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DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Middlefield Community Center

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:17 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

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 the horizontal grinder is in Guilford grinding brush for the second week. This year, they are only going to single grind rather than double grind. Guilford has had issues with their loader. Once the brush grinding is complete in Guilford, the plan is to bring the grinder straight to Strickland Road to grind Middlefield's brush and then back to the DMIAAB site.

Sean Piatek added that they have met with OSHA regarding the injury and they made some suggestions on safety protocols. OSHA has asked that they do a risk assessment for every task performed at the site. Everyone will need to read and sign the protocols. Dom DelVecchio noted that Sean Piatek did a great job with the first two protocols. OSHA had been on-site a month or two before the incident occurred and had requested a couple of safety protocols at that time for various operations performed on equipment. They also want a chain linked fence near the demo, metal and ash containers as well as any area where there is a concern that the public can fall. Sean Piatek has received a proposal for fencing that will be discussed at the next meeting.

Glenn McNamara suggested that lines be painted on the driveway and at the compactor area and everyone agreed. Sean Piatek reported there had been an issue with the electronic gate and Eagle Fence has repaired it.

Another issue raised by staff was the lighting inside the electronics bin. An employee had slipped and fallen in the bin and there is now a motion-activated light in the container and all the holes in the roof of the container (container owned by Take 2 Electronics) have been fixed. Currently, residents are not allowed inside the bin. Glenn McNamara noted that it looks sloppy.

General Discussion – DMIAAB Proposed FY25/26 Budget

Dom DelVecchio noted that a final vote on the budget will occur once executed contracts for disposal are finalized. DMIAAB will review and vote on the awarding a contract for tipping fees for MSW disposal this evening. MSW delivery proposals were once again shared with the board. DMIAAB also has three different proposals for recyclables that was shared with the board. The three options have been forwarded to the attorneys for review. Once an option has been decided, they can finalize the budget. MIRA is currently offering reimbursement for recyclables via a \$1.5 million sinking fund and will reimburse DMIAAB for 50 percent of the cost of recyclables. Ron Capozzi asked if there was a drop-dead date for the budget and Dom DelVecchio explained that it should have been finalized weeks ago. It is now eight days before MIRA closes and MIRA just shared information today about the recyclables. Mr. DelVecchio noted that they can hold a special meeting to take the vote on awarding a recyclables contract. He explained that the DMIAAB budget has been set with the understanding that they can achieve significant reductions by weighing these options.

Discussion – DMIAAB Site Flyer

Dom DelVecchio thanked Glenn McNamara and his wife for their efforts on the flyer. Mr. DelVecchio's wife did the final edits and the flyer should be all set. He asked everyone to review it and provide any comments. Dom DelVecchio asked Glenn McNamara to gather information on the cost of printing at least 3,200 flyers which will be handed out at sticker time. Stickers will start to be sold after the second week of July. It was suggested by Frank Petrella to check with both Middlefield and Durham about who they use for printing.

Discussion - MSW Tip Fee Bids Recommendation

Dom DelVecchio reviewed and shared the four MSW proposals with everyone, including Reworld, Willimantic Waste, Murphy Road Recycling and CWP. The most favorable proposal was from Reworld (formerly Covanta) and DMIAAB would haul direct to the burn facility in Bristol which would eliminate the need for the double handling of the MSW and results in a significant savings. It is also approximately the same distance to Bristol as it is to Essex. The proposal is for five years. There was a question about the stability of Reworld in five years and Dom DelVecchio noted that the rate is locked in for five years and they will probably have to go out to bid again in five years. Both First Selectmen and the town attorneys have reviewed and commented on the final contract. Glenn McNamara questioned whether Reworld will be responsible for enforcing private hauler deliveries from Durham/Middlefield and Mr. DelVecchio stated that they would not be. Dom also noted the contract was worded in such a manner that private haulers collecting waste in Durham/Middlefield will be allowed to dispose of MSW in Bristol upon the consent of both parties. CIRMA is reviewing the contract as well.

Dom DelVecchio summarized that they have to make a recommendation tonight as they are running out of time.

Ron Capozzi made a motion, seconded by Frank Petrella, to approve and recommend the acceptance of the Reworld MSW tip fee five-year bid proposal for MSW disposal at the Bristol, Connecticut facility, contingent upon any revisions authorized by the towns. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion - Guilford Grinding

Dom DelVecchio noted that DMIAAB discussed this earlier and added that the contract does not require DMIAAB to double-grind. Guilford will begin to truck some of the excess product out to Supreme Forest Products. It was suggested that the Guilford grinding be split up into two separate time periods so that it doesn't back up the DMIAAB site. Dom DelVecchio reiterated the issues with Guilford's equipment and noted that the contract is limited to 40 hours. Frank Petrella questioned if they were losing money on this. Currently, Sean Piatek has been in Guilford for 24 hours, but has only ground for 11 which is a dilemma. This is the last year for the current contract.

Glenn McNamara made a motion, seconded by Ron Capozzi, to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Matter

The board returned to regular session.

OLD BUSINESS

Composting Units (Update)

Brendan O'Connell has sent all of his materials to Dom DelVecchio. They now have 10 tumblers and 13 Green Machines in stock. The price to members of the community will have to be increased to \$45. The sign also needs to be fixed. Dom DelVecchio also noted that they will have to determine who will handle composting at the next meeting. There was discussion about where files and documents exist and it was suggested to have a shared site for all the information.

Dom DelVecchio added that the board will discuss the OSHA recommendations at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steven Koerber made a motion, seconded by Frank Petrella, to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2025 regular meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the special meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Waz

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