

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| In the Matter of the |) | APPLICATION NO. TR-181 |
| Prescription of Reasonable |) | |
| Rates and Charges for Motor |) | |
| Carriers Passengers and |) | GRANTED AS MODIFIED |
| Property for Hire subject to |) | |
| the Provisions of Neb. Rev. |) | |
| Stat. (Reissue 2003), Chapter |) | |
| 75, Articles 1 and 3. |) | ENTERED: JULY 31, 2012 |

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On March 22, 2011, Fairbury Taxi, L.L.C., Fairbury, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its passenger service rates as follows:

| Description | Current | Proposed |
|---|---------|----------|
| 1. Inside Fairbury, Hebron and Crete city limits: | | |
| a. One Way trip | \$4.00 | \$5.00 |
| b. One Way trip-seniors | \$3.00 | \$4.50 |
| c. c. Each additional passenger | \$0.50 | \$1.00 |
| d. d. H.H.S. One Way trip | \$3.80 | \$4.75 |
| e. H.H.S. One Way trip-seniors | \$2.85 | \$3.80 |

2. Outside Fairbury, Hebron and Crete city limits:

Rates for Inside Fairbury, Hebron and Crete plus:

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| a. Per/mile H.H.S. | \$1.33 | delete |
| b. Per mile Public | \$1.33 | \$1.40 |
| c. Extra stops inside Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island | \$10.00 | \$10.00 |
| d. Extra stops inside Beatrice, Hastings, Kearney | \$6.00 | \$6.00 |
| e. Extra stops inside any other Southeast Nebraska town | see 1. a/b | see 1. a/b |
| f. Waiting time per minute | | \$0.35 |
| g. Fuel surcharge (gas over \$4.00 per gallon in Fairbury, Crete or Hebron) | | \$0.50 |

3. Hours are 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, with only prearranged service on major holidays.

4. Scheduled and advanced appointments are accepted.

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5. Persons using a wheelchair will be served with only minimal assistance in and out of cab.

6. Children of ages six and up will be served unaccompanied by an adult and will be escorted to the door, if needed. Younger children must be accompanied by an adult, at no extra charge. If needed, car seats will be available and should be requested at the time of the call.

7. Out of town service will be provided as authorized by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

8. Discount in town (inside Fairbury, Hebron, and Crete) ride tickets will be sold at the rate of:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| a. 10 in town one way trips | \$35.00 | \$45.00 |
| b. 10 in town one way trips Seniors | \$25.00 | \$35.00 |

9. \$0.50 coupons will be used in promotional campaigns periodically.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

In support of its application, the Applicant represents to the Commission that its last increase was in October of 2006. The expenses of the Applicant have risen significantly since then, especially in the cost of gasoline. At the time of the last rate increase, the cost of gasoline was around \$2.20 per gallon. It is currently running around \$3.45 per gallon, an increase of fifty-six percent. The Applicant has also incurred increases in the cost of its insurance coverages as well as other expenses such as phone and employee costs.

The Department of Health and Human Services rate of reimbursement has also risen to \$1.50 per mile. The Applicant has requested an increase in its per mileage rate to \$1.40 per mile, a five percent increase. This amount is under what the Applicant is able to charge H.H.S., and is in line with other similar charges.

The Commission finds that the Applicant should be allowed a mileage rate of \$1.33 per mile, in line with its contractual rate with H.H.S.

The proposed rates for in town trips represent an increase over current rates of between twenty-five and

fifty percent. This is an unusually large request for the Commission to consider. The Commission notes that it has been almost six years since the last rate increase for the Applicant, and that the costs of conducting business have increased during that time period. However, the proposed rates, if approved, would create a hardship on the general public. The public should not be subjected to that large an increase at one time. Therefore, the Commission finds that the rates should be modified to reflect a fifteen percent increase. This amount will give some immediate relief to the Applicant while reducing the impact on the general public. The proposed new rates for Waiting Time and a fuel surcharge are also found to be reasonable and should be approved.

The Commission has noted that it has been almost six years since its last rate increase. We advise the Applicant to make smaller but more frequent requests for rate increases in the future. This permits the Applicant to more timely address its business situation while minimizing the impact on the general public.

Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted as modified effective August 3, 2012.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service commission that Fairbury Taxi, L.L.C., Fairbury, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its passenger service rates as set forth below:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Inside Fairbury, Hebron and Crete city limits: | |
| a. One Way trip | \$4.60 |
| b. One Way trip- seniors | \$3.45 |
| c. Each additional passenger | \$0.60 |
| d. H.H.S. One Way trip | \$4.40 |
| e. H.H.S. One Way trip-seniors | \$3.25 |
| 2. Outside Fairbury, Hebron and Crete city limits: | |
| a. per/mile public | \$1.40 |

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- b. Extra stops inside Lincoln,
Omaha, Grand Island \$10.00
 - c. Extra stops inside Beatrice,
Hastings, Kearney \$6.00
 - d. Extra stops inside any other
Southeast Nebraska town see 1. a/b
3. Hours are 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, with only prearranged service on major holidays.
4. Scheduled and advanced appointments are accepted.
5. Persons using a wheelchair will be served with only minimal assistance in and out of cab.
6. Children of ages six and up will be served unaccompanied by an adult and will be escorted to the door, if needed. Younger children must be accompanied by an adult, at no extra charge. If needed, car seats will be available and should be requested at the time of the call.
7. Out of town service will be provided as authorized by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.
8. Discount in town (inside Fairbury, Hebron, and Crete) ride tickets will be sold at the rate of:
- a. 10 in town one way trips \$41.00
 - b. 10 in town one way trips Seniors \$29.00
9. \$0.50 coupons will be used in promotional campaigns periodically.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 31st day of July, 2012.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING

Tim Schram

Anne Boyle

David Lloyd

Chairman

Rod Johnson

ATTEST:

Philip S. S. S.

Executive Director

//s// Rod Johnson