

Received 4/7/26
12:22 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

BOARD OF FINANCE JOINT MEETING
DMIAAB, DURHAM/MIDDLEFIELD BOF/BOS, DURHAM/MIDDLEFIELD BOF
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026
DURHAM TOWN HALL 3rd FLOOR AND REMOTELY VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/cOqtMdX59jRK-QltohTySqHniI6NQ7IidSKXZJrw74tYDCehEG_elcUW8_14aYeN.pWY5vNioRKVBdwFe?startTime=1770334213000

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Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Called to order at 6:34pm

Roll call

BOF: William Castro, Jim Martinelli, Phil Muzio, Nancy Cuomo, Eileen Buckheit, Molly Nolan

BOS: Brendan Rea; First Selectman, Rob Chadd; Selectman, Tom Hennick; Selectman

DMIAAB: Dom DelVecchio

BOF Middlefield: Jeanine Connelly, Michael Skelps, Lee Matterazzo, Carrie Anderson, Mary Wolak

BOS Middlefield: Doug O'Rourke, Robert Yamartino, Susan McNamara (arrived at 6:46pm)

Absent:

Staff: Beth Moncata, Finance Director, Al Zulowicz, Middlefield Finance Director

Others in attendance:

2. Discussion on the following topics

a. Recap of Fiscal Year 2024-2025

- i. Surplus of \$1,767, will be put towards current cash reserve of approx. \$54,000.
- ii. Noted that tipping floors increased slightly
- iii. Brendan Rea announced that the RiverCOG is currently working on a regional plan. Noted previous issues with enforcing flow control of Municipal Solid Waste, it was suggested that the town create an ordinance to force private haulers to tip at the transfer station. Town Counsel was consulted and it was determined that the idea would cost the town more money due to enforcement

- iv. Bob Yamartino thanked Dom DelVecchio for his work to secure the best deal for the towns. Noted extremely low hauling cost, distance to Hartford and Essex is similar so switch did not have big impact.
 - v. Michael Skelps noted that Demo was significantly over budget, should balance out because of unit-based price. Increased equipment cost and site improvements (including fencing) due to OSHA incident
- b. Status of Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- i. It was noted that the current budget has no significant issues
- c. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget Review
- i. Eileen Buckheit proposed a \$10 sticker fee increase, noted an increase was proposed several times over last several years. Also proposed switching from cash payments to credit card only to improve audit features and increase accountability. Noted 3,200 stickers sold annually, about 80-85% of residents' households use the facility
 - ii. Discussed increasing brush and demo fees by 10% a pound. Noted that increases in other fees would help offset credit card fee. Dom DelVecchio noted that the credit card company must give information needed to balance books daily.
 - iii. Discussed a phase in approach, noted that seniors often don't have cards and some residents do not carry cash. Square and Point and Pay were suggested as credit card vendors. Dom DelVecchio reiterated that the Transfer Station needs an itemized breakdown of transactions and fees. Nancy Cuomo suggested tracking frequency of cash and card payments to inform future decisions
 - iv. Discussed whether town or residents will be responsible for credit card fees. Susan McNamara asserted that cash is legal tender and many residents will want to pay in cash only or do not have credit cards and cash payments should be allowed.
 - v. Phil Muzio proposed offering both options, with the town absorbing credit card fees this year, then using that information to decide next year. Discussed amount of fees based on vendor or amount of transaction
 - vi. Eileen Buckheit noted that the sticker increase will bring the budget percentage back to what it was in 2020. Phil Muzio noted that town contributions have increased from 58% to 65% while sticker fees have been mostly static
 - vii. Robert Yamartino questioned the purpose of the sticker fee, residents already pay taxes which go towards the Transfer Station. Stated that raising the fee is like transferring taxes from real estate over to the sticker cost.
 - viii. Discussed funding entirely through taxes or entirely through user fees. Susan MacNamara suggested researching other revenue sources. Eileen Buckheit suggested exploring options for reducing food wastes.
 - ix. Robert Yamartino expressed that an increase in the sticker fee would be a regressive tax that would affect people of lower income more. Stated that

businesses that use the dump are charged less than consumers since they can write off the cost on taxes. It was suggested that commercial registered vehicles be charged a higher fee. Dom DelVecchio noted that some vehicles have commercial plates but not commercial registration, some residents use commercial trucks to haul their residential waste for convenience, and other variables

- x. Susan MacNamara clarified that the sticker fee increase revenue will be used to offset the increase in the tipping fee. Members generally favorable towards increasing sticker fee by \$10. Majority of members voted in favor of offering credit card payments where the user absorbs the fee, with the thought that the towns can revisit the issue next year

3. Any Other Business

- a. none

4. Adjournment

- a. MOTION BY SUSAN MACNAMARA, SECONDED BY SEVERAL TO ADJOURN. ALL AYE, MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Charest