

Town of Durham and Town of Middlefield
Special Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance
Joint DMIAAB Budget Meeting
6:30 p.m., Wednesday March 19, 2025
Meeting Room 1, Community Center, 144 Pickett Lane, and Remote via Zoom
Minutes

Meeting Recording

Passcode: a1m5E.&&

*****Please note there are two recordings***

1. Call to order and roll call

First Selectman Rea called the Durham and Middlefield Special Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance Joint DMIAAB Budget Meeting of Wednesday, March 19, 2025 to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present:

Durham Board of Selectmen: First Selectman Rea, Selectman Chadd, and Selectman Hennick

Durham Board of Finance: Jim Martinelli (chair), Chuck Stengel, Bob Guynn, Eileen Buckheit, Nancy Cuomo, Molly Nolan (Zoom)

Middlefield Board of Selectmen: First Selectman Bob Yamartino

Middlefield Board of Finance: Michael Skelps (Chair), Jeanine Connelly (Zoom)

Staff: Beth Moncata (Durham Finance Director), Al Rusilowicz (Middlefield Finance Director) and Dom DelVecchio (Chair DMIAAB).

2. DMIAAB Budget Hearing FY25-26

Dom DelVecchio was present to speak about the DMIAAB proposed budget fy25-26 and noted the most recent audit came back in the positive. He confirmed DMIAAB conducts an annual audit.

D. Delvecchio explained that MIRA is dissolving in June 2025 and the State will be taking over all contracts and operations, but nothing has been made official. There are still many questions and uncertainties of this plan. CEO's of the MIRA member towns in the RiverCOG area have been meeting regularly to discuss various options, but every town has a unique situation.

First Selectmen Yamartino explained that MIRA has been sitting on a reserve fund that was funded by the member towns, including Durham Middlefield. Those funds were being used to offset the TIP fees. The State Legislature dissolved MIRA and stated the reserve fund would be given to the City of Hartford to reclaim the land MIRA sits on. Durham, Middlefield and DMIAAB recently published an RFP for Municipal Waste Services, with 4 solid responses. After much back and forth with MIRA, the TIP fee this year is \$131, MIRA has stated it will increase to \$136 and honor our recyclables. The towns will continue to look into other options for lower costs. There is another meeting next Monday with the town CEO's to discuss further.

Budget Review:

- Discussion on MSW, estimated 2,500/tons
- Discussion on local haulers. Private residents pay that fee, not in the DMIAAB budget. Transfer Station charges \$9/per month per household vs. local haulers \$36/month
- Discussion on interest being made of bank accounts. D. DelVecchio said no interest is generated at this time, but will investigate with bank.
- NEW – Truck Fee 15 year useful life, truck was purchased in 2010.
 - D. DelVecchio was hopeful to use the NIPS money for this purchase. Selectman Chadd argued the towns have not decided how that money will be spent and would like the see the budget resubmitted without the NIPS money used here.
- Discussion on fuel, diesel used. Option of co-op with Durham/locked in.

- Sticker Fees \$50/month, sold thus far in Durham 1,885 and Middlefield 1,165
 - Lengthy discussion on increasing sticker fee to subsidize items such as a new truck. C. Stengel in favor of this. First Selectman Rea went through other town fees, noting every town is unique with what they have. First Selectman Yamartino made the comparison to the Library, the Transfer Station is a service offered to residents, very against raising the fee. E. Buckheit felt a raise in fee would come across as raising taxes, and felt there would be pushback. Selectmen agreed that although they could charge different fees, they should stay unified.
- Discussion on employee pay/health benefits/workers compensation
 - NEW – CT Municipal Retirement Plan

Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance thanked Dom for his hard work.

3. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Lehet