

Minutes of the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission Board Meeting
Friday, December 19, 2003

1:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at 100 North Tucker Boulevard

Call to Order at 1:10 p.m.

Roll Call – all 8 Commissioners were present (Mr. Tadesse's successor has not yet been named)

Old Business

Director Tully addressed each of the following items of old business:

Random drug testing:

Mr. Tully presented a "white paper" about his survey of local drug testing facilities; discussion about acceptability of urine/saliva tests followed. There was much concern about whether to have the random tests replace the annual, or to be done in addition to the annual, testing. Extensive discussion ensued, about who should bear the cost, and about how the Commission might respond should a driver receive a positive test result.

Mr. McCarthy asked for a recommendation in this regard to be presented by Mr. Tully at the January meeting.

Special license plates

Mr. Tully reported that we are unable to obtain special "TX" plates from the Missouri Department of Revenue, and our only recourse is to require drivers to obtain personalized plates. We must, however, effect statutory change through the Legislature, to require issuance of special plates and to be given the authority to seize such plates whenever a vehicle leaves service as a taxicab.

Municipal League

Mr. Tully gave his report of whom he contacted; they requested that we mail them a letter stating how they can promote us, and that we include a copy of our Code; that letter was mailed earlier this week.

Correspondence /special mailings we have issued at the Commission's instruction:

Mr. Tully enumerated the letters which have been issued; a copy of each is in the Commissioners' folders today for reference.

Investigation into driver's complaint about "violation report" distribution procedures

Mr. Tully reported that his investigation found the driver's allegation to be substantiated – drivers have not heretofore been given copies of these "write-ups." A three-part form already has been developed and will soon be printed. Mr. McCarthy interjected his view that the driver's *company* should also automatically be informed whenever any driver receives a violation report.

(Mr. McCarthy announced that he is re-ordering today's agenda, since some of the Commissioners may have to leave early to fulfill other obligations, and he now wants to address items which require motions/voting by the members).

New business

Bardgett and Associates

Mr. McCarthy then mentioned the agenda item concerning contracting with Bardgett and Associates for personal services; he stated that this contract is not required to be bid.

Mr. Hamilton made a motion to approve the MTC's contract with this firm; seconded by Mr. Satz; passed by unanimous vote.

Suggested amendments to the VFH Code

Mr. Hamilton, perusing the materials in his folder, asked about these recommendations. Mr. McCarthy said he will defer these proposed changes; he then stated that the public should review them also – and suggested that Mr. Tully post the proposed changes on our website.

Moratorium expiration approaching

Mr. Tully issued a reminder that the moratorium will expire at the end of this month, on Dec 31.

Mr. McCarthy then made a motion to extend it for another 6 months, adding that we will review it during that time period. Mr. Hamilton seconded, and this was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. McCarthy clarified that he wants the Commission to *entertain* any applications it may receive during those 6 months, but it will not *act upon* them until the Commission can review the entire process, and he pledged that review will be accomplished prior to July 2004.

Financial Report

Mr. McCarthy called on our Treasurer, Mike Morgan, to make his report.

Mr. Morgan provided figures which are current as of November 30.

Mr. McCarthy asked whether these figures include the transfer of funds from St. Louis County and Mr. Morgan replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Rudawsky observed that there is *very little* drivers license revenue in that figure, and Mr. Morgan replied that renewals are just starting in earnest.

Mr. McCarthy commented that this will be our first full year of operation; he cautioned that we probably won't have a complete assessment until the entire year has elapsed. Mr. Hamilton mentioned that many of our expenditures were start-up costs, and other types of one-time costs. Mr. Morgan stated that, at year end, he will prepare a breakdown for the January meeting, including administrative costs and salaries, etc.

Statutory compliance requirement

Mr. Hamilton reminded the Commissioners that we have a requirement for statutory compliance by April 2004. Mr. McNutt acknowledged that fact, and stated that St. Louis County has said it will assist us with our preparations so as to meet that deadline. Mrs. Karen Wittkoetter, St. Louis County Administration Manager, was in the audience and nodded her assent to assist MTC in doing so.

Selection of a Certified Public Accountant

Mr. Hamilton then asked whether the MTC must obtain St. Louis County's approval of our choice of CPA. Mr. Patrick McCarthy, legal counsel, replied that MTC must provide a CPA audit report – but that St. Louis County does *not* have to approve our choice of CPA.