

Virginia Board for Towing and Recovery Operators (BTRO)

Draft Minutes

November 13, 2007 - 9:30 AM

Virginia Board for Towing and Recovery Operators meeting was held on November 13, 2007, at the Comfort Inn Conference Center 3200 West Broad Street, Washington Room Richmond, Virginia 23230.

Board members present:

Ray Hodge
Charlie Brown
Woody Herring
Ron Miner
Cary Coleman
Roy Boswell
Ray Drumheller
Mark Sawyers
Randy Seibert
Gary Teter
Lt. Curtis Hardison
J. Michael Wright (Designee of the Office of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs)
James A. Gurney (Designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles)

Board members absent:

Vinay Patel

Staff present:

Benjamin Foster, Board Executive Director
Daphane Phillips, Administrative Assistant
Jeffrey Spencer, Assistant Attorney General
John Beall, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Jo Anne Maxwell, Senior Assistant Attorney General Office

Vacant:

Citizen Member, Senate Appointee
4-year term expires on 6/30/10

Called to order:

Chairman Ray Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Public Comments:

George Philbates, Philbates Auto Wrecking Inc., expressed concerns that the Board is over regulating the towing industry.

David Adams, owner of Adams Wreckers Service expressed concerns about Board members that belong to associations. He stated that “if a tower is not a member of an association, their comments are not being heard by the board.”

Dave Reidenbach, states that the make up of the board is not an accurate representation through out the towing industrial.

Chairman Hodge closed the public comments session at 9:53 a.m.

Acceptance minutes:

Chairman Hodge asked the members if they reviewed the minutes from the October 30, 2007 meeting and whether they had questions or corrections. There being not questions or changes Chairman Hodge called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Cary Coleman and seconded by Roy Boswell. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Chairman Report:

Chairman Hodge stressed the importance of the work that has taken place across the Board. He would like for the Regulatory Committee to meet once a month until the public safety regulations are completed. After all of the regulations are in place, the full Board will be cutting back on the monthly meetings.

Chairman Hodge closed his report by commending the work that the committees have accomplished with the help of other organizations, and from the industry.

Executive Director’s Report:

Lease Information – The lease has been signed, and the move will be in December. Mr. Foster will be making arrangements for all the necessary improvements before moving into the new office space. The new contact information will be posted on the website.

Committee Reports:

Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Chairman Brown reported that Mr. Miner's subcommittee had the majority of the homework assignments that pertained to the public safety regulation working papers.

Education Ad Hoc Committee

Chairman Miner reported that the Ad Hoc Committee had met on November 7, 2007 and continued working on the educational components of the public safety regulation working paper. He stated that the basic plan at this point would be to discuss the added changes to the working papers during the upcoming Regulatory Committee meeting.

Administrative Affairs Committee

There was no report in that this Committee did not meet in October.

By- Laws and Policy Committee:

There was no report in that this Committee did not meet in October.

Communications Committee:

Chairman Coleman's stated that the Committee had discussed ways of getting out information to the public. He said that he would meet with Mr. Foster and explore different ways of getting information out to tow operators other than hiring a public relations firm that will conform to the committee's budget.

Second Signature Ad Hoc Committee:

Chairman Sawyers stated that the Committee had made some changes with the proposed report since the last meeting. He stated that the proposal is a fair one but he doesn't think everyone will be happy with the outcome. Mr. Sawyers stated that with every meeting that the committee has new issues. Chairman Hodge deferred action on the report by the full Board. He directed the Committee as well as Board Counsel to review the proposal and make sure that original charge to the Board and the Committee had been fulfilled.

New Business:

Mr. Sawyers reported on an incident meeting he attended in Virginia Beach on October 30, 2007. There were two main goals that were discussed at the meeting:

1. Smart traffic will allow a lane to open during an incident.
2. Quick clearance will clear an incident as soon as possible.

Old Business:

Mr. Minor asked that a letter be sent out to all localities informing them of the board's existence.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on December 11. The locations will be posted at a later date.

Adjourned:

Chairman Hodge called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Miner made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Drumheller, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was at adjourned at 10:50 a.m.