

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk
February 14, 2011 at 9:56am

DMIAAB Task Force

Regular meeting
February 8, 2011

Minutes

(Not approved at time of filing)

1. Call to order

Anthony DeFilio called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present are Dom DelVecchio, Anthony DeFilio, Bruce Chaplin, Jim Hempil, Chad Spooner and Howard Weissberg.

2. Contract (2:0)

Anthony DeFilio stated he would like to wrap this contract up and focus on not only passion, but purpose to get this done. He also reminded that they are working toward a recommendation only. He indicated the only decisions left to make are Board appointment versus election, Representation-how many members from each town, and Board of Director structure, Types of waste-commercial acceptance and at what cost, Report structure-how often and what content.

One board member noted that Laura Francis was looking for a report.

Board members discussed delegation for items but it can not be done until Tom provides his report.

One person noted they discussed 5% but did not agree on a capital reserve amount. Anthony DeFilio said the capital budget was to be definitive to what they intended to purchase. He said it was to be held in the name of DMIAAB and controlled by the two towns, similar to how the fire departments work.

It was said they need to get Geoff Colegrove's draft of the agreement with the corrections.

Regarding Representation, it was said they should not discuss it because there were not enough Middlefield currently at this meeting.

3. Appointment versus election (9:20)

Board members discussed how they want to approve it, by majority or unanimous-it was agreed they would go with majority- once the final recommendation report is done, the board will again vote on whether or not to accept that as well. It was explained the report will indicate they discussed the appointment versus election issue and will include what they discussed and the final recommendation based on majority vote. Knowing it would be then be up to the selectmen.

The current process was discussed.

Regarding benefits of this process: One member felt it was a good way for the selectmen to scrutinize expertise. Another member noted a person with no expertise who was put on the board and has been a very good member. Another

member noted it allows the selectmen to endorse a candidate, but does not exclude anyone else from participating in the process.

Regarding drawbacks: One member said someone who gets elected may not be qualified as it is a popularity contest and expertise is important for this board based on the budget costs.

One speaker noted the selectman would not nominate someone who would be an embarrassment or wholly unqualified.

When it was said this was run with a deficit, one person indicated it is a service and it was never intended to be otherwise.

Anthony DeFilio explained he wants people to be qualified and for the qualifications to be defined by the selectmen as it needs to be run in a more businesslike way.

It was questioned whether or not appointment is allowed. It was noted that the school board, the largest budget line item, is appointed in the same manner as DMIAAB.

The difficulty in finding people willing to serve, and be qualified was discussed. Appointing only the chairman was discussed.

It was explained that currently the bylaws require the chairman to be voted on by the board members, as well as other officers.

Regarding the need for fiscal expertise, it was said both towns have finance people who can review or work with it.

Board members continued to discuss various potential.

It was suggested to have chairman by vote.

One member noted that they can require certain things of the board, such as a structured report structure requiring every 60 days, which will force the board to do the job.

Regardless of profit making or not, they need a group savvy enough to control this.

The options to consider:

Full appointment by selectmen

Full election-current

Chairman is elected by the board, with the selectmen approval.

It was suggested to require that the nominations have the selectmen's approval. It was said that the law allows for nominations from the floor- which could happen with out the selectman's approval. It was suggested that someone who was endorsed by the selectmen would have more weight than someone simply nominated from the floor.

Board members discussed how they could control how the DMIAAB board has to act, and what they can do if they do not do so.

It was noted that both towns have financial officers who should have the responsibility of reviewing the monthly report and asking questions if needed.

4. Report structure (37:15)

One member suggested the following ideas: They need a report structure regarding a capital plan, they need a report back to DMIAAB from the towns' financial officer whether the report is approved or disapproved, and DMIAAB

shall demand an approval of that report. This will ensure that the report has been reviewed and the towns are aware of what is going on.

It was noted that the DMIAAB budget is provided by line item, but the towns approve it as one item. Anthony DeFilio stated he wanted the Boards of Finance to review and approve the DMIAAB budget by line item.

Dom DelVecchio stated when they present it to the Boards of Finance it is done line by line. Anthony DeFilio reported he had opposite information from Board of Finance member.

Board members discussed how often there should be feedback from the finance boards to DMIAAB. Monthly was suggested, with the understanding it could be changed to quarterly. It was stated that reports are already provided monthly, but the change would be to have the report approved by the towns' financial officer. This was agreed to. Board members discussed if this would be part of the bylaws or the Interlocal Agreement.

It was clarified that the report as done now was clear to Anthony DeFilio as an accountant. It was stated that for some of the other users some of the labels were not clear to all. Board members discussed various ways the reports could look and who should understand them.

It was suggested that a financial statement be published in the local paper on a regular basis.

Regarding the reporting, various names of items was discussed. After discussion, one person was asked to rename, or make very clear what all the items are in order to make it more transparent. It was noted there may be difficulties for the common layperson to understand some of the common terms in that business.

5. Wrap up (57:23)

The board generally agreed to the financial reporting with monthly approval by the heads of the finance departments and transparency by renaming of line items.

It was suggested they need to review the bylaws as well.

Regarding election versus appointment, it was agreed to keep the existing system in place with some safeguards, and the chairman would have to be approved by each town's selectman.

6. Minutes (1:26)

It was noted that on the minutes for the 25th, Dom DelVecchio should have been indicated as present.

7. Adjourn (1:03:30)

Recording ends.