



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: May 20, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 85,735.07
- Expense Warrant: \$ 362,327.13

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Good news on the insurance front. MIIA, from whom we purchase property & casualty and workers compensation insurance continues to issue credit for those communities that participate in both programs. Upton's credit for next year will be \$7,889.00.
- The Senate version of the budget has been released and it mirrors the house version in terms of unrestricted government aid and Chapter 70 funding per student at \$55. It also includes an increase in the formula grant for Council's on Aging at \$10 per senior which would be a welcomed bump. As you know, the next step in the process is for the house and senate to reach a compromise on differences between the two versions.
- Tree removal got underway this week for the new parking lot at Kiwanis Beach adjacent to the upper field. The contractor will be meeting with DPW to begin construction work next week.
- The Insurance Advisory Committee met this week and voted 5 – 2 to remain with the health plan as it is for July 1st, which requires a 12.8% increase in the rates. While the Committee appreciated the offer to share a portion of the first year's savings with the employees, they were concerned about the burden of deductible plans. Their feedback was that they would be more willing to make a change if the Town were to offer an HRA plan to offset that potential cost.
- Just a reminder that the VFW carnival is this weekend, so it will be busy near the playground and area businesses. It looks like there will be good weather for most of the weekend.
- To update you – we are close to submitting the 75% design drawings to MassDOT for the TIP project. Recent investigation of some of the drainage structures has resulted in us scheduling some work to put a camera through some of the piping to determine its condition and whether it needs to be replaced as part of the project. It is very important to identify all conditions in this submittal because while the State/Federal funds will pay 100% of the project, they reserve the right not to cover unforeseen conditions. So as you can imagine, we're trying to ensure that does not happen. We are

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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also planning to meet with several of the affected residents in the next week to go over the plans and make sure any alterations to accommodate them are accounted for.

- Please mark your calendars for an excellent training opportunity on Tuesday, June 14th. The Personnel Board will be offering a training program on how to conduct a successful interview including questions that you can and cannot ask, led by Bob Carnegie. A well thought out interview process is critical to making a good hiring decision, but also to avoid asking questions that are not appropriate. Department heads and members of boards and commissions are urged to attend. The training will be held in the morning in the Fire Station Training Room.
- A number of bids and RFP's are in progress at this time. They include:
 - Drinking water chemicals & road materials - May 25th
 - RFP to seek land for purchase by the Town for a future new Library – due June 2nd.
- There are a number of upcoming Town events that you may want to be aware of:
 - Library Book Sale – Risteen Building Lawn - May 21st
 - Town Government Day for 3rd Graders – May 25th
 - Memorial Day Parade – May 30th
 - Hazardous Waste Collection Day – DPW Facility - June 4th
 - Police Fishing Derby – June 11th
- As mentioned above the Household Hazardous Waste Day is June 4th and there is a detailed flyer on the website from the Board of Health. Given that this event is held once a year now and anticipated to be busy, residents are encouraged to review the details so they are prepared that day to pay cash for the items for which we charge a fee, and some items we cannot accept – such as Styrofoam.
- We are getting ready to have the contractor hired by the Town perform the weed control treatments at two Town bodies of water. Lake Wildwood will be done at the end of this month, and Pratt Pond about a week later.