

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 25, 2020
Peckham Park Pavilion, Middlefield

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Chairman DelVecchio.

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

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

Site Manager's Report

- 4th of July Saturday will be closed open on the following Monday
- Town of Middlefield mowed the sidelines and boundaries.
- New millings on our roadways and near entrance and exit to scale, as well as roadway to brush and leaf pile.
- The new \$50 Sticker fee has caused discontent with many users.
- Boy Scout Bottles and cans have been picked up for delivery to a new service provider.
- Grinding for Guilford is finished

New Business

Annual COLA increases

Chairman DelVecchio passed out a chart describing the site employee wage COLA increases. The minimum wage will increase from \$11 to \$12 on September 1, 2020. Therefore, the newer employees will get a \$1 increase to meet minimum wage requirements. To ensure the wages at the site are comparable to the duties and experience of the employees, Chairman DelVecchio proposed that the employees making the current minimum wage (\$11/hour) will have their wages increased by \$1.00/hour; employees with an hourly wage already above the minimum wage that have more experience and have been employed longer (with the exception of Bob Matuskiewicz, Linda Hanley and the site Drivers) will be issued a \$1.00/hour raise, while Bob Matuskiewicz, Linda Hanley and the site Drivers will receive the standard 3% wage increase.

Mr. Matuskiewicz asked why the dates of the minimum wages is staggered over the years. Each year, the minimum wage increases at a different month of the year. Mr. Capozzi stated it seemed as if it was an 11-month calendar, instead of a full year. Chairman DelVecchio explained the dates were agreed upon by State legislature.

Mr. O'Connell asked how long some of the employees have been working. Mr. Matuskiewicz replied some of the employees have been there for several to many years. Chairman DelVecchio has the exact information and can forward it to Mr. O'Connell.

A motion was made by Ron Capozzi and seconded by Steve Koerber to approve a wage increase of 3% to the site drivers, site manager and administrative secretary; in addition, all other employees will be given \$1.00/hour raise effective July 1, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

License Plate Recognition

Howard Weissberg is to send a draft of the DEEP application for possible DEEP funding/grant out to the DMIAAB members for review and will be able to update the board on his progress at the next meeting.

Old Business

License/Registration Private Haulers

The courts are just starting to open up and hear cases again. The private hauler who is in default with the DMIAAB requirements will be served and processed in the court system once the courts are back to business as usual.

Composting Units

Chairman DelVecchio explained the composter program is an important part of DMIAAB's permit requirements. DEEP's Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS) requires municipal transfer stations to show that they are making a conscience effort to help the community reduce MSW by encouraging recycling and composting. DMIAAB is required to file this info with DEEP. Research showed that composting at the transfer station was not a good option, so \$3000 a year was invested to subsidize the cost for personal home composters for residents who were interested. The pilot DMIAAB Composter Program was started and run by former DMIAAB board member Chris Flanagan several years ago and most recently by Chad Spooner.

Due to COVID-19, the resulting quarantine and health safety protocols have made it difficult to organize the sale for this year.

Chairman DelVecchio asked if Mr. O'Connell would head up this year's sale.

- Dom will put Mr. O'Connell in touch with Chad Spooner
- Advertising could be signage at the site, online posting, a set-up at the farmers market
- Assistance could come from the CRHS Eco Club or other groups dedicated to sustainability, horticulture, and ecology

Other Business

Chairman DelVecchio explained that several residents were concerned with the dangers of spreading Covid-19 through the Registration sticker process. He clarified to the Board that the residents information consisting of their license and registration does not have to be held or handled by staff. The residents can remove their own sticker and can place the new sticker on, as long as they affix the new sticker to their windshield in the presence of the site employee. The sticker must be affixed to the windshield before they leave the site. Chairman DelVecchio will be drafting a protocol for permit purchasing and the requirements for affixing the new permit for FY 20/21 during the Covid-19 Pandemic to minimize points of contact. The protocol will be posted on the towns respective websites.

Mr. Petrella suggested the Board could put an announcement/article in the Town Times to explain why the sticker fee went up to \$50.00. He felt it may ease discontent expressed towards site employees by residents over the increase. Chairman DelVecchio said that was an excellent idea if anyone on the board wanted to write an explanation to have it published, he would be agreeable. Chairman DelVecchio indicated that the increase in the sticker fee is directly related to the increased cost of the MIRA MSW tip fee over the last two year period.

Mr. Petrella brought up how the transfer station employees are designated by the state as essential workers. He stated that he feels these employees, having worked throughout the lockdown when the transfer station was at its busiest (information given by Mr. Matuskiewicz at the May meeting) deserve a small bonus. He asked if a small monetary gift or gift card be given to them as a thank you. Chairman DelVecchio explained that he can bring it up to both Towns' Board of Selectmen to see if there is a way to show appreciation for their hard work and dedication. It was mentioned that some municipalities give hazardous work pay to their employees during times like the COVID-19 lockdown.

Mr. Capozzi attempted to resign from the Board. Chairman DelVecchio urged him to stay, acknowledging the value and importance of his contributions to the Board. Mr. Matuskiewicz and Board Members agreed that Mr.

Capozzi was a valuable asset to the Board and asked him to not resign, but to wait and reconsider. Mr. Capozzi's knowledge of sustainability (especially pertaining to our community), horticulture, and his involvement on many boards and committees related to these, as well as his willingness to visit with town officials and discuss items on DMIAAB's behalf are all valued by the Board. Mr. Capozzi agreed to stay on.

Mr. Capozzi asked Chairman DelVecchio to add his agenda items on the agenda for the next meeting. He has forwarded the item through email to Chairman DelVecchio as well as all the board members, and Heather Castiglia, recording secretary. Chairman DelVecchio will add it to the next agenda.

A motion was made by Frank Petrella to approve February 2020 and May 29, 2020 minutes and seconded by Charlie Zieminski. This meeting's minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

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