

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 31, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Chairman DelVecchio at the Middlefield Community Center

Members present: Ron Capozzi, Dom DelVecchio, Charlie Zieminski, Howard Weissberg, Chad Spooner
Members absent: Jim Gibbons, Pete Shoudy, Frank Petrella **Staff present:** Bob Matuskiewicz and Heather Castiglia. **Board of Finance members present:** Beth Moncata, Bob Donahue, Chuck Stengel, Nancy Cuomo, Laurie Tuttle, Molly Nolan **Public present:** Alex Shoudy

A motion was made by Chad Sooner and seconded by Howard Weissberg to eliminate the Executive Session from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Finance members in attendance introduced themselves.

Alex Shoudy introduced himself to the Board and explained his father, Pete Shoudy, will not be able to attend future meetings and Alex would like to volunteer to stand in for him until June 2019, when Pete's term on the board is up.

Chairman DelVecchio stated that the bylaws allow for an alternate to be appointed by the board for the remaining term.

A motion was made by Ron Capozzi seconded by Howard Weissberg to seat Alex Shoudy on the board in place of Peter Shoudy. Motion passed unanimously.

Site Manager's Report

- The battery operated gate hardware has been replaced with a motion sensor electronic hardware.
- Loader broke a drive shaft and has been repaired
- 3100 stickers have been sold not including replacements

New Business

Discussion with the Durham Board of Finance

Nancy Cuomo explained to DMIAAB that the Board of Finance would like to have a discussion regarding the letter from MIRA that explains a mechanical failure at the CSWS trash-to-energy facility in Hartford. Diverting waste while the facility is undergoing repairs has incurred additional cost and will increase the tip fee for DMIAAB to \$85 per ton. DMIAAB is currently paying \$72/ton.

Nancy Cuomo asked for more information regarding the failure, and the expense this will cause DMIAAB in regard to the overall budget.

Mr. DelVecchio explained that the Hartford MIRA facility is an aging, quasi-public agency that unfortunately does not have a lot of support from the state. Until MIRA board members meet at the end of February, DMIAAB will not know if the increase will definitely occur or whether a smaller increase will be implemented.

Nancy Cuomo asked if the tip fee increases to \$85 per ton, what will the amount incurred to our site be for the end of this fiscal year (March 1, 2019-June 30, 2019) and what will the amount be for the fiscal year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

Together, the Board of Finance members and DMIAAB members estimated the cost would be approximately \$9,500 for the remainder of this fiscal year, and close to \$37,000 for next fiscal year.

The Board of Finance asked what has DMIAAB done/doing to divert waste from the MSW stream to save cost.

Mr. DelVecchio answered that DMIAAB encourages residents to recycle. The recycling market has collapsed and unfortunately hauling recycling is costly. The DMIAAB board has been researching this issue for the past several years to try to curb the cost of hauling recyclables which are very light for the space they fill in the containers.

Ron Capozzi stated that DMIAAB also encourages composting, and have also been researching ways to assist the residents with this, such as the subsidized composter sale to residents coming up in the future. He also commented that you'd have to reduce air space in the recycling, to make it more economical to haul. It has been suggested to shred plastics, but Mr. Delvecchio explained that shredding plastics is labor intensive and makes it difficult to process at the recycling centers.

Board of Finance Chair, Bob Donahue, asked about the revenue stream at the site and what's in place for generating revenue to offset costs. He asked for an explanation regarding the pricing and sale of stickers at the site, and how does DMIAAB enforce the sticker policy.

Mr. DelVecchio explained the procedure of the stickers, with use for the site being monitored by employees visually checking vehicle stickers. He also spoke of how the DMIAAB board has been researching for the past several years the idea of an RFID system (much like EZ PASS) that could possibly track the usage of possible abusers of the site.

Mr. Capozzi and Howard Weissberg explained that after much research into License Plate recognition software, it is apparent there is no product that would work to allow pass-holders to enter the site (RFID activated entrance) *and* could also track how many trips each pass-holder (household) was making to the site.

Mr. Capozzi also stated that the town resident user data has been added to a database and DMIAAB has to find the right system to utilize for monitoring and tracking.

Bob Donahue stated he felt no one should be using the site without a sticker after a certain date.

Chairman DelVecchio assured the Board of Finance that the site employees do their best to monitor who is utilizing the site, and turn away anyone without the most current DMIAAB sticker affixed to their vehicle.

The conversation turned to "pay as you throw". Nancy Cuomo asked if "pay as you throw" could be a viable option and it seemed reasonable, as maybe a way to generate revenue because residents would pay each time they used the site.

Chairman DelVecchio stated that the income for many "pay as you throw" systems are gauged by the size of the bag the resident throws (volume), not the weight of the MSW. The DMIAAB MSW tip fee is based upon weight (tonnage) not volume. This produces a discrepancy in fees charged. Also, taxpayers would be forced to pay for maintenance of the site in their taxes, as well as each time they used the site. Residents would most likely dislike this proposition and there would be opposition. Alternatively in several towns that have considered this system, transfer stations sometimes decide not to accept MSW and recyclables to save money.

Mr. Weissberg was concerned it was detrimental to the taxpayer as well as "political suicide."

Bob Donahue explained that in Guilford, the transfer station is pay as you use -\$7 per visit for throwing MSW.

Chairman DelVecchio stated that it may not cover the cost of running the site if there is no way to weigh what people are throwing out. Cannot use the scale for weighing MSW because it would be too time intensive.

Chad Spooner described the subsidized composter program that will happen in the Spring. DMIAAB will purchase two types of composters and subsidize the cost so that residents can buy them at a discounted price.

Marketing will need to be done to get the word out to the public about the sale as well as the importance of composting and diverting MSW.

Nancy Cuomo brought up the sticker fee and asked if DMIAAB would be amenable to raising the sticker fee to \$50 for the coming fiscal year.

Chairman DelVecchio stated that DMIAAB could not make that decision without first getting approval from the Middlefield Board of Finance. In the past, Middlefield Board of Finance has had concerns with raising the sticker fee and has stated that it is another form of taxation on the residents.

Chuck Stengel commented that it is not a tax increase because only the residents using the site pay the fee.

Chairman DelVecchio also stated that he meets with both Boards of Finance together to go over yearly DMIAAB budget so that they can make decisions and encouraged the Durham Board of Finance to meet together with DMIAAB and the Middlefield Board of Finance to discuss the sticker fee.

The Durham Board of Finance would like to see the yearly sticker fee to increase to \$50.

At this time, the Board of Finance members left the meeting.

License/Registration Private Haulers

Chairman DelVecchio updated the board. Marshals served the three private haulers with notices to comply with the DMIAAB registration, and so far one hauler has complied. One hauler passed his customers on to another private hauler.

Budget Workshop

Chairman DelVecchio briefly reviewed the new budget with the Board. Board members were asked to review the budget and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

December 2018 meeting minutes and this meeting's minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Castiglia

Cc: Durham Town Clerk, Middlefield Town Clerk, Board Members