

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone:

(860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 1205-N-75-HG

RE: APPLICATION OF MEANT2BE MOVERS, LLC TO OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR HIRE, AS A HOUSEHOLD GOODS CARRIER, OVER IRREGULAR ROUTES BETWEEN ALL POINTS IN CONNECTICUT UPON CALLS RECEIVED FROM A HEADQUARTERS IN EAST HARTFORD.

FINAL DECISION

January 25, 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Applicant's Proposal

By application filed on May 23, 2012, pursuant to Section 13b-389 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and assigned Docket No. 1205-N-75-HG, Meant2be Movers, LLC (hereinafter "applicant"), with a mailing address of 219 Forest Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118 seeks authorization from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department") to operate motor vehicles in the transportation of household goods for hire, as a household goods carrier, over irregular routes between all points in Connecticut from a headquarters in East Hartford.

B. <u>Hearing Held</u>

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-390, a hearing on this application was held at the administrative office of the Department, in Newington, Connecticut, on January 15, 2013.

Notice of the application and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the applicant and to other parties as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-390. Notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

The matter was heard by a hearing officer designated by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-17.

C. Appearances

Steve and Susan Lepack appeared as members pro se on behalf of the applicant. The applicant's mailing address is 219 Forest Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The applicant seeks authorization to transport household goods from a headquarters in East Hartford.
- 2. Mr. Lepack has extensive business experience in the moving business having worked for another moving company as a sales manager for twenty-five years. Mrs. Lepack also has many years of experience doing estimates and sales in the moving industry. At the present time, they are doing eviction work and house clean outs.
 - 3. The applicant intends to focus its attention on moving senior citizens.
- 4. In the new business, Mr. Lepack will be dispatching and acting as the general manager while his wife will be doing sales and the books for the company.

- 5. The headquarters will be in their home office with the hours to be 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 6. Mr. Lepack has a breach of peace conviction from 2006, for which he received a \$150 fine. Mrs. Lepack has no criminal convictions.
- 7. The applicant will operate a 1989 International truck in the business. The fair market value of this vehicle is \$3,500.
- 8. The applicant presented the testimony of two state marshals, Tim Poloski and Sharron Ulhman who utilize the applicant for eviction work to remove items from apartments so that they can be placed in storage. Some of the movers in the past have stolen items during the move, shown up late or performed the job in a very slow manner.
- 9. Suzanne Sorensen is a retirement counselor at the Arbors of Hop Brook an independent and assisted living facility. She is familiar with the applicant through hiring the company the applicants used to work for. She handles about eighty (80) moves a year either to or from the facility or within the facility. She stresses the good quality work the applicant has given her in the past.
- 10. Darlene Lehofer operates a Storage America facility. She has developed a relationship with the applicants where they refer business to each other. She believes she can make ten (10) referrals a week to the applicants to move items in and out of her facility.
- 11. The applicant's cost includes insurance of \$5,589 a year, property tax of \$400 a year, repairs and maintenance of \$3,900 for six months and six months of cell phone service is \$1,200.
 - 12. The applicant has \$9,387 cash in the bank.

III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over any person operating any motor vehicle in the transportation of household goods for hire as a household goods carrier pursuant to Section 13b-389 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Further, no person shall operate as a household goods carrier, within Connecticut, without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity to so operate.

In determining whether such a certificate shall be granted, the Commissioner of Transportation shall take into consideration the existing motor transportation facilities and the effect upon them of granting such a certificate, the public need for the proposed service, the suitability of the applicant, the financial responsibility of the applicant, the ability of the applicant efficiently to perform the service for which the authority is requested, the condition of and effect upon the highways involved and the safety of the public using such highways, pursuant to Section 13b-392 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The first criterion to be taken into account is the effect on the existing motor carrier facilities by granting the certificate. This application was not opposed by any existing motor carrier. Since the application was not opposed at the hearing, it appears that there would not be any effect on the existing motor carrier facilities if this application were granted.

The next criterion that the applicant must prove is the public convenience and necessity for the proposed service. The applicant presented the testimony of several witnesses who can easily refer business to the applicant. All of the witnesses know of the applicant's work and recommended the applicant. One of the witnesses coordinates moves of seniors into an assisted living facility and will recommend the applicant. Another witness operates a moving and storage facility and will recommend the applicant to customers. The applicant has proven public convenience and necessity.

As far as the applicant's financial ability is concerned, the applicant presented evidence that the applicant's cost includes insurance of \$5,589, property tax of \$400 a year, repairs and maintenance of \$3,900 for six months, and six months of a cell phone service is \$1,200. The applicant has \$9,387 cash in the bank and is just able to cover its expenses for a six month period with a small surplus in funds.

The applicant will operate a 1989 International truck in the business. The fair market value of this vehicle is \$3,500. This vehicle is adequate to be used in the moving business and will not have a negative effect on public safety or the highways.

The applicant submitted a criminal record check for Susan Lepak which shows no criminal convictions. Steve Lepack had a minor incident in 2006, which resulted in a small fine. The Lepacks have much experience in household moving and received glowing recommendations. Based on the evidence presented, the applicant is suitable to operate the proposed service.

Based upon the evidence presented, the applicant has proven all of the necessary elements to be granted a certificate.

IV. ORDER

Based upon the above and pursuant to Section 13b-391 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the application of Meant2be Movers, LLC is hereby granted and Certificate Number 1769 is issued as follows:

CERTIFICATE NUMBER 1769 TO OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PROPERTY FOR HIRE AS A MOTOR COMMON CARRIER

Meant2be Movers, LLC is hereby permitted and authorized, subject to such regulations and conditions as the department may from time to time prescribe, to transport property for hire as a motor common carrier over irregular routes as follows:

Household goods, within the State of Connecticut, between all points upon calls received at its headquarters in East Hartford.

The certificate holder must accept and transport property, as herein authorized in accordance with its tariff on file, for all persons who desire the service to the extent of the certificate holder's facilities at uniform rate for all similar service.

CONDITIONS:

A motor vehicle must be registered under this certificate within thirty (30) days from the date of this decision.

There shall be carried in each vehicle operated under this authority a copy of the certificate registration receipt by the department.

This certificate shall remain in effect until suspended, amended or revoked by the department. Failure of the certificate holder to maintain proper insurance or to comply with all motor vehicle laws and other pertinent State statutes and/or the rules, regulations and orders of the department shall be considered sufficient cause to revoke said certificate.

This certificate may not be sold or transferred until it has been operational for more than twenty-four (24) months.

This certificate is transferable only with the approval of the department and is issued subject to compliance by the holder thereof with all motor vehicle laws of the State of Connecticut, and with such rules regulations and orders as this department may from time to time prescribe.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on this 25th day of January

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Judith Almeida

Staff Attorney III

Administrative Law Unit

Bureau of Finance and Administration