone system and all rides to Shelburne are automatically \$40. He also complained about being unable to make a living, etc. I could find no information about zones anywhere on the BTV or City of Burlington websites.

This was a scam.

Would you be willing to attend a brief hearing regarding this incident? Yes No

What happened? Please check any of the appropriate boxes.

- Driver operated vehicle in an unsafe manner or refused to provide insurance information after accident
- Driver failed to take most direct route or take passenger to requested destination
- Driver overcharged, charged for service or attendant animal, or charged additional fee for wheelchair, crutches or other medical devices
- Driver picked up another passenger without consent
- Driver refused to transport passenger
- Driver discourteous or physically abusive
- Driver was sleeping
- Driver was using pornography
- Driver smoked in vehicle/vehicle smells of smoke
- Driver using cell phone unless in the case of emergency
- Zone descriptions and rates not in vehicle or visible
- Fare receipt not provided after request
- Taxi meter rates not posted, or taximeter not working, not used, not visible
- No air conditioning or heating
- Doors and/or windows did not operate easily or close securely
- Interior/trunk compartment of vehicle not clean