

1.0 Recommendation

That Council amend By-Law 32, Taxi Bylaw in the Town of Yarmouth, as recommended by Staff.

2.0 CAO Comments

Text goes here.

3.0 Report / Document

See attached draft document with amendment to Taxi Bylaw TOY32

4.0 Key Concept/Issue Defined

Review of the Taxi Bylaw was initiated by staff as part of the annual schedule of Bylaws review.

Staff worked with the RCMP, Town Legal Counsel and researched taxi bylaws in other Nova Scotia Municipalities in the review of this bylaw. This Bylaw amendment also updates changes to the Taxi Fares rates as approved by Council motion on March 10, 2022.

Background:

- Town residents contacted the Bylaw Enforcement Officer requesting taxi drivers be screened for Vulnerable Sector check and Child Abuse Registry as part of our taxi license process. The residents identified they have circumstances when underage children need to use the taxi service without adult passenger accompanying them. Town's Taxi Bylaw only requires a taxi driver applicant to submit proof of a Criminal Record Check as part of the application review process with the Bylaw Enforcement Officer. In our research, municipalities such as HRM and Truro, have added the requirement for taxi driver applicants to provide proof of a Vulnerable Sector check and Child Abuse Registry check in addition to Criminal Record check at applicant cost as part of their application review and approval process.
 - **Recommendation: Add the requirement for Vulnerable Sector and Child Abuse Registry Checks as part of the Taxi Drivers' License application process, at applicant cost, to section 5.2 - Application for License, 9.4 – License Review Procedures and to Form A-1**
- Bylaw Enforcement staff had a situation in which a taxi license renewal application could not be granted as it was determined through investigation the applicant was not of suitable character. Under the Taxi Bylaw, section 9.5: *A license may not be granted if the applicant is not of suitable character as in the opinion of the Inspector situations.* In this situation, more

transparency in the bylaw would have been beneficial to deescalate interaction with applicant with a stated definition on what constitutes a disqualification in the renewal of a taxi license.

- **Recommendation: Add to Section 2.0, Definition, the definition and listing of what constitutes a ‘Disqualifying Conviction’.**
- Staff reviewed the logistical process of submitting taxi applications to the town from payment of fees to approval of a license to provide a more efficient customer service experience.
 - **Recommendation: Amended Section 9.1 to read: The application review will be initiated by the Inspector once all requirements have been provided as identified in form A and receipt of payment provided. Application fee is paid to main floor reception staff and shall be accompanied by the licensing fee as required by Schedule Two (2) of this Bylaw.**

5.0 Relevant Policy

6.0 Strategic Relevance

7.0 Desired Outcomes

- a. Approve

8.0 Response

- a. Approve
- b. Reject
- c. Refer back to staff with direction for more information

9.0 General Implications of Recommendation

There may be additional leadtime involved for License holders to get Vulnerable Sector and Child Abuse Registry checks completed in a timely manner. Taxi License renewals due April 30th of each year with a grace period of 30 days allowed.

9.1 Organizational Implications

none

9.2 Financial Implications

none

10.0 Follow-Up Actions

Update website.

11.0 Communication

Communication from staff required to Taxi License holders of additional requirements in applying for Taxi License.

12.0 Other Comments

Submitted By:

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