

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 27, 2021
Peckham Park, Middlefield

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman DelVecchio.

Members present: Dom DelVecchio, Ron Capozzi, Steven Koerber, Brendan O'Connell, Frank Petrella, Charlie Zieminski, Howard Weissberg **Staff Present:** Bob Matuskiewicz, Heather Castiglia **Public Present:** Selectman Bob Yamartino, Selectman Carol Bufithis, Bob Bascom, Bob Johnson

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

New Business

Discussion with Selectman Bob Yamartino about commercial users to the site

Mr. Yamartino and the Board discussed the benefits and challenges of enacting a commercial user sticker fee. Mr. Yamartino explained that when both town Boards of Finance and the Boards of Selectman voted unanimously to support to increase the sticker fee to \$50, at the same time there a suggestion for an increased sticker fee of \$250 for commercial vehicles and business owners. Some talking points:

- Mr. Yamartino explained that commercial users through owning businesses, have more tax benefits than residential, non-business owning users, so business owners pay less overall for use of the site than residential users.
- Some residents own a business and the business vehicle is the one they use for disposing of waste, but they only use it for their household waste. Other business owners use their vehicle for both business and household waste. The difficulty in charging a different rate for commercial users and residential users is differentiating between the heavy commercial users versus the light commercial users.
- Mr. Yamartino is concerned with non-registered vehicles using the site, Chairman DelVecchio stated that some users have cars registered in other states but have provided proof they live in Durham or Middlefield. It is policy of the transfer station to check registration of the vehicles at the time of sticker purchase. Mr. Yamartino does not believe the site employees are checking registrations of every vehicle. It has been difficult during 2020-2021 because of the Covid pandemic, and employees were directed to make as little contact as possible with users so as to protect everyone involved in the transaction.
- If commercial businesses have more than one vehicle, should DMIAAB put a policy in place where the commercial business is charged a flat rate for the use of the site? How would that rate be decided? DMIAAB should set the rate for commercial users.
- Chairman DelVecchio suggested selling a commercial sticker but weighing the commercial vehicles to see which are heavy users.
- Last year, DMIAAB researched and applied for a grant from DEEP to enable a license plate recognition system, but did not receive the grant, so the project was paused.
- Mr. Yamartino explained that DMIAAB should create a policy in which they deal with the heavy users.
- Mr. Capozzi explained that the current sticker fee is an administrative fee, an offset, it is not to generate profit. The Town of Durham has been trying to lower their budgetary support from paying taxes to shift it to a user fee. If the transfer station adopts pay as you throw, the transfer station will go from a cost center to a profit center. Mr. Yamartino explained he is against the idea of the transfer station becoming a cost center and wants it to continue to function as a service for the community.
- Mr. Wessberg explained that DMIAAB is a volunteer board that is not going to make a policy that the Board of Selectmen will not support. Two towns with completely different philosophies want to operate a single transfer station. Both town Boards of Selectmen need to explain what their vision is for solid waste management, and DMIAAB can write the policy based on that.
- Mr. Bascom mentioned that the Interlocal Agreement states that the DMIAAB is supposed to collect and dispose of the waste of the two towns, and cover the cost through the tax rate, not through user fees.
- There will be a joint meeting with the Middlefield/Durham Boards of Finance, Selectmen and DMIAAB in September to discuss this matter further.

Site Manager's Report

- Closed Monday, May 31, 2021 for Memorial Day. Open Tuesday, June 1st, 2021.
- The Peterbilt went for inspection and passed.
- Scale was calibrated and rated at the highest accuracy rate.

Old Business**CAT (Coginchaug Area Transition) Composting Pilot Program at the Transfer Station update**

Chairman DelVecchio explained to the board that the site's general permit requires that any food scrap/waste must be taken off the premises every 48 hours. Since the pilot program policy is to collect once a week, it is in violation of the transfer station's permit and won't be possible unless a waiver is obtained.

Composting Units Update

- Mr. O'Connell reported that the sale is going great, and there is a waiting list for Green Cones. Rate for green cones has gone up significantly it is now \$190 per unit. Subsidize the remaining orders for Green Cones. Will just continue to sell the earth machine.

DMIAAB Fiscal Year 21/22 Final Budget

Motion was made by Howard Weissberg and seconded by Brendan O'Connell to approve the annual budget 2021-22 as shared with the board in the amount of \$734,400 as approved by both Boards of Finance from Durham and Middlefield. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ron Capozzi and seconded by Charlie Zieminski to approve April 29th, 2021 meeting minutes. This meeting's minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Heather Castiglia

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