

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Middlefield Community Center

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, Frank Petrella and Charlie Zieminski.

Members absent: James Malcolm and Howard Weissberg

Staff present: Bob Matuskiewicz

Frank Petrella made a motion, seconded by Ron Capozzi, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Site Manager's Report

Bob Matuskiewicz reported that the stockade fence has been fixed. Janet Sweeping came in on 3/21/23 and cleaned all the storm drains. The Town of Middlefield swept the whole site today. All of the leaves are taken off the fence by the guard shack. They have also started Spring clean-up at the site and seem to be about a month ahead of schedule.

The Kenworth is in the shop with a coolant issue. Bob Matuskiewicz reported that they have sold 2,987 stickers to date.

Dom DelVecchio asked what is going to be done at the entrance where the new trees were planted. Bob Matuskiewicz explained that they are going to straighten the trees out, bring in some topsoil and reseed. Mr. DelVecchio asked Mr. Matuskiewicz to follow up with the company that took the old piston cylinders for the compactor.

Review FY23/24 Final Draft Budget

Dom DelVecchio had shared a copy of the FY23/24 final draft budget in the February 2023 meeting and the only change is the MSW tip fee dropped to \$118/ton. Ron Capozzi asked if they ever got the attachment for the grappler and Mr. DelVecchio stated that it was approved, but they have not yet ordered it. Mr. Capozzi thought they could carry over 5 percent for capital improvements and Mr. DelVecchio agreed that they can do that, but they have a reserve of \$61,000 which presents a problem with the towns. The towns feel that \$61,000 in reserve is enough and if more is needed, the towns will stand behind DMIAAB.

Mr. Capozzi reminded everyone that raises will happen again on July 1st and he would be willing to go beyond the \$15 minimum wage. Mr. DelVecchio noted that he submitted a budget in the February 2023 meeting to the board using the minimum wage scale which increases again on June 1st. Mr. Capozzi felt that that was the board's decision. Mr. DelVecchio felt the pay scale can be revisited in the next few months to comply with the June 1st increase and that it wouldn't be a big amount, so the budget should be okay but they will need to decide if they want to increase wages further next year. He also reminded the board that everyone will be getting a \$1.00 increase except for the drivers and Bob Matuskiewicz. The employees have remained pretty consistent.

Mr. DelVecchio explained that they raise everyone \$1.00 to keep things consistent, but Mr. Matuskiewicz disagreed and noted that there are employees who have only been there two years and are making the same money as those that have been there for three or four because of that \$1.00 increase. Mr. DelVecchio will send that information out to everyone. Bob Matuskiewicz explained that the part-time drivers make more money per hour than he does and he has been there for 32 years. Mr. DelVecchio reminded everyone that Bob Matuskiewicz's salary was increased by \$5000 last year to address this matter. Mr. Capozzi felt that they need to keep up with wages and, since the employees are local, it is good for the local economy. Dom DelVecchio reminded everyone that the employees are all eligible for the state emergency pandemic money since they worked through the pandemic.

Dom DelVecchio went on to review that DMIAAB's final budget for 2021-2022 was estimated at \$754,905 and equates to approximately \$14.78 per month per household and has stayed the same for the last three to four years. Of that, \$8.48 is paid through tax dollars with the remaining \$6.30 coming from sticker and disposal fees.

There was then discussion about the burn facilities and new legislation that the state is looking at to adequately compensate the facilities for the electricity they produce. Dom DelVecchio felt that burn facilities are still the best option for waste disposal. Mr. DelVecchio also read that communities that are trucking their waste out of state may be taxed an additional \$5/ton by DEEP. He also agreed that food composting is a good thing, but won't fix the problem. He does feel that the legislators are much more aware of the specifics now and it is a main focus point for the environment committee this year.

There was then a discussion about the tires on the property in Middlefield and the fact that they have now been removed. Everyone acknowledged that DEEP is not helpful nor do they monitor what the haulers are doing with their waste and there is no enforcement.

Bob Matuskiewicz stated that Middlefield used to recycle as far back as 1972 and the town got paid a premium for the recycled material.

Frank Petrella made a motion, seconded by Brendan O'Connell, to approve the budget for FY 2023-2024, as submitted at the March 22, 2023 DMIAAB meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Dom DelVecchio reported that he will be meeting with the joint Boards of Finance and Selectmen to defend this budget at the Town Hall in Durham at 6:30 PM.

Review FY21/22 Audit

Dom DelVecchio had shared a copy of the audit with everyone on the board. Everyone does a great job and there are no surprises at the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Composting Units (Update)

Dom DelVecchio will call Carol Bufithis tomorrow about ordering the composting units. Brendan O'Connell will also order 15 more units. DMIAAB sells the units for 50 percent of the cost. Bob Matuskiewicz didn't understand why there are two separate composting programs and Dom DelVecchio noted that a lot of people like to do their own composting at home and not transport it to the transfer station.

Composting Program Discussion

Food composting is being tracked in an Excel spreadsheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron Capozzi made a motion, seconded by Frank Petrella, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2023 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the special meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Waz

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