

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the ) APPLICATION NO. TR-188  
Prescription of Reasonable )  
Rates and Charges for Motor )  
Carriers Passengers and ) GRANTED  
Property for Hire Subject to )  
The provision of Neb. Rev. Stat.)  
(Reissue 2011), Chapter 75, )  
Articles 1 and 3. ) ENTERED: MARCH 27, 2012

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On February 10, 2012, Daniel W. and Susan L. Sindt d/b/a Kearney Cab Company, Kearney, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its rates for its operations as follows:

Description	Current	Proposed
1. First 1/5 mile (initial meter charge)	\$2.95	\$2.95
2. Each additional 1/5 mile or fraction thereof	\$0.40	\$0.50
3. Each additional passenger and/or baggage	\$0.75	\$0.75
4. Waiting time per minute	\$0.30	\$0.30
5. Refusal of ordered service upon arrival of taxicab at point of commencement of trip.	\$2.25	\$2.25

After discussions of the application between the Applicant and staff for the Commission, the application was published in The Daily Record on February 24, 2012. No protests to the application were received.

The Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1402. The certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers by taxicab between points in Buffalo County and between points within Buffalo County, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes. The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized.

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The Applicant had intended to request the Commission to approve a rate at \$0.50 per 1/5 mile or \$2.50 per mile. The initial drop charge of \$2.95 for the first 1/5 mile, the additional passenger charge, waiting time, and refusal of service charge are all to remain the same. The proposed increase in the mileage charge amounts to a twenty-five percent increase in that portion of the charge. The overall effect of the proposal is that a five and one-fifth mile trips would change from \$12.95 to \$15.45, an increase of nineteen percent.

In support of the application, the Applicant represents to the Commission that gasoline prices have increased substantially in 2012. As of the filing of the application, fuel costs increased by twenty-five cents per gallon the week prior to the filing. According to documentation submitted to the Commission, the Applicant's cost of fuel rose from around \$40,000 in 2010 to over \$63,000 in 2011. This is an increase of fifty-seven percent.

The Applicant notes that it has experienced other increases in costs in addition to gasoline. According to information received by the Commission, its insurance cost per vehicle has increased from \$365 per vehicle per month to \$470 per vehicle per month. This is an increase of twenty-nine percent. The mechanic shop that the Applicant uses for its mechanical services has increased its labor hour charges from \$60 per hour to \$75 per hour, which is a twenty-five percent increase. The costs of other operating expenses, such as tires, have also increased in the past two years by a similar amount.

The Commission finds that the proposed rate change is reasonable and supported by the available evidence. With the cost of gasoline not expected to decline in the near future, the proposed increase is necessary for the Applicant to continue its operations.

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 effective April 6, 2012.

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ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective April 6, 2012, Daniel W. and Susan L. Sindt d/b/a Kearney Cab, Kearney, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its rates for its use in Certificate No. B-1402 as follows:




Description	Rate
1. First 1/5 mile (initial meter charge)	\$2.95
2. Each additional 1/5 mile or fraction thereof	\$0.50
3. Each additional passenger and/or baggage	\$0.75
4. Waiting time per minute	\$0.30
5. Refusal of ordered service upon arrival of taxicab at point of commencement of trip.	\$2.25

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that notice of this amendment to their rates be conspicuously displayed within each taxicab.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

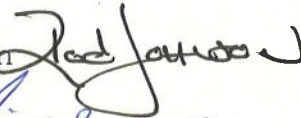

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

ATTEST:

Chairman

  
  
Executive Director

//s// Rod Johnson  
//s// Frank Landis