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DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025
Middlefield Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Chairman DelVecchio.

Members present: Ron Capozzi, Dom DelVecchio, Steven Koerber, Glenn McNamara, Brendan O'Connell, Frank Petrella and Charles Zieminski (arrived late)

Members absent: Howard Weissberg

Staff present: Sean Piatek

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

Site Manager's Report

Sean Piatek reported that 3,066 stickers have been sold to date, with a lot more replacement stickers being issued now. Maintenance has been done on the grinder and they will be grinding brush next week. They have two drivers lined up for Tuesday and Wednesday next week for brush deliveries. Middlefield will start dumping brush at Strickland.

Because of the cold weather, the paper in the paper containers froze and they are working to clean them out.

Sean Piatek also noted that they need to replace tires for the Peterbilt and is researching quotes.

A board member asked if he could get a bucket load of compost next Thursday and Sean Piatek asked if it could be done on a day they are not open to the public. They will do it on Wednesday.

General Discussion – DMIAAB Proposed FY25/26 Budget

Dom DelVecchio reviewed that he had sent a copy of the proposed budget to the board members. Some of the contributors to the increase have been highlighted. This budget does include a lease for a new vehicle which has been amortized over seven years. There is a joint meeting next Wednesday with the Boards of Finance and Boards of Selectmen at the Durham Community Center at 6:30 PM.

Dom DelVecchio noted that they had agreed on a 15-year useful life for vehicles, but he is not sure where the budget will go. Frank Petrella inquired about the possibility of curbside pickup in town. Bob Yamartino and Brendan Rae had a private hauler approach them for MSW and recyclables pick up for all residents. Mr. DelVecchio noted that there are over 4,500 households. Curbside pick up would cost the towns just shy of \$1.2 million. DMIAAB's number is around \$9/household/month to handle all of the waste streams.

Dom DelVecchio explained that he will present annual tonnages for each waste stream. In the past, he had used 2,500 tons for MSW but it's been approx. 2,400 tons in the past two years. This year, he picked a number in between the two at 2,450 tons.

Discussion - DMIAAB MSW and Recyclables RFP Bids

Dom DelVecchio had shared the bids with the board members prior to the meeting. Initially, MIRA contacted all the member towns and they had a meeting where they indicated that the MSW tip fee would not be subsidized this year and would be \$202/ton for MSW and recyclables. At that point, the towns decided to do an RFP. If the bids came in within a certain threshold, DMIAAB would be able to opt out of the MIRA contract. In February, the MIRA board met and decided to subsidize the tip fee again this year and that brought the price down to \$136/ton for MSW and recyclables. Once that was done, DMIAAB no longer falls within the threshold to opt out. There had been a couple of towns requesting to opt out, but the MIRA board refused all requests because they didn't meet the threshold to trigger the opt out provision. The contract is in existence for two more years. MIRA will dissolve in June of 2025, but the contract runs through June of 2027. The State of Connecticut will assume all of MIRA's contracts. Dom DelVecchio added that most of the bids they received were very close to the \$136 number.

Discussion - DMIAAB Site Flyer

Glenn McNamara had done some edits to the flyer and the map will still need to be changed. Mr. McNamara reviewed the proposed changes, including updating the sticker fee to \$50. He asked if they wanted to mention the timing of the stickers and it was agreed to leave it as July. It was also noted that aluminum pots and pans need to go in the metal bin. Small metals, such as nuts and bolts, also go in the metal bin. Both should be removed from the bottles/cans recyclables section. Sean Piatek summarized that recyclables would only be tin/metals from your kitchen, such as tuna cans and cat food cans. All other metals should go in the metal bin. He added that plastic milk crates also do not go in the recyclables, but are put in the compactor.

There was some discussion about soda bottles being put in the recyclables instead of in the Boy Scouts bin. DMIAAB does not enforce bottle redemption recycling at the site. Sean Piatek also noted that plastic buckets larger than 5 gallons can't fit on the conveyor and would need to go into the hopper.

Looking at the fee schedule, Glenn McNamara stated that they want the flyer to be effective on July 1, 2025. They would also like to include sinks at \$3.00 and toilets at \$5.00. It was suggested to go to legal size paper if all of the information won't fit. Currently, all of the information is on Middlefield's website, but not Durham's. It was suggested that they review what is posted on the towns' websites. They will remove fees for mattresses and box springs on the flyer. Mr. McNamara felt it was hard to figure out what goes into electronics recycling and

scrap metal. Sean Piatek will check to see if LED bulbs and microwaves are considered electronic recyclables.

Glenn McNamara was going to add that the recycled oil cannot contain solvents and it was agreed to add that if it fits. He will also add that no one is allowed to add grass with their leaves. Mr. McNamara also rewrote the compost part of the flyer. Dom DelVecchio suggested they add “no charge” to the mattress section. It was also agreed to use the word “contractors” instead of commercial haulers and landscapers. Mr. DelVecchio will forward the map to Bascom & Benjamin to update it once the edits are made.

OLD BUSINESS

Composting Units (Update)

Brendan O’Connell had forwarded an email to everyone showing what is available for composting units. Dom DelVecchio asked everyone to review the various units and see what they’d like to offer. Mr. O’Connell will bring prices for the various models to the next meeting. Sean Piatek added that Carol Bufithis is asking the Lions Club to help subsidize a 6 x 10 metal shed to house the full bins. A Boy Scout will construct it for his Eagle Scout project.

Dom DelVecchio also noted that there is \$9,600 in the budget for Sean Piatek’s retirement benefit. He added that the snow budget came in high this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Capozzi made a motion, seconded by Steven Koerber, to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2025 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Waz
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Alwaz First