

Staff Report to Council

Title: Amend 2009 Taxi By-law

Report Number: Legislative Services-2024-17

Director: Corporate Services

Manager: Legislative Services

Meeting Date:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council pass a by-law to amend By-law No. 2009-168, the 2009 Taxi By-law, to delegate authority under Section 4.1 of the By-law to staff until a new Vehicle for Hire By-law can be brought forward to Council.

Executive Summary:

The Kincardine Police Services Board was dissolved in April 2024, and the new South Bruce OPP Detachment Board are unable to meet until proper insurance can be obtained. As a result, the current 2009 Taxi By-law has no current approving body for licences. Staff have investigated ways to modernize the vehicles for hire process in the Municipality and a report will come forward in Q3. With this gap, staff are requesting that Council delegates its authority to staff, instead of the Kincardine Police Services Board, to consider all applications for taxi and vehicle licences and to regulate and govern the owners, brokers, and drivers of taxicabs and limousines within the Municipality.

Strategic Priorities:

C.13-Protect people, property and the environment from the effects of dangerous conditions caused by people and nature

Financial Considerations:

Extending the current licences in order to keep sufficient services would not have a financial impact in 2024 as new licences will be required when the new By-law is approved.

Policy:

2009 Taxi By-law No. 2009-168

Context and Background Information:

The 2009 Taxi By-law delegated authority to the Kincardine Police Services Board to consider all applications for taxi and vehicle licences and to regulate and govern the owners, brokers, and drivers of taxicabs and limousines within the Municipality (Section 4.1). With the dissolution of the Kincardine Police Services Board and Detachment Boards across the Province not meeting until they can obtain proper insurance, staff are asking Council to delegate the authority previously held by the Kincardine Police Services Board to the Clerk or their designate.

This delegation would ensure taxi licensing is not held up and would allow extensions and new licenses to be approved in this gap. Currently, the Legislative Services Department receive the applications, vet the applications to ensure that they meet the by-law and then take applications to the Police Services Board for final approval.

Council would still stand as the appeal body for a decision by the Clerk to refuse, suspend or revoke a license.

Staff are investigating various means to modernize the process for vehicles for hire in the Municipality. The investigation includes total deregulation of vehicles for hire in the municipality, as has occurred in other municipalities in the Province, having the upper tier be the licensing body, or continued regulation with a new updated Vehicle for Hire By-law. A report will be coming in Q3.

Consultation Overview:

N/A

Origin:

Dissolution of the Kincardine Police Services Board

Implementation Considerations:

Legislative Services staff will contact those affected and proceed per the By-law to deal with applications listed in the 2009 Taxi By-law. In addition, staff will continue to finalize a draft of a new modernized vehicle for hire by-law.

Risk Analysis:

Currently, no taxicabs, taxi drivers, limousine, or broker licences are being issued. This could lead to there being an insufficient number of owner/operators and drivers to provide taxi services to the Municipality.

Attachments: 2009 Taxi By-law No. 2009-168 and amendment By-law No. 2009-168

Prepared by: Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

Submitted by: Jennifer Lawrie, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

