

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Meeting held via ZOOM teleconferencing

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Chairman DelVecchio.

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

Public present: Richard Parmelee, Tonya Buddie

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

Site Manager's Report

- Four containers have been repaired: three bottle & cans containers, and one metal/demo container. With these cans refurbished, hoping to get a few more years out of them and be able to put off purchasing a new one.
- Freon appliances have been recovered and demo/metal gate has been repaired.
- Over 3,082 stickers sold

New Business

DMIAAB Fiscal Year 21/22 General Budget Discussion

- Chairman DelVecchio explained that on February 24th, 2021 MIRA voted and set a tip fee at \$105 per ton that includes MSW and recyclables.
- The tip fee is currently at \$91 per ton. Chairman DelVecchio estimated the tip fee at \$100 per ton in the preliminary budget, so he will adjust the budget to reflect the change and send it to the board members.
- DMIAAB has never had to pay a tip fee for recyclables. As of July 1st, 2021 there will be a tip fee for recyclables and it is rolled in with the MSW tip fee.
- MIRA now sorts recyclables on site in Hartford, and has not yet chosen a contractor for recycling, but they are still entertaining bids.
- Chairman DelVecchio will go through the budget this weekend and revise it. He explains he thinks it will be wise to postpone the purchase of a new container to offset the impact of the new MIRA tip fee.
- Included in the budget is the purchase of a new truck. The 2010 truck should be replaced, as repairs to keep it in good working condition are costly. It is usually a 5-year lease purchase, with the truck being owned outright in the 5th year. Will need the Boards of Finance approval to purchase a new truck.
- Repairs have become frequent and more costly as the truck ages. Usually DMIAAB is offered a \$60,000 return on investment as a trade in value from the dealers. Several dealers reduced or retracted their offers. One dealer upheld the offer of \$60,000 because the truck had been so well maintained, and detailed records were kept by Bob Matuskiewicz and site employees.
- Ron Capozzi adds that the bottom line is DMIAAB can't delay the purchase of a new truck for another year. It was penny wise and pound foolish for the Boards of Finance to delay this purchase last year.
- Volume of MSW when comparing 2019 and 2020 was very similar. Demolition tonnage was extremely high, but because of the scale, DMIAAB is reimbursed accordingly for the expense of the disposal of demo.

- The site is doing a great job in controlling the use of the facility by town residents, meaning only town residents are utilizing the facility.
- Chairman DeVecchio references the cost analysis he created last year, currently the cost per month per household for the Durham/Middlefield residents is \$13.94 per month. Of that \$13.94 per month, per household, \$8.36 is contributed from the towns, \$5.58 is from the residents, paid through the site sticker fee and miscellaneous disposal fees. This cost has been consistent over the years. For this cost, it is an excellent value. Many of the services at the site include the disposal of:
 - MSW
 - Recycling
 - Demo
 - Electronics
 - Metal
 - Mattresses
 - Brush
 - Appliances
 - Furniture
 - Waste Oil
 - Antifreeze
 - Tires
- The site employs one full-time manager with benefits, and the remaining employees are all part-time (no benefits) workers. Most of the part-timers are minimum wage, except the drivers.
- Residents are doing a great job sorting the recyclables.
- Mr. Capozzi brought up the idea of a compactor or shredder for recyclables. Mr Weissberg explained he thought it would be too much of a capital expenditure, and not worth the expense at this time.
- Mr. Weissberg added that DMIAAB is a small volunteer board, with essentially one person managing the running of the site. He feels small towns like Durham/Middlefield, with a combined population of 10,000 should not have to come up with solutions to a larger, statewide issue. He added that there should be better guidance and more funding from the state.
- Chairman DeVeccio will share the new revised budget with the Board this weekend.

Old Business

License Plate Recognition (LPR) System Update

- Mr. Weissberg has not heard from DEEP regarding the grant.

License/Registration Private Haulers

Notices have been sent to all haulers. Haulers had until the end of July 2020 to file applications and pay their fees. Dom will continue to work with Bob on that and will update the board at the next meeting.

Composting Units (Update)

- Mr. O'Connell would like to wait until April/May to have another event.
- RiverCog is also having a composter event, but their composters are a twice the cost of our price.

Public Comment:

Richard Parmelee user of the dump for many years complimented the site and its employees for doing a great job, and being courteous and helpful. He mentioned that the staff is very helpful to the senior citizens.

Tonya Buddie asked where MIRA brings the MSW, in which Chairman DeVecchio explained that MIRA brings it to the burn facility in Hartford and burn the waste and convert it to electricity. They use numerous certified outlets for recycling. Recyclables and demo may also be trucked out of state.

When Hartford MIRA shuts down, will MSW be trucked to MIRA burn facility in Bridgeport? Chairman

DelVecchio explained that MIRA is considering options, including trucking out of state and burying in landfills in neighboring states.

A motion was made by Ron Capozzi and seconded by Steven Koerber to approve January 28th, 2021 meeting minutes. This meeting's minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53PM

Respectfully Submitted, Heather Castiglia

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