



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: October 28, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 92,879.04
- Expense Warrant: \$ 1,299,592.48

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Our residents seem to like early voting! By early Friday we've processed over 500 voters or 10% of those registered. The Clerk's Office is busy as there is an internal process to check the voters in and record that they have submitted their vote, but it is manageable. The other positive to this is that we're having visitors to Town Hall that we don't usually see.
- Please join me in wishing very well Walter Hopkins who has retired from his position as our Plumbing Inspector after 51 years! Walter's long and dedicated to the service to the town is to be admired, and we hope all the best for him as he enjoys his hard earned success.
- The challenges of the State's budget have already left their mark on Upton. We were notified this week that the COA formula grant is being reduced to what we received in FY 16. We will be receiving \$10,818 instead of \$12,020 a reduction of \$1,202. We'll make some adjustments in the grant spending plan that should not materially impact services to our seniors. I do believe that we will expect the Governor to make 9C cuts in December or January if revenues do not improve to meet expectations.
- Staff is working on a request for proposals to conduct a feasibility study of the DPW garage and future improvements and expansion to enable the facility to meet our current needs and those for the next twenty years. The funding source for this is the dollars set aside for it in FY 2011.
- We have received the final dismissal of the lawsuit brought by Mr. Chace seeking 1.7 acres of land on Grafton Road that he believed he owned. As you know, this is part of the Warren Brook Conservation Area purchased by the Town in 1996. Mr. Chace decided just before the trial was to begin that he would withdraw and ask the court to dismiss it, which it has.
- After final review with our engineers we have decided to submit a grant application for the Fowler Street Bridge closest to Orchard Street. This bridge is in the most need of repair of the three that qualify, and it has always been narrow and not properly sized for larger plow or fire trucks that need to use it. The preliminary estimate for design and

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construction for full replacement of the bridge is \$541,000 for which the State's small bridge grant program will pay up to \$500,000. Should we win a grant, I would recommend that the Town make up the difference to get this project accomplished.

- The OPEB Trust Committee met this week with the task of selecting an investment management firm to advise the Town on investing the assets. The Committee chose Bartholomew, a firm with much experience in this area. This firm already manages the investment of our Community Preservation Act funds. There are still two open positions on the trust to be filled by residents. The Committee will meet approximately four times a year. If you are interested in serving or know someone, please do let us know.
- The Grove Street parking lot project is nearing completion. The area has been prepped for paving which is scheduled for Saturday. The Oak Knoll Lane cul de sac repaving will take place next week. You might also notice a repair to a section of Eames Lane. This cul de sac is in poor condition but not high on the pavement management plan. The DPW had a poor section cut out and repaved so that the road is more passable until a full project can be programmed into the budget.
- Upcoming events include a road race at Nipmuc High School on October 30th.