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Kim Garvis, ATC

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 25, 2024
Middlefield Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman DelVecchio.

Members present: Dom DelVecchio, Ron Capozzi, Steven Koerber, Glenn McNamara, Brendan O'Connell, Frank Petrella and Howard Weissberg (remotely)

Members absent: Charlie Zieminski

Staff present: Bob Matuskiewicz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ron Capozzi made a motion, seconded by Glenn McNamara, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Site Manager's Report

Bob Matuskiewicz reported that 2,967 stickers have been sold to date.

The Peterbilt roll-off went in for DOT safety inspection and passed. The food recycling program produced 13.41 tons last year. If they were to put that in the compactor can, it would be one can. They run 52 weeks to Southington vs. one trip to Essex, at a cost of \$5,000 vs. \$1602. It was summarized that DMIAAB is subsidizing the composting program at over \$3,000 per year. Mr. Matuskiewicz noted that his numbers just include the driver, but do not include bags and tipping fees. Ron Capozzi asked for the total costs, showing the differences between the two in order to show the Board of Finance how much the commitment to composting actually costs. Dom DelVecchio explained that everything is differentiated in the budget except for the driver's hours to deliver to Southington. Dom added that they generate about 2,500 tons in MSW annually and are diverting 13.41 tons annually.

Ron Capozzi noted that Bob Matuskiewicz did a great job with the chips this past month and Mr. Matuskiewicz explained that it was Sean Piatek who did that.

Review Draft Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget

Dom DelVecchio had sent everyone a copy of the draft budget and asked them to review it. No vote will be taken tonight. He noted that the budget is going up about \$50,000 and highlighted two line items that are driving that, one being the tip fee for MSW which is going from \$116/ton to \$131/ton. That projected increase in the MSW has not been voted on yet by MIRA's Board of Directors. Mr. DelVecchio didn't know what the towns who ship their MSW out of state pay for a tip fee. DMIAAB's contract with MIRA (Essex) runs through June, 2027 and Dom believes Essex is willing to extend that contract and will continue to be viable for the foreseeable future. The State of Connecticut has created a task force to evaluate this whole situation. Howard Weissberg added that Laura Francis has a study going on for a consolidated waste management operation. Howard noted that he believes Middletown sends their MSW out of state even though they own the Lisbon plant. Ron Capozzi asked Mr. Weissberg if it is true that when cardboard and paper get wet it becomes MSW. Howard Weissberg felt that they should ask Willimantic Waste that question but assumed there would be no value if it was saturated.

The second item that increased the draft FY24/25 was wages which is driven by the minimum wage increase. Those two items primarily account for the increase in the FY24/25 draft budget. Howard Weissberg asked if the Boards of Finance are aware of the tip fee increases and Dom DelVecchio confirmed that they are.

Glenn McNamara asked where clerical is in the budget and Mr. DelVecchio stated that it was line item 707 on the spreadsheet.

Mr. DelVecchio added that the joint meeting with the Boards of Finance has tentatively been scheduled for February 27th at the Durham Community Center, but that has not been finalized yet. He added that if everything stays on schedule, DMIAAB should be getting a new truck next year.

Mr. DelVecchio asked everyone to review the proposed budget as they will vote on it at the February meeting. Dom welcomed any suggestions or comments. Ron Capozzi asked if reimbursement will be available from the state in case of an emergency and Mr. DelVecchio explained that if the governor declares an emergency, 70 percent reimbursement will be provided by the state and the towns pick up the remainder of out-of-pocket costs.

Review Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget Summary

Dom DelVecchio provided everyone with a summary of the current fiscal year's budget.

Mr. DelVecchio also explained that income received for the disposal of tires is less than the expense to dispose of them. Dom felt that they needed to increase the cost per tire from \$5.00 to \$6.00. Bob Matuskiewicz explained that they do not accept anything bigger than regular car/truck tires. Ron Capozzi suggested they go up \$2.00 and Dom DelVecchio agreed, but felt they may then start finding tires on the side of the road. Dom added that they dispose of approximately 700 tires a year.

Howard Weissberg made a motion, seconded by Glenn McNamara, to increase the tire disposal fee from \$5.00 to \$6.00, effective February 1, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Composting Units (Update)

Brendan O’Connell had nothing new to report. He hopes to come up with a revised plan for outreach and marketing to share with the group in March. Ron Capozzi suggested they get composting units that roll next time.

Dom DelVecchio added that he recently drafted two letters of noncompliance to private haulers that were not delivering their waste to Essex. Each hauler was served by a state marshal. The haulers had also failed to register and pay their fees. MIRA complemented the notice of noncompliance and served the haulers with a breach of contract notice as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brendan O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Frank Petrella, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Howard Weissberg added that he believes in co-collection, but there is a very bad taste with unit-based pricing and Meriden canceled their program. Howard thought they should proceed carefully and see what other transfer stations are doing. Dom DelVecchio felt that unit based pricing would have to be initiated by the Boards of Selectmen, the governing body, not DMIAAB.

Ron Capozzi asked about Mr. DelVecchio’s conversation with Portland about pay-to-throw and Dom explained that he had talked to them about the costs of the bags and what their fees were per bag. He was surprised to learn that Portland has only around 9,500 citizens and has a significantly lower diversion rate than our two towns. Mr. DelVecchio felt that enforcement would be the major issue and Mr. Capozzi also asked about enforcing composting. Howard Weissberg added that they have garbage police that go around checking bins and tagging containers.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Waz

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Alwaz First