



Harford County Towing Appeals Board Meeting Minutes

The Towing Appeals Board met on May 3, 2022, at 9:30am in the HR Conference room, 1st Floor 220 S Main Street Bel Air. The following people were present:

Wayne Sullivan with Sullivans Garage, Representative of Licensed Towing Company & Board Chairperson
Jim Andrews with Andrew's Garage, Representative of Licensed Towing Company
Dave Williams, Citizen Representative
Roxanne Lynch, Representative of DILP
Kathryn Holloway, Towing License Customer Support Analyst DILP
Rich Truitt, Deputy Director for DILP
Harold Boling, Towing Business License Coordinator DILP
Pat McElroy with Tim's Towing, Representative of Licensed Towing Company
Joe Rehder with Tim's Towing, Representative of Licensed Towing Company

- I. Call to Order – Wayne P. Sullivan, Board Chair called meeting to order at 9:35 AM**
- II. Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2022, by consensus**
- III. Old Business**

A. Board Policy for Conducting Business

Board members were asked to review the DRAFT Rules and Regulations of the Board which outlines procedures for the Board to follow. Document approved by consensus.

B. Board Towing Rotation Review

Rich discussed the monthly EOC wrecker call-out report DILP receives to monitor if licensed towers are responding to call outs in their registered tow area. A full copy of this month's report was emailed to Board members so they can become familiar with the report and provide comment.

Rich is working with EOC to modify the report in a more organized, readable format.

Wayne asked about assigning towers based on need for heavy duty equipment.

Harold informed Board the EOC has been provided a list of five companies to call.

C. Current or recent Federal Regulations or Maryland General Assembly Tow Related Legislation

HB 487/SB 613 HB is enrolled, awaiting Governor's signature.

Commercial Vehicles-Nonconsensual Towing-Requirements. Towers hope AG opinion keeps amendment requiring vehicle owner to pay 20% of invoice if there is a genuine dispute about the fee before the tower releases the vehicle.

Brief discussion Harford County Towing Regs should incorporate language from Al Redmer MIA issued Bulletin 16-25 concerning insurance payment for property liability claims involving removal of vehicles

IV. DILP Tow Lot Inspections – Electronic Record Retention

Harold discussed maintaining a three-year record retention and electronic invoicing. Tim's Towing has implemented electronic retention for some time now using Tracker. Further discussion on the availability to transfer PDF files from Tracker to DILP for record inspections in the future.

V. Heavy Duty Tow Response Times

Board members were provided with the list of Harford County Towing Business licenses currently issued and organized by Tow Area. Discussion focused on the Board members reviewing Heavy Duty response times to 45 minutes vs. the standard response of 20 minutes. After conferring with County Law department, it is requested a memorandum be completed by next meeting.

VI. Preliminary Discussion-Revisions to Harford County Maximum Allowable Police Initiated Tow Rates

Board members were provided copies of the Harford County Maximum Allowable Law Enforcement Initiated Tow Rates and Comparison of the surrounding counties. Pat McElroy provided an outline of present fees versus suggested pricing recommendations. Jim Andrews provided Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation rate documentation showing the cost increase on services today in comparison to 2006 when towing rates were originally set. Dave Williams asked to see tow equipment costs. Rich reminded Board that any changes to rates or regulations must be enforceable by DILP and that the Board must weigh cost of doing business versus consumer protection. The added cost of safely removing electric powered vehicles was discussed. Wayne will form a sub-committee to discuss rate changes and then make a presentation to the Board.

a. Fuel Surcharge

Towers requesting Fuel Surcharge be added due to 28% fuel increase immediately. Dave Williams suggested waiting and to set a sunset for any surcharges.

VII. New Business/ Board and Public Comments

Board members converse on the challenges of Electric Cars and Batteries safe handling. Further consideration needed on implementing fees and safety requirements to current tow rate services. Dave questioned if tow driver qualification classes were required or available.

VIII. Public Comment

Pat McElroy offered that Traffic Incident Management training should be required of all tow drivers.

She also said law enforcement at the scene of accidents should provide the tow truck respondents with copy of all the vehicle owner contact information involved in accidents.

IX. Next Meeting Announcement / Adjournment

August 4, 2022 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

DILP Conference Room 220 S Main St Bel Air, Maryland

Transcribed by

Kathryn Holloway
Kathryn Holloway

Date:

7/7/22

Reviewed by

Roxanne Lynch
Roxanne Lynch

Date:

7/7/22