

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Fauquier County Towing and Recovery Advisory Board**  
**August 12, 2015, 6:00pm – 6:57pm**  
**Warrenton Voluteer Fire Department**

**Board Members Present:** Billy Hitt, Eddie Payne, Ron Stanley, Dave Foster, Neil Stribling, Charlie Crummett, Steve Wright

**Other Attendees:** Timmy Snyder, Ronald Jessee, Kenny Embrey, Rusty Crowe, Justin Foster, Rue McGee

**Open Meeting:**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Hitt.

**Approval of Minutes:** Steve Wright motioned approval of minutes, they were seconded and all members present were in favor of the approval.

**Public Time: No speakers**

**Work Session:**

Steve Wright spoke in regards to telling the deputies they are not taxi cabs. Steve advised that taking people home is not there job they will get them to a safe location and he said Rusty had a situation a few weeks ago. Billy Tow calls January 2015 thru June 2015 was 1043 tow calls 159 refusals and refusal percentage 15%. Stats passed around the room. Billy advised if anyone wanted copy he would get one to them.

**Hearing:**

Chairman Hitt sent Aarons Towing certified letter the 28<sup>th</sup> of July to Aaron's Towing stating to two alleged violations that occurred. The first on May 27, 2015 for overcharges that occurred for call on 66 and the second was on June 11, 2015 for violation on Training Standards of Towers which occurred on the exit ramp off 66.

Captain Hitt advised the Board Members that Mr. & Mrs. McVicker, the complainants, are at the meeting. Billy advised Aarons Towing is not going to be here because they haven't picked the mail up so he is going to have the McVicker's have their say to the Board and if they want to come back to the next meeting it is up to them. He told Hansford he has to be at the next meeting or we will go forward without him. The board reviewed the address that the letter was sent to.

Mrs. McVicker asked if he would have access to the information that they tell them prior to the meeting. Chairman Hitt advised that this is an open public hearing and it is all FOIAable. Billy told them they could tell the board tonight or come back to the next meeting that it was up to them.

Mr. McVicker explained that his complaint started after accident waiting two hours and he could not bring in his own tow company. He spoke with the Trooper and told him he had been waiting two hours and told him he had a tow company standing by and they gave them a few more minutes. They showed up with two wreckers he asked guy from the 1<sup>st</sup> wrecker what kind of money is he looking and he said he couldn't tell him, they have to call the office and no one is there, the owner is in New Jersey. Billy asked what accident looked like, they explained it was a jackknifed tractor trailer straight up in the median, trailer was empty, up against a little berm. He showed up and they had fuel spilled, Mr. McVicker was on phone trying to get his people to come and do the cleanup. Owner of the trailer showed up and they had tractor standing by to pull the trailer and they were told they couldn't do that. It took three hours to straighten it out and tow it. They got some fuel out and cleaned up a little fuel. Mr. McVicker was told he couldn't get the trailer out that evening that he would have to pay half the tow to get the trailer. Mr. McVicker requested how much and was told they didn't know he would have to talk to owner and did not call the next day since it was 7:00 pm. Mr. McVicker called Aarons the next morning and was told to call owner he is in New Jersey. They gave him a number and it was not the owner but supposed to be the manager and he did not have any of the numbers and would call the owner and have him call. An hour later he was called by the owner and was told that he hasn't had a chance to get the bill together yet and asked Mr. McVicker how much do you think it should be? Mr. Vickers told them from Buffalo to Pennsylvania towed 87 miles and it costed \$450.00 and then he was told that he would not get it done for that here. Conner called him back and asked for him to meet him at the lot in Marshall. Then Mr. Vickers asked how much they were looking at and he had his cell phone and on his phone \$8,200. Mr. McVicker asked how they arrived at that and was told they had two wreckers and nothing was itemized. Mr. McVicker told Hansford he was responsible for trailer and had an AMEX card with a \$3,500 limit and asked if he would take that and he did. He wrote him up a bill that Capt. Hitt has copy of and he paid the \$3,500 and took the trailer away. Mr. Vickers questioned the price; you towed 14 miles, it took you 3 hours how do you justify \$8,200. Mr. McVicker was told normally by the lb. Mr. McVicker asked how he knew how much he weighed and if they knew if he was loaded or empty. Then Mr. McVicker was asked the question if he was loaded and replied he was empty.

Rotator \$3,000, 25 ton \$900, Fuel Cleanup \$925, Labor \$1,625, Storage \$140 for two days

Mrs. McVicker advised the Board that they had to tell them that it was leaking fuel and they used stay dry and siphoned off 5 or 6 buckets of fuel and put it in there storage tank in the landscaping trailer they also used their padded tubing absorbent material. That is all the fuel cleanup they did. Steve Wright confirmed that they put buoys in the fuel tank.

There was 3 people, 2 wreckers, and landscaping trailer with a lady driving who said she was Aaron's wife and charged \$1,500 for that trailer.

Mr. McVicker explained while on lot tractor was broken into and told the Board that Conner admitted they took a slim jim to get in the front door and hood was pried open which they

denied. Mr. McVicker told the board the hood was pushed up into the windshield against the air cleaner and the only way to open it was to pry it and they scratched both air cleaners to get. Mr. McVicker had multiple picture of before and after and said that someone came by there and said they saw the hood up and when he went there he found evidence that someone jimmed the hood. They went to storage lot two or three times and they had to lock truck. The first day Mr. McVicker was asked for the key and he told him that it was still his property, they live in that truck all their belonging were in there and he was taking the key with him. Chairman Hitt asked to see pictures of the incident itself. Mrs. McVicker has on her phone. Mr. McVicker asked how much he would charge to tow to Bealeton and he said \$300, Mr. McVicker said that was about 28 miles and he didn't say anything. When he went to have it towed he was told that he couldn't tow it because it was too wide and they would have to have overload permit and signs. Mrs. McVicker advised they towed the tractor and trailer with one wrecker. Mr. Vickers said he had someone else tow. Crummett confirmed \$8,200 was for tractor and trailer, that was what was on his cell phone. Mrs. McVicker showed the pictures on the phone which was passed around to Board Members. Eddie Payne confirmed the 25 ton wrecker never did anything and was there the whole time and costed \$900. Mrs. McVicker was bothered by the way it was jacked if they pulled it from the trailer they would have straightened it up but by pulling by the front of the truck. Mr. McVicker said which made him have to do more cleanup. Both Mr. and Mrs. McVicker explained it might have done more damage by pulling it straight. They did not secure the truck at all the side box doors opened and stuff was falling out. He talked to the trooper when they got there. He said he would have words with them. The cargo door came open and it hit the limbs of the tree they took Belvoir Road, the windows were down and it poured and rain came inside. She asked Conner why it was so expensive and he said they had had 5 people there and two wreckers and she requested an itemized bill. She was trying to work with insurance company because of how much insurance company. Dave Foster confirmed that there was a discount of \$940 and the bill was \$7,150. Mrs. McVicker said the insurance company thought the bill was high. Steve Wright asked Charlie Crummett and Charlie explained why it took them two hours to get there. Steve asked for the pictures to be emailed to Chairman Hitt. Steve Wright thanked them for their patience wait for the Board to hear them. Mrs. McVicker said that one of the guys said they take multiple pictures and that Conner had pictures of the whole thing. Steve asked if they asked Tommy's Towing what he would have charged and Mr. McVicker said that he said he was not inclined to give him a number but heard from someone that it may have been about \$4,500. Eddie Payne confirmed that when truck was broken into nothing was taken. Mr. McVicker thinks the insurance adjuster did because they did not call him. Aaron's Towing Rate sheet from 7/1/14-6/30/15 application year was passed around to Board Members. After Conner agreed to tow the truck away when you have the truck raised up they wanted to look underneath to make sure something was broken and then they got the phone call that the hood was up and heard which is hearsay that Aaron's was trying to buy the truck or a friend and that he was trying to see if something was broke. Aaron's Towing Rate sheet from 7/1/14-6/30/15 application year was passed around to Board Members. Steve Wright wanted to know

approximately how much the truck weighed total and Mr. McVicker said approximately 45,000. Mrs. McVicker said destruction of grassy area was never cleaned up and Chairman Hitt said typically tow truck companies do not VDOT cleans up. Mrs. McVicker said that was one of the excuses given to her was all the cleanup. Billy explained that the Board Members were looking at pricing that is given at the beginning of application year. Billy wreck was considered a recovery. Mrs. McVicker thanked Charlie Crummett for the assistance for being there. The way it was handled by VDOT and the State was handled very well and it was appreciated.

Next tow meeting scheduled September 2, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the same place.

Neil Stribling made everyone aware that Hansford or Aaron was not available to answer Mr. McVicker because his younger brother passed away.

Next tow meeting scheduled September 2, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the same place. Motion made by Steve Wright and seconded by Neil Stribling. all members in favor.

Steve Wright motioned to adjourn, Charlie Crummett seconded. All members present were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.