

Report To: Mayor & Council

From: Patrick Briere, By-Law Enforcement Officer

Re: Royal Taxi Request for Tariff

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Planning & Development Executive Committee will recall at the regular Council meeting held April 22, 2013 that a request for Taxi Tariff was referred to the Planning & Development Executive Committee for recommendation.

Below is the chronological order of actions there have been taken by this office and Mr. Armstrong:

- 1) Mr. Armstrong had arranged a meeting with By-Law Enforcement on April 1, 2013. During this meeting I had explained all of the requirements for Mr. Armstrong to open a Taxi Business in Fort Frances.
- 2) Mr. Armstrong personally delivered the original request letters to me on April 2, 2013. Mr. Armstrong and I began the completion of the Business License Application forms for Operator's License and 2 Vehicle License Applications.
- 3) On April 5, 2013 Mr. Armstrong provided me with a letter from 777714 Ontario Ltd. confirming that he does have an office for his business. At this time Mr. Armstrong's Operator's License was conditionally approved, upon provision of proof of commercial insurance and WSIB.
- 4) On April 9, 2013 Mr. Armstrong provided this office with a letter from Gillons Insurance confirming his Commercial Insurance. Mr. Armstrong also provided his WSIB Number. Mr. Armstrong was provided with his Operator's License.
- 5) On April 10, 2013, Mr. Armstrong was required to submit application to transfer his Taxi Driver's License from North-Air Services to his new business Royal Taxi. Mr. Armstrong's application was approved and he was provided with his new Taxi ID and Wallet Cards.
- 6) On April 17, 2013, Mr. Armstrong requested inspection of his 2 Taxi Vehicles. I completed these inspections in the morning and Mr. Armstrong was provided with his vehicle licenses and an invoice letter stating total fees to be paid for all services provided for inspection and licensing requirements.
- 7) On April 19, 2013, Mr. John Galusha attended our office and prepared documentation to be a Taxi Driver for Royal Taxi. Application was approved that afternoon, as Mr. Galusha is currently a driver with North-Air Services.
- 8) On April 22, 2013, Clerk G. Treftlin submitted Mr. Armstrong's letter dated April 1, 2013 for Taxi Tariff Rates to Council. Council referred this issue back to PDEC.
- 9) On April 26, 2013, this office received a letter from North-Air Services. It has been attached for your information.

This office has attached a copy of the current Taxi Tariff Rates that North-Air Services has been provided with. Royal Taxi is requesting the same rates. By-Law Enforcement is recommending that the tariff rates be approved.

For your awareness, Council will be reminded that it has the authority to regulate the number of Taxi Cabs that operate in Town and set the tariff rates for Taxi Companies. At this time By-Law Enforcement does not feel that we are saturated with taxis, we currently have 11 taxis licensed to operate in Town. We cannot at this time give an exact number as to how many would be appropriate based on our population as this office would have to conduct a survey amongst residents and work with the Taxi Companies to determine this figure.

Council will also be advised that the Planning & Development Executive Committee regular meeting May 6, 2013 supported the approval of the tariff rates (attached) for Royal Taxi to begin operation of their business.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Briere', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Briere  
By-Law Enforcement Officer

**Council approval of this report will:** a) Approve tariff rates as per request being; \$4.20 for the first .25 kilometer or part thereof, \$0.10 cents for each .043 kilometers or part thereafter and waiting time to be set at \$40.00 per hour. b) Direct that By-Law 57/05 be amended to reflect the new rate schedule for all Taxi's.

## **Taxi Meter Rates**

1. Four Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$4.20) for the first .25 kilometers or part thereof;
2. Ten (.10) Cents for each .043 kilometers or part thereof thereafter;
3. For waiting time, the charge shall be at the rate of Forty Dollars per hour.
4. For any deliveries, the charge will be the meter rate with a minimum of Three Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3.50) for each delivery.

The foregoing rates are inclusive of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

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**THE DRIVER/OWNER OF EVERY TAXI SHALL PLACE THIS  
TARIFF CARD IN A POSITION CLEARLY VISIBLE TO THE TAXI  
PASSENGER(S).**

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**ALL TAXI-CABS SHALL AT ALL TIMES OPENLY DISPLAY IN A  
MANNER VISIBLE TO ALL PASSENGERS:**

1. ~~The Badge Number of the driver;~~ *B*
  2. The Name and Photograph of the driver;
  3. The name of the Taxi Owner.
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April 1, 2013

Attention. MR. Avis & Town Councillors

I am asking for an OK to operate a  
TAXI business in the Town of Fort Frances.

Also, I would like to apply for a taxi  
meter rate of \$4.20 for the first  
.25 kilometers, 10 cents for each additional  
0.43 kilometers. an hourly rate of \$43.<sup>00</sup>

Thank you -

SCOTT ARMSTRONG  
623 Church Street  
Fort Frances, ON.

276-1273

**NORTH-AIR SERVICES**

539989 Ontario Ltd.

600 Scott Street

Fort Frances, ON P9A 1H6

Phone: (807) 274-5301 Fax: (807) 274-6360



April 24, 2013

Town of Fort Frances

320 Portage Avenue

Fort Frances, ON

P9A 3P9

We are writing today as concerned business owners. It has recently been brought to our attention that Mr. Scott Armstrong, a former employee of ours in good standing, has applied for a business license to operate a taxi company in Fort Frances. As new business owners ourselves, this raises some concerns as to how this would affect our business. As you are aware we recently acquired North-Air Services in September 2010. Since our purchase we have done our best to improve the image and quality of service of North-Air by updating vehicles and renovating the building. Our higher standard of vehicle maintenance is to ensure the safety of our drivers and clientele. By allowing Mr. Armstrong to reopen a second Taxi Company we believe this will only hurt our business by taking revenue away from North Air. At times we feel it is a struggle running the Taxi side of the business and we have U-Haul, Purolator, and the Bus Depot to subsidize our revenue. Services such as Dial-A-Ride which takes a loss in summer months, would suffer greatly as income generated by everyday taxi fares cover losses (shared fares with a second taxi company would make it more difficult to cover these losses).

We generally run two cabs during the day plus Dial-A-Ride, with more taxis available if needed. However the majority of the time we find that even with two there are occasionally slow periods throughout the day. Mr. Armstrong plans to use two cabs which would double the taxis on the road and as a result reducing the fares for both parties to operate sufficiently.

As a subcontractor with North Air Services, Mr. Armstrong mentioned at the beginning of this year that he was unsure whether he could continue operating because of health and financial reasons. Scott missed many days due to back problems. In order to better utilize our vehicles we had to do what was in the best interest for North Air and had to eliminate the subcontractor. (Scott was working Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 6:00pm which is the busiest period). He was also given the opportunity to stay on as a driver and guaranteed four 6:00am-6:00pm shifts during the week. (Which is the same number of shifts as every other driver).

In the past 3 years we have forsaken a wage from the business that allows us to reinvest back into the business. We have full time jobs that allow us this flexibility. That being said we find it hard to believe that Mr. Armstrong will be able to support himself and a business. He tried years ago to operate a second taxi company in Fort Frances and found it to be unsuccessful and ceased operation. This

unsuccessful past attempt has proven our economy is not big enough in Fort Frances to support another taxi company. Would it not be better to have one healthy taxi company as opposed to two struggling taxi companies?

We feel that our company North Air is well respected in the community. It would not be in the best interest to open a second business for the reasons stated above. We would like to continue to represent our town with a company customers can depend on to meet their needs. We would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to review our concerns. Please contact me at (807) 274-1772 if you should have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Kevin & Lisa Pocock