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DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Middlefield Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:09 PM by Chairman DelVecchio.

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

Members absent: Howard Weissberg

Staff present: Sean Piatek

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

Site Manager's Report

Sean Piatek reported that 3,140 stickers have been sold to date, with a lot more replacement stickers being issued now. The Town of Durham started picking up brush on April 14th with a lot more brush than normal. Middlefield is bringing their brush to Strickland Road and DMIAAB will bring the grinder to Strickland Road which leaves room at the site. The gas pump has also been fixed.

Sean Piatek noted that OSHA was at the site today after an incident on Saturday when a worker was injured on-site and had to go to the hospital. He was in the hospital for a couple of days, but is home now. OSHA reviewed DMIAAB protocols today and it was an overall positive visit. The board will discuss this further in Executive Session.

General Discussion – DMIAAB Proposed FY25/26 Budget

Dom DelVecchio noted that they still do not have a final budget to vote on because MIRA is dissolving, effective July 1st, and DMIAAB has submitted a request to opt out of their contract. DAS is supposed to assume all of MIRA's contracts for the remaining two years of the contract through June 2027, however, state legislation introduced late last year decided to dissolve MIRA early in June 2025. DAS was named as the successor, but they are not interested in assuming MIRA responsibilities. They still don't know who will take over on July 1st and they have had numerous meetings with representatives of MIRA and the CEOs using the Essex transfer station

and there is still no resolution. This will all affect the tip fee. Two letters were sent on behalf of all the municipalities utilizing the Essex transfer station requesting a collective opt-out but MIRA was not willing to accept that. A third letter was sent to DAS last week indicating that if the DAS does not confirm to the towns in writing by May 1st, as the successor to MIRA, that DAS will assume operations in Essex the contracts with Durham/Middlefield would be considered void and terminated on that date.

Dom DelVecchio added that he had received a call asking if DMIAAB would be interested in running the Essex transfer station. Dom told MIRA that DMIAAB would not be interested. Dom DelVecchio will be meeting with the two First Selectmen and six or seven state legislators to try to explain our position to them and that we may need their help in opting out of the contract. Mr. DelVecchio added that Durham and Middlefield in budget hearings are using a higher MSW tip fee number in their budgets but will explain to the public that tip fee is not finalized.

Discussion - Peterbilt Tire Bids

Sean Piatek explained that they now need to replace the second set of drive tires on the Peterbilt. He has received three quotes, Pete's Tire Barn, Oasis and Sullivan, which are all pretty close. He called Sullivan today and they will honor their quote of \$2,286. Pete's Tire Barn is a little higher, but they do have experience with them.

Glenn McNamara made a motion, seconded by Brendan O'Connell, to approve the purchase of four tires for the Peterbilt at a price not to exceed \$2,400. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion - DMIAAB Site Flyer

Glenn McNamara sent out an updated flyer yesterday and asked if everyone had reviewed it. Dom DelVecchio asked about the word "without" in the fee schedule section and adding sinks at \$3.00 and toilets at \$5.00. Under electronics, Mr. DelVecchio wondered if LED could be recycled and Sean Piatek confirmed that they are. Mr. McNamara will add that to the list.

Glenn McNamara made a motion, seconded by Frank Petrella, to move into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Matter

The board returned to regular session and Dom DelVecchio noted that several members of the board are up for reelection soon. He added that Howard Weissberg has transitioned into a new position, apologized for not being able to attend the meeting and has stated he would urge Howard to run for reelection. Brendan O'Connell has decided not to run for reelection.

OLD BUSINESS

Composting Units (Update)

Dom DelVecchio asked everyone to review the links that Brendan O'Connell had sent to everyone. Mr. DelVecchio will also send a link to the RiverCOG page. Brendan O'Connell will send out recent pricing on the cone and earth machine. Mr. O'Connell felt that the \$89.95 unit is the most cost effective and is bigger than the other two.

Dom DelVecchio asked Brendan O'Connell to pull together the information about how many units have been sold. There was discussion about how to physically remove the compost from the Tumbler composting unit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steven Koerber made a motion, seconded by Ron Capozzi, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025 regular meeting, as presented. Motion passed, with one abstention.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Waz

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Alwaz First