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9:23 AM Jodi Moore, ATC

DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Middlefield Community Center

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

**Members present:** Dom DelVecchio, Steven Koerber, Glenn McNamara, Frank Petrella, Chuck Stengel and Charles Zieminski

**Members absent:** Ron Capozzi and Howard Weissberg

**Staff present:** Sean Piatek

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Chuck Stengel made a motion, seconded by Glenn McNamara, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Site Manager's Report**

Sean Piatek reported that stickers are now up to 2,994. Sean felt that they will sell more stickers in the Spring. They are getting caught up on things at the site, including the freon.

Sean explained that they are working getting internet throughout the entire site. Dom DelVecchio added that Frontier is looking into what has to be done and will present them a plan.

Glenn McNamara asked about the OSHA compliance and Dom DelVecchio explained that everything has been signed off on and their goal is to repeat the process and have each employee resign the protocols every six months. All of the protocols are stored in the office on-site.

Sean Piatek added that they are going to deliver the Kenworth to Massachusetts on Tuesday of next week, weather depending. The new truck will come in two weeks later.

**Discussion – Proposed FY26/27 Budget and Point-and-Pay System**

Dom DelVecchio had shared the proposed FY26/27 budget with the DMIAAB board members for review, but added that it may change. DMIAAB has a meeting tentatively scheduled with the joint Boards of Finance and Selectman on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Durham Town Hall. They will discuss sticker prices as well as going to a point-and-pay system so the site is cashless. If the town pays the fees, it will cost close to \$15,000 a year and if the residents pay it will be

close to \$20,000. The system is being proposed by the Town of Durham and the Board of Finance has asked that all transactions be by credit card. Board members were concerned with that and Mr. DelVecchio indicated a discussion needs to occur to determine whether initially this is a viable option for all transactions to be paid by credit card, however Sean Piatek added that he felt it should be an option for residents.

Dom DelVecchio felt that the Board of Finance was worried about the perception of dealing with cash, but they are not suggesting any impropriety. Glenn McNamara asked if the town's attorney agreed with the process and Mr. DelVecchio felt it was still open for discussion and it was not included in the proposed budget. Because the transactions are small, the company wants a fee per transaction rather than a percentage. Initially, when this was first proposed it was to apply for the purchase of the annual stickers, but it has changed since then. Dom DelVecchio also emphasized currently there is no increase in sticker fees included in the proposed budget.

There was then discussion about the income and expense of paper and bottles and cans and the Quickbooks accounting format. Glenn McNamara also added that they really don't need to see as much history with the proposed budget and suggested they remove some line items if they haven't been used in 10 years.

Dom DelVecchio felt that the Town of Durham wants to propose a sticker fee increase this year, but is not certain or believes the Town of Middlefield agrees with that. This will be the sixth year at \$50.

### **Discussion – Current Fiscal Budget (through November) FY25/26**

Dom DelVecchio had shared the budget with the board members. The income is based strictly on income and expenses during the five-month period. In the late fall and winter, revenues and tonnages drop off but pick back up again in the spring, while dropping off again in the summer. DMIAAB does make money on demolition disposal.

### **Fiscal Year 24/25 Tonnage Summary**

Dom DelVecchio had distributed the FY tonnage summaries for all of the different waste streams. It looks to be fairly consistent at this point halfway through the year. MSW has been consistent for the past three or four years, averaging about 2,400 tons. Paper averages about 375 ton, bottles and cans around 180 to 190 tons.

### **2026 Monthly Meeting Schedule**

Dom DelVecchio explained that the meetings for the first six months will be in Middlefield and the last six months will be in Durham.

*Steven Koerber made a motion, seconded by Frank Petrella, to approve the 2026 Monthly Meeting Schedule, as presented. Motion passed, with Chuck Stengel opposing.*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

## **Composting Units (Update)**

Dom DelVecchio asked if Chuck Stengel would be interested in overseeing the composting program. The sign at the site does need to be either repaired or replaced.

Dom DelVecchio noted that RiverCOG will be holding a meeting to discuss municipal transfer stations on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM at the old Haddam Town Hall and invited any interested board members to attend. Dom also reviewed that the joint meeting with the Boards of Finance and Selectman is on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Durham Town Hall, third floor.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roger Kleeman apologized for the Durham Board of Selectmen and Durham Board of Finance for their rudeness to Dom DelVecchio. Mr. Kleeman felt that he should have been invited to the table. He noted that the Durham Board of Finance proposed upping the sticker fee and that is none of their business. Dom DelVecchio explained that DMIAAB has been asked to not set sticker prices on their own without a discussion with the towns. Mr. Kleeman explained that the cost per family (based on stickers sold) averages about to around \$225 a year, totaling about \$800,000. Dom DelVecchio felt that that wasn't necessarily a true assessment since the expenditures break down to about \$15/month per household which then gets split between tax dollars (with the towns paying about \$9/month) and the residents users (about \$6/month). Mr. Kleeman suggested eliminating the taxes (which are based on actual property) and charging the full amount for a sticker to the people who use the facility as it's not fair to charge people who don't use the transfer station. Dom DelVecchio did not feel that DMIAAB should set that kind of policy. Public policy decisions should be set by each town's elected officials. The Town of Middlefield feels that with such few services provided in the towns that shifting the total expense of DMIAAB operations solely to residents without any tax dollars to offset operations may not be reasonable. This is why a joint meeting with the towns is held each year for discussion.

Mr. Kleeman added that the Charter Revision Commission is looking to replace DMIAAB with a "professional" and felt that the Board should be able to go to both Boards of Finance to change the policy. Dom DelVecchio felt that the DMIAAB board would review the Charter Revision Commission's suggestions but wasn't sure why the DMIAAB would be dissolved with numerous professionals currently serving on the board. Mr. Kleeman added that the Board of Finance does not want DMIAAB to accept checks either.

There was then discussion about the state and trash. Dom DelVecchio noted that it's the residents of the two towns that do a good job following protocol. He encouraged Roger Kleeman to bring his proposal forward. Mr. Kleeman stated that the current Board of Selectmen in Durham will not change anything and the Board of Finance is in deep trouble. Dom DelVecchio noted that Durham wants to propose an increase to \$70 per sticker, but Middlefield would need to agree. Durham then decided that they would not likely increase the sticker fee on Durham residents if Middlefield didn't.

Roger Kleeman asked why the paid employees are not handling the composting program. Sean Piatek explained that there are two separate programs and he takes the onsite collection of composting waste to Southington every week.

Chuck Stengel asked how many people come without stickers to get rid of tires, refrigerators, etc. and Sean Piatek explained that they are not allowed in without a sticker. It has happened on a few special occasions.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Glenn McNamara made a motion, seconded by Charlie Zieminski, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2025 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed, with Chuck Stengel abstaining.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Waz

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