File



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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DOCKET NO. 0804-N-80-HG

RE: APPLICATION OF CRUM VAN LINES, INC. TO OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR HIRE, AS A HOUSEHOLD GOODS CARRIER, OVER IRREGULAR ROUTES BETWEEN ALL POINTS IN CONNECTICUT UPON CALLS RECEIVED FROM A HEADQUARTERS IN DANIELSON.

FINAL DECISION

January 14, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Applicant's Proposal

By application filed on April 28, 2008, pursuant to Section 13b-389 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and assigned Docket No. 0804-N-80-TK, Crum Van Lines, Inc. (hereinafter "applicant"), with a mailing address of 17 Pearl Avenue, Putnam, Connecticut 06260 seeks authorization from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (hereinafter "Department") to operate motor vehicles in the transportation of household goods for hire, as a household goods carrier, over irregular routes between all points in Connecticut from a headquarters in Danielson.

B. Hearing Held

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-390, a hearing on this application was held at the administrative office of the Department, in Newington, Connecticut, on December 9, 2008.

Notice of the application and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the applicant and to other parties as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-390. Legal notice to the public was given by publication in The Norwich Bulletin, a newspaper having a circulation in the area of concern.

The matter was heard by a hearing officer designated by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-17.

C. Appearances

Mr. Brian Crum, appeared pro se on behalf of the applicant. The applicant's mailing address is 17 Pearl Avenue, Putnam, Connecticut 06260.

Sheldon Lubin, Public Utilities Examiner for the Department, was present at the hearing.

D. <u>Headquarters</u>

During the hearing, the applicant testified that he was no longer able to operate from office space in Danielson due to zoning issues. At the hearing the applicant announced his intention to operate offices in Putnam and South Windham. Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-304-F4 requires that the applicant must stay within its requested headquarters of Danielson unless it successfully requests to transfer its headquarters with Departmental approval. Upon being told that it was going to have to locate new office space in Danielson, the applicant agreed to do so.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The applicant seeks authorization to transport household goods from a headquarters in Danielson.
- 2. The applicant has operated a moving company in Rhode Island for the past four years. The applicant also performs interstate household goods moves to and from Connecticut.
- 3. The applicant will operate a 2004 Chevrolet straight box truck in the Connecticut moving business. The market value of this vehicle is \$22,000.
- 4. The applicant presented William Spitznagel who testified that additional movers are needed in Connecticut area based on his experiences moving the elderly population to assisted living or other facilities. Often these moves must be performed with little notice which is difficult for some moving companies to accommodate. Many of these moves are small, so a lot of moving companies do not want to perform them.
- 5. Mrs. Crum, the president of the company, has no criminal convictions on her criminal record check.
- 6. Mr. Crum has been in the moving business for the past 15 years. He is a retired police officer and performs the day to day operation of the business.
- 7. The applicant receives fifteen to twenty calls per month for moving services in Connecticut.
 - 8. At the current time there are two moving companies in Windham County.
 - 9. The applicant will pay \$2,421 annually for insurance for the one truck.
- 10. The applicant has cash of \$12,652, accounts receivable of \$36,312, liabilities of \$48,878, assets of \$184,159 and a net income of \$52,556.
- 11. The applicant presented two witnesses who have used his moving services. One of the witnesses had to move his parents to his Connecticut home. He called five different moving companies to accomplish this task only to be told that they could not do the job. In the end, he did the job himself.
 - 12. This application is not opposed by any existing motor carrier.

III. <u>DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW</u>

The Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over any person operating any motor vehicle in the transportation of household goods for hire as a household goods carrier pursuant to Section 13b-389 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Further, no person shall operate as a household goods carrier, within Connecticut, without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity to so operate.

In determining whether such a certificate shall be granted, the Commissioner of Transportation shall take into consideration the existing motor transportation facilities and the effect upon them of granting such a certificate, the public need for the proposed service, the suitability of the applicant, the financial responsibility of the applicant, the ability of the applicant efficiently to perform the service for which the authority is requested, the condition of and effect upon the highways involved and the safety of the public using such highways, pursuant to Section 13b-392 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The first criterion to be taken into account is the effect on the existing motor carrier facilities by granting the certificate. This application was not opposed by any existing motor carrier. Since the application was not opposed at the hearing, it appears that there would not be any effect on the existing motor carrier facilities if this application were granted.

The next criterion the applicant must prove is the public convenience and necessity for the proposed service. To prove public need, the applicant presented several witnesses. One witness, William Spitznagel, is a coordinator of senior services. Mr. Spitznagel works in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts primarily. As part of his job, Mr. Spitznagel arranges moving services for the elderly who may be relocating to assisted living or downsizing to a smaller home. He has had difficulty getting moving services for small moves and those with little lead time. He works with the applicant on moves within in Rhode Island and interstate moves and is very pleased with the applicant's service.

The applicant must also show financial suitability. The applicant has filed a balance sheet that shows that the applicant has cash of \$12,652, accounts receivable of \$36,312, liabilities of \$48,878, assets of \$184,159 and a net income of \$52,556. The applicant is already operating a successful moving company in Rhode Island and is financially suitable to expand to Connecticut.

The last criterion to be considered is the ability of the applicant to efficiently perform the service and the effect that the applicant's service would have on the highways. The applicant plans to operate one truck on the highways of Connecticut. As such, there appears to be little impact on the highways. The applicant has been operating for four years in Rhode Island with no problems.

Based upon the evidence presented, the applicant has proven the necessary elements to be granted a certificate.

IV. ORDER

Based upon the above and pursuant to Section 13b-391 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the application of Crum Van Lines, Inc. is hereby granted and Certificate Number 1758 is issued as follows:

CERTIFICATE NUMBER 1758 TO OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PROPERTY FOR HIRE AS A MOTOR COMMON CARRIER

Crum Van Lines, Inc. is hereby permitted and authorized, subject to such regulations and conditions as the Department may from time to time prescribe, to transport property for hire as a motor common carrier over irregular routes as follows:

Household goods, within the State of Connecticut, between all points upon calls received at its headquarters in Danielson.

The certificate holder must accept and transport property, as herein authorized in accordance with its tariff on file, for all persons who desire the service to the extent of the Certificate Holder's facilities at uniform rate for all similar service.

CONDITIONS:

Before the respondent begins operation in Connecticut it must notify the Department what its headquarters address will be in Danielson.

There shall be carried in each vehicle operated under this authority a copy of the Certificate registration receipt by the Department.

This Certificate shall remain in effect until suspended, amended or revoked by the Department. Failure of the Certificate Holder to maintain proper insurance or to comply with all motor vehicle laws and other pertinent State statutes and/or the rules, regulations and orders of the Department shall be considered sufficient cause to revoke said Certificate.

This Certificate may not be sold or transferred until it has been operational for more than twenty-four (24) months.

This Certificate is transferable only with the approval of the Department and is issued subject to compliance by the holder thereof with all motor vehicle laws of the State of Connecticut, and with such rules regulations and orders as this Department may from time to time prescribe.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut, on this 14th day of January 2009.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Administrative Law Unit

Bureau of Finance and Administration