



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
NEVADA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING, DECEMBER 27, 2024

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chairman Vaughn Hartung called the meeting to order at 9:30 am PST.

2. Roll Call

Chairman Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner Dawn Gibbons, Commissioner R. David Groover, Deputy Commissioner David Pasternak, Applications Manager Liz Babcock, Financial Analyst Garrett Hammack, Compliance Audit Investigator II Chris Greten, Chief Deputy Attorney General Michael Detmer, (Acting as the Administrative Attorney), Deputy Attorney General Louis Csoka.

Administrative Attorney Yoneet Wilburn was absent from the meeting due to being on vacation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Detmer led the recital of the pledge.

4. Public Comment – Public comment is welcomed during public comment periods and is limited to 3 minutes per person per public comment period. Unused time may not be allocated to other speakers. A speaker's viewpoint will not be restricted; however, reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant statements, unduly repetitious statements, and personal attacks that would objectively antagonize or incite others are examples of speech that may be reasonably limited. All comments are to be directed to the Commission as a whole.

During the general public comment period, at the beginning and end of the meeting, speakers may address any matter either on or off the agenda. Items voted on in a separate block or blocks shall have a single public comment period per block, and public comment will only be heard about the specific items being considered by the Commission in the block. For the remainder of the agenda, during items designated “for possible action” that are considered individually, public comment will only be heard about the specific item being considered by the Commission.

No Comments made during Public Comment.

5. Approval of Agenda

*Motion to approve the Agenda made by Commissioner Gibbons
Seconded by Commissioner R. David Groover
Approved 3-0.*

6. Briefings from the Commissioners

Chairman Vaughn Hartung comments: *I want to thank everyone for showing up today. I appreciate your time along with the effort and time placed into this special meeting. I hope everyone had an uneventful Christmas or Hanukkah. I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.*

No comments provided from Commissioner Dawn Gibbons nor Commissioner R. David Groover.

7. Briefing from the Deputy Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner David Pasternak comments: *Commented that he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year.*

8. Report of Legal Counsel

Deputy Attorney General Louis Csoka comments: *Mr. Csoka commented that there was nothing new to report since last time. We have the Titan PJR matter in the middle of January.*

9. Docket 24-10032 The joint application of Bell Trans, A Nevada Corporation d/b/a Bell Trans, Bell Limousine to sell and transfer and Bell Chauffeured Services, Inc. d/b/a KLS Chauffeured Services, Bell Trans, Bell Limousine, to purchase and acquire the authority to provide charter limousine, airport transfer, and special services authority within Clark County on the one hand and the State of Nevada on the other, granted under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) 1023, Sub 2.

Liz Babcock, Applications Manager comments: *Liz Babcock represented staff and provided the following comments:*

As mentioned, this is a sale and transfer which was filed on October 28, 2024, by Brent Bell to sell and transfer to Alexi Darbahani.

On December 10, 2024, a protest was filed by Brian Hardy Esq on behalf of Empire International, Ltd.

On December 12, 2024, an amendment to the application was filed to add Bell Trans and Bell Limousine as fictitious firm names for the new applicant going forward.

Staff supports this application in all aspects except for the fact that the criminal background report has not been received. Assuming no issues in that regard, staff supports the application, and therefore requests the application hearing be dispensed according to NRS 706.6411. The following procedures were performed by staff with acceptable results:

- *No Petitions for Leave to Intervene were filed.*
- *Background investigation was performed with no areas of concern excluding the results as mentioned previously of the background check.*
- *Pro Forma Balance Sheet includes 328 vehicles; reports 34% equity ratio; and a 4.54 current ratio; has enough cash to cover 90 days' worth of fixed expenses; and meets all financial requirements. No additional cash infusion is required except as they previously stated because the current bank balance exceeds the amount of cash needed.*
- *Pro Forma Income Statement projects \$28,800,000 in revenues and net income \$3,500,000 in the first 12 months of operating. The revenue is up \$500,000 more than Bell has done in the past. If they should not receive the \$500,000, they would still be compensable.*
- *Tariff – The Applicant is not proposing any rate changes from those currently used by Bell Trans.*

As mentioned above, there are compliance items that need to be completed before a certificate is issued which is standard procedures. We have the items itemized which are:

- 1) Provide fictitious firm name filing certificates for Bell Trans and Bell Limousine.*
- 2) Provide copies of stock certificates and supporting documents.*
- 3) The results of the criminal background are received with no areas of concern noted. Should they come back with areas of concern, this matter would be reopened for further proceedings.*

Chairman Vaughn Hartung comments: *Provided a question to Ms. Babcock. If the criminal background check has issues or concerns, would it cause a new hearing and what would happen in that event?*

Liz Babcock, Applications Manager comments: *When actual reports come back, should there be anything on it, this would go through the normal process which is that the hearing officer would determine if it is a concern or not. If it is a concern, depending on the level of the concern, it would open a hearing on the matter.*

Chairman Vaughn Hartung comments: *Additional question posed to Ms. Babcock. Are they asking for interim authority?*

Liz Babcock, Applications Manager comments: *No, they filed straight out a sale and transfer. No interim authority.*

Ms. Kimberly Maxson-Rushton, Cooper Levinson comments: *Ms. Maxson-Rushton mentioned that she is appearing on behalf of both applicants, Mr. Brent Bell, President of Bell Trans, and Mr. Darbahani on behalf of Bell Chauffeured Services. Ms. Maxson-Rushton mentioned that on behalf of the Applicants, they were very appreciative of the special meeting being called and the applicants would provide a brief presentation to the Commissioners.*

Mr. Bell, President of Bell Trans, comments: Mr. Bell echoed the thank you provided by Ms. Maxson-Rushton and provided the 40-year history of their family business. In addition, Mr. Bell mentioned that the business needs new leadership, new passion, new innovations and new investment. As spending the last six months with Mr. Darbahani, I believe he is the right person to lead this business into the future.

Mr. Alexi Darbahani, Bell Chauffeured Services, comments: Mr. Darbahani thanked the NTA for everything being reviewed and completed due to the holiday season. He provided his personal history of starting off his business in Beverly Hills with one vehicle in 1989 to having over 260 vehicles nationwide based in Los Angeles and New York. We do a lot of events one being the Oscars where we had 265 vehicles. We have been looking for a company in Las Vegas for awhile. Bell Trans is the company that has the experience, and they are a safe company. We are not planning to change anything with the company. Mr. Darbahani mentioned that they are keeping 99% of the staff.

Mr. Brian Hardy, Marquis Aurbach, comments: Protest can be filed up to the time of the meeting. Mr. Hardy stated that he would like to thank the Chair & Commissioners for what you do for the industry as well as the staff. The protest is against the applicant, nothing to do with the Bell family. The Bell Family has been a leader in the industry.

Mr. Hardy mentioned that what this protest denotes are the deficiencies set forth in the application as well as the concerns we hoped would be investigated during the process. Financial concerns related to some outstanding things they have done in other industries and lack of experience in other industries and as well as requirements of NAC 706.1375 (2M) which require that you show facts that the proposed operations will be beneficial to the traveling public.

Looking at Exhibit M, it states they are going to enhance employee opportunities for growth, enhance safety training, develop relationships with stakeholders, but there are no facts set forth on how they are going to do this. This was omitted on how they are going to do this. It was phenomenal that you get this done in less than 2 months – commend staff for going from 1 year to 2 months. My client Empire looks forward to new innovation in the industry. We feel Bell or a new applicant can do this. We did not wish to intervene into this as we trust staff.

Public Comment Period: No additional public comment was provided.

No additional comments provided by the Commissioners nor staff.

Motion for approval of agenda item Docket 24-10032 that includes it being subject to successful completion of the compliance items.

Motion made by Commissioner R. David Groover
Seconded by Commissioner Gibbons
Approved 3-0

- 10. Public Comment** – Public comment is welcomed at this time and is limited to 3 minutes per person. Unused time may not be allocated to other speakers. A speaker's viewpoint will not be restricted; however, reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant statements, unduly repetitious statements, and personal attacks that would

objectively antagonize or incite others are examples of speech that may be reasonably limited. All comments are to be directed to the Commission as a whole. During this period of public comment, speakers may address any matter either on or off the agenda.

Ms. Kimberly Maxson-Rushton, Cooper Levenson, comments: *Chairman & members of the authority, when I joined the TSA, I had the opportunity to work with Karen Rayson, and would like to congratulate her for becoming a grandmother on Christmas Day. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the work you have done in 2024. You go above and beyond – this is the hardest working administrative agency that I work with.*

11. Adjournment

In accordance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law, the Authority may consider agenda items taken out of order. The Authority may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The Authority may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The Authority may continue the meeting as deemed necessary. The Authority, at its discretion, may take public comment during times other than the designated Public Comment agenda items. The Authority reserves the right to limit public comment to three minutes per person. Comment may not be restricted based on viewpoint.

The presiding officer may order the removal of any person whose statement or other conduct disrupts the orderly, efficient or safe conduct of the meeting. Warnings against disruptive comments or behavior may or may not be given prior to removal. The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks which antagonize or incite others are examples of speech that may be reasonably limited.

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