

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Meeting held via ZOOM teleconferencing

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Chairman DelVecchio online by “Zoom” virtual meeting platform.

RECORDING link:

Members present: Ron Capozzi, Dom DelVecchio, Brendan O’Connell, Frank Petrella, Howard Weissberg, Charlie Zieminski, Steven Koerber **Members absent:** Jim Gibbons **Staff present:** Heather Castiglia, Bob Matuskiewicz

A motion was made by Ron Capozzi and seconded by Howard Weissberg to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Site Manager’s Report

- Kenworth turbo needed to be replaced, cost \$6,400. loader coolant leak, a line broke and was repaired on site.
- Durham and Middlefield brush pickups done. Around 800 yards of mulch donated.
- Boy Scouts haven’t taken bottles/cans in 3 months, but are looking into a bottle/can redemption site in Stratford that the Boy Scouts can work with to remove the abundance of bottles/cans.
- The site has been busier than before the lockdown. In, February there was 175 tons of MSW, in March that went up to 231 tons with 217 tons in April, and demo went from 29 tons in February to 51 tons in March and 64 tons in April.
- Stickers sales are suspended for now. At this point, anyone coming in without a sticker gets logged into the system and will be charged in July when the new stickers come out.
- Town of Middlefield has made sure that the Plainfield/Southington Health District has been able to get the site signs and supplies pertaining to COVID- 19 safety. Mr. Matuskiewicz mentioned that Ed Bailey has been instrumental in getting hand sanitizers, wipes, PPE.
- Chairman DelVecchio spoke to how well everyone is working together at the site during the pandemic and that the Town of Middlefield should be thanked for their help.

New Business

Approval of FY20/21 Annual Permit Fee

Chairman DelVecchio presented the budget to both town Boards of Finance and Boards of Selectmen together in March. Both towns voted to recommended an increase in the sticker fee to \$50 a year. Important that the Boards of Finance and Boards of Selectmen jointly discuss this matter, because it’s a public policy decision that allows the towns to establish and make a recommendation to the DMIAAB board for the user fee. If the cost of operating the facility isn’t paid from user fees, it’s coming from taxpayer dollars.

New budget forwarded to the Board Members reflects the increase in the sticker fee change. Annual revenue is currently \$92,000. The new \$50 sticker fee will increase revenue to \$152,000.

Boards of Finance/Selectmen members also discussed the idea of a higher commercial fee for pick-up trucks. Discussion moved toward a \$100 fee for trucks with combination plates, trucks with business logos, or maybe only trucks that are registered in company names. Chairman DelVecchio pointed out that many homeowners have pick-up trucks, and it doesn’t necessarily mean that they are going to be bringing their commercial trash to the site. There was a recommendation to create a \$100 for commercial vehicles. Chairman DelVecchio and others felt that customers won’t pay that.

Suggests that DMIAAB keep a log starting July 1st of how many pick up trucks are registered in business names. The enforcement of a commercial sticker fee may become an issue if residents refuse to pay.

Howard Weissberg stated, "I find it interesting that the same people who fought against us trying to determine who the heavy users were are the same people that are now trying to implement a fee on those they perceive are heavy users...without any data." Having a pickup truck does not mean you are a heavy user.

Chairman DelVecchio agreed that currently DMIAAB doesn't have any means of tracking heavy usage and that is why DMIAAB is looking into the license plate recognition software.

Frank Petrella explained that he has a pick-up truck and goes to the dump once every three weeks and that is not heavy use. Imposing a fee on pick-up trucks doesn't seem like it would work.

The Board members agreed that the sticker fee should be increased to \$50 a year. We have not increased the sticker fee since July 2014.

A motion was made by Howard Weissberg and seconded by Ron Capozzi to support the \$50 sticker fee as proposed by the Middlefield and Durham Boards of Finance. Motion passed unanimously

As far as the commercial fee a good starting point would be to note in the computer system log if vehicles come in with a business logo/license plate/registration.

Chairman DelVecchio agreed with Mr. Matuskiewicz that the site can be very busy at times, and it can be difficult to note who are the heavy users.

Approval of Revised Budget FY20/21

- Chairman DelVecchio Line item 103-06 an increase in revenue from the increased annual sticker fee. Annual revenue will increase from \$92,000 to \$152,000.
- Line item 450-10 the Boards of Finance and the Board of Selectmen both agreed that they did not want us to pursue a lease purchase of a new truck this year. Usually DMIABB gets a new one every 10 years. They removed the \$32,000 annual lease payment, we own the truck at the end of the 5 year lease. Reduction in expenses related to not pursuing the purchase of the truck.
- Mr. Capozzi states "they are basically micromanaging how they run the system." In order to cost shift from their fiscal mess onto ours...May be right about the trucks but if however if next year at this time...sets up where we lose money because we did not do it in a timely manner." Mr. Capozzi reserves the right to say "I told you so"
- DMIAAB currently Monitors the cost to maintain these vehicles.
- Dom mentioned that the liquid road salt is damaging the frames of the vehicles. Not sure it's prudent to keep a vehicle longer than 10 years in this environment
- Over the last two year period there was an increase of \$60,000 just in MSW tip fees to maintain the 2700 tons of MSW per year.
- Mr. Capozzi stated, "the budget is based on the assumptions of the old normal, we are now in a new normal, in which the volumes are much different. It seems like the waste that was being done commercially has shifted to the personal, where the people are now staying at home. We can't anticipate what are future expenses will be. This budget as written is a working model that we don't have much choice about changing. This is an up or down vote."

A motion was made by Ron Capozzi and seconded by Charlie Zieminski to approve the budget as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman DelVecchio concluded the discussion by speaking about the changes to come in 2021. Right now we are not paying a recycling tip fee. Most likely at the end of 2021 there will be a recycling tip fee and another increase in the MSW tip fee.

License Plate Recognition

Howard Weissberg has been filling out the SMART program application. The Program is for implementing a pay as you throw system. Mr. Weissberg is applying to the SMART Program on behalf of DMIAAB and will tie it into the data collection (license plate recognition funding) as a partial pay as you throw program. He describes it on the application as:

License plate recognition will permit for the identification of heavier users and direct them to the scale to pay as you throw this will reduce waste and fairly distribute cost to the users of the transfer station. Partial pay as you throw has a better opportunity for acceptance. Full pay as you throw requires significant resources that a small transfer station can not afford.

There are approximately 3200 households in Durham/Middlefield that use the transfer station. There are 4284 households in Durham and Middlefield.

DMIAAB will need to approve SMART for data collection program and partial pay as you throw system. The Board would have to publish, promote and give people an opportunity to comment on it. Pending based upon financing license plate recognition and billing of heavy users.

Mr. Weissberg will send a draft of the application out to the DMIAAB members for review.

Old Business

License/Registration Private Haulers

The private hauler who is in default with the DMIAAB requirements will be served and processed in the court system once COVID-19 lockdown is lifted.

Composting Units

Ron Capozzi is trying to come up with ideas of how to go on with the composter sale during the Pandemic.

- Maybe an online sale could be an option (posting on social media.)
- Find out the interest in these from the public and order
- Mr. Capozzi said there are enough spares left, should people want to order now.
- Generating interest is important
- DEEP's key component to reducing MSW
- We do finance 50% of the cost so there is an incentive to buy.

February 2020 and this meeting's minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53PM

Respectfully Submitted,

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