



J. Jeffrey Munger
Chairperson of the Board

William Keogh
Vice Chairperson

Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board Administrative Offices

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Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board Minutes
Contois Auditorium, City Hall
Wednesday, October 5, 2016
9:08 AM

Present: Jeff Munger (Chair), JM
Bill Keogh (Vice Chair), BK
LT. Dennis Duffy, DD
Charlie Herrick, CH
Gregg Meyer (Assistant City Attorney), GM
Ashley Bryce (Taxi Administration), AB
James Douglas Johnson, (JJ)
Ricky Handy, (RH)
Alexander Ash, (AA)
Halina Nicholson, (HN)
Adam Roberts, (AR)

1. AGENDA

On motion by Commissioners Keogh and Duffy the agenda was adopted with amendment of moving 5.01 to 3.02.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

3. DISCUSSION:

3.01. New Ordinance

On motion by Commissioner Keogh post-pone until all members are present.

3.02. Complaint from James Douglas Johnson

Commissioner Herrick recused himself from the board.

GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Vehicle for Hire Board and swore James Douglas Johnson in for testimony.

BK asked what jurisdiction the board has over decisions to be made.

GM replied that the board listens and can issue warnings, suspension, revocation, and fines.

JJ began by explaining the situation, he had prepaid \$78.00 to Green Cab to pick his daughter up at Cedar Knoll Country Club at 11:00pm. At 11:25 pm she spoke to dispatcher whom said the cab was in the area. She accepted a ride from a friend that was with her. JJ stated Green Cab did not give all money back. He stated the \$39 is not a big deal but it is the principal.

BK asked GM if the board had authority to oppose fine or for Green Cab to pay client. GM replied they could take the matter under advisement.

GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Vehicle for Hire Board and swore Charlie Herrick in for testimony.

CH started by stating they have triple backups if rides do not go as planned, connections get lost and time. His driver was 15 minutes late and when they were in tenth of a mile the system sends the customer a text with a link so the customer can see where the car is. They called the customer 4 times, and she did not answer. They couldn't find her that happens. Customer called saying she took a ride with a friend and wanted a partial refund. It took his driver an hour to drive to Hinesburg. CH refunded half of the ride which they do not usually do.

DD asked what time the driver arrived at the Country Club.

CH replied arrived at 11:16 pm on the grounds.

GM asked what time was he technically where he was supposed to pick up customer.

CH replied 11:22 and customer called at 11:24 to refuse ride.

JJ stated at 11:25 dispatcher called or she called them they stated cab was in the area. She refused ride when they were leaving they saw a cab parked in front of Cedar Knoll self-storage area. There were no calls or text to her cellphone before this to let her know.

GM closed the testimony and board will take this under advisement.

4. VEHICLE FOR HIRE DENIALS:

4.01. Alexander Ash; Blazer Transportation

GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Vehicle for Hire Board and swore Alexander Ash in for testimony, also swore in Ricky Handy to testify on Alexander Ash's behalf.

AA began by explaining he has a wife and two small children at home. He does very well at driving and would like to make a lively hood with this. He had eight years of slacking off, he is changed man, in two years of moving to Vermont he has not had any problems. Worked at car wash for two years.

BK asked nothing been on record for two years.

AA stated yes.

CH asked AA to explain conviction of assault with deadly weapon.

AA replied it was a break up with an ex, it was a charge that was never processed. Will see many charges that were not processed.

GM asked if he remembered March of last year with domestic battery.

AA replied breaking up situation with the ex, she was throwing things at him. In process of defending self went out side she locked him out and he called the cops.

CH why please no contest.

AA said he had no ability to bond out. They gave him a deal to plead out and he would have been released. He didn't do anything wrong.

RH added he is in a position in Stowe just wanted permission to drop off or pick up at the Airport. He will not be a City driver just contract driver for the Airport. This would increase his pay significantly.

GM stated board will take this matter into consideration and a letter will be issued.

Hearing closed.

4.02. Halina Nicholson; Blazer Transportation

GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Vehicle for Hire Board and swore Halina Nicholson in for testimony.

HN began by explaining that she has been sober for 25 years and is grandmother now which has changed her life. Was arrested two years ago in situation where she was sucker punched by a family member and due to her past she was charged with simple assault. It was an unfortunate situation.

DD asked if family member was it domestic assault why does it show simple assault.

NH replied lowered it.

DD asked if she did nothing why she was charged.

NH replied because of her background.

DD asked if it was trial or judge.

NH replied judge.

GM asked if it was plead out no restraining order.

NH said no.

DD asked if there was restraining order.

NH said no.

RH testified NH lives dozens houses away he can monitor her, keep track of her. He said she came to him because she is struggling with money and wants to improve her position.

CH asked about her application showing DWI refusal in 2006.

NH said it was 1986 not 2006.

CH asked about DWI refusal what this means.

NH replied she refused to take a drug test so they automatically charged her.

GM stated board will take this matter into consideration and a letter will be issued.

Hearing closed.

On Motion by Commissioners Keogh and Munger to enter executive session at 9:46 am.

Commissioner Herrick recused from Executive Session for Complaint review.

On Motion by Commissioners Keogh and Herrick to exit executive session at 10:05 am.

4.03. Adam Roberts; Blazer Transportation

GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Vehicle for Hire Board and swore Adam Roberts in for testimony.

AR began by explaining he realized why his license was denied. He stated he had two more moving violations than supposed to, he believed they should have been removed but they are still on his record.

RH stated AR did not have all moving violations, handicap parking is not moving violation. The insurance is not a moving violation so this will give him only 3 violations. The new ordinance allows more than 3 moving violations. AR is a handicap individual that won case in court showing he is a handicap individual. He is deaf in one ear and hard at hearing in the other. He was driving cab for over fifteen years for RH. He never received complaints of AR driving. He may not be best driver in the world but nobody is. Maybe the board can put in certain conditions to let him drive. RH knows it is not the board's responsibility to baby sit but it can happen. He now his own car and has insurance on his own car. At least let him back in on a temporary bases. He may not be the best guy in the world but is not the worst guy in the world, he calls RH Dad so he has close personal relationship with AR.

GM stated board will take this matter into consideration and a letter will be issued.

Hearing closed.

On Motion by Commissioners Keogh and Munger to enter executive session at 10:16 am.

On Motion by Commissioners Keogh and Herrick to exit executive session at 10:23 am.

5. COMPLAINT (moved to 3.02.)

5.01. James Douglas Johnson Complaint on Green Cab

6. MINUTES:

6.01. Taxi Licensing Board 08/11/16

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Munger the minutes were adopted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Munger was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.