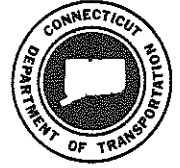


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone: (860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 1108-R-85-T

RE: PETITION OF HOYT TAXI SERVICE, INC. D.B.A. EVEREADY NEW CANAAN
AND CANAAN PARISH TAXI, INC. D.B.A. EVEREADY NEW CANAAN TO
INCREASE ITS TAXICAB METER RATES IN NEW CANAAN.

Final Decision

September 16, 2011

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL

By petition filed on May 10, 2011, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Hoyt Taxi Service, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready New Canaan and Canaan Parish Taxi, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready New Canaan (hereinafter "petitioners"), seek authorization to increase the taxicab meter rate in New Canaan.

CURRENT METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP: \$ 3.00 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL: .25 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME: .25 every 29 seconds

PROPOSED METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP: \$ 3.25 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL: .30 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME: .30 every 29 seconds

B. HEARING HELD

Pursuant to Sections 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and Sections 4-177 through 4-182 of the Connecticut General Statutes, inclusive, this petition was assigned for a public hearing which was held at the administrative offices of the Department in Newington, Connecticut on September 14, 2011.

Notice of the petition and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the petitioner, and to such other parties as deemed necessary by the department as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended. Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

C. APPEARANCES

Mr. Vito Bochicchio appeared on behalf of Hoyt Taxi Service, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready New Canaan and Canaan Parish Taxi, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready New Canaan. The mailing address for these companies is P.O. Box 15, Darien, Connecticut 06820.

Sheldon Lubin, department staff, appeared on behalf of the Regulatory and Compliance Unit.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Administrative notice was taken of the testimony in rate hearings in Docket Number 1105-R-51-T, 1104-R-34-T and 1105-R-42-T.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioners seek to increase the meter rate for taxicab fares in the towns of New Canaan.
2. The last metered rate increase in this area was five years ago in 2007.
3. Since the last meter rate increase there has been an increase in meter related costs, insurance costs, vehicle parts, cost to replace vehicles, gasoline and car maintenance.
4. The petitioners produced numerous invoices showing the increased costs they have had to absorb since the last rate increase. One example of higher costs is the change in price to seal a meter. In 2008 it cost \$270 but in 2011 it cost \$540 to seal a meter. Another example of price increases is tires which cost \$70 in 2007 are now \$97 in 2011.
5. Since late 2010 gasoline has risen 40% to 45% or from \$2.80 to \$4.00.
6. The cost to paint a car in 2007 was \$350 whereas in 2011 the cost is 2011.
7. Fairfield County is the most expensive county in Connecticut to operate a business.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The department has jurisdiction over each person, association, limited liability company or corporation owning or operating a taxicab in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-93 as amended. In addition, the department is authorized to prescribe adequate service and reasonable rates and charges with respect to fares, service, operations and equipment, as it deems necessary.

The petitioners put forth a lot of evidence concerning the types of costs that have increased since the last rate hearings in the metered rate in 2007. There was much evidence presented to show that there have been substantial increases in all areas that have affected the taxicab industry. Prices on insurance, gas, cars, parts, taxes and other expenses have all increased to the point that it would be reasonable to allow a meter rate and shared ride rate increase. Fairfield County it is widely acknowledged is the most expensive county in the State. It is not reasonable to expect operators to absorb all of these additional costs themselves.

As far as the fuel surcharge rate goes the cost of gas is being considered as an element in the increased meter rate so there will be no fuel surcharge allowed.

Based on the evidence presented, the petitioners have shown that the proposed meter is justified.

IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

Based upon the above and pursuant to the authority granted under Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended, the petition filed by Hoyt Taxi Service, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready New Canaan and Canaan Parish Taxi, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready New Canaan is hereby granted.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of metered rates of fare shall be implemented for the town of New Canaan, shall become effective on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 12:01 a.m.

NEW METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP: \$ 3.25 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL: .30 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME: .30 every 29 seconds

The request for a fuel surcharge has been incorporated into the new metered and shared ride rate so no fuel surcharge will be allowed.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of shared ride rates shall be implemented for the town of New Canaan subject to the conditions below and shall become effective on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 12:01 a.m.

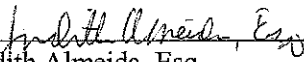
The metered and shared ride rates in effect for the towns listed above on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the new rates authorized herein.

Public notice of the intent to implement the rates authorized herein shall be given by the petitioners through publication of a legal notice in the Stamford Advocate, not less than five (5) days prior to such implementation. The petitioners operating in the above towns shall be responsible for the expense to place the legal notice.

The metered and shared ride rates of fare approved herein shall apply to all taxicab operators servicing any of the above-included towns.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on the 16th day of September 2011.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Judith Almeida, Esq.
Staff Attorney III
Administrative Law Unit
Bureau of Finance and Administration