



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: May 6, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 94,689.99
- Expense Warrant: \$ 144,171.88

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Please join me in congratulating the Police Department for being awarded recertification of State Accreditation this week. I joined Chief Bradley, Paula Deiana and Matt Rankins at the ceremony on Thursday where Upton's candidacy was voted on and approved. Upton is just one of 61 communities that are accredited, and to do so have to meet 241 different standards and policies that are required to be considered following best practices in the area of policing. An awful lot of work went into this process that led up to a three day visit by outside evaluators to go through the department's policies and standards in December.
- We received notice this week that comments regarding the Algonquin Gas Pipeline expansion must be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the end of May in order to be considered. If the Board would like to take a position on this we should begin drafting that in the next few weeks.
- We received very good news this week when DPW opened bids for road repairs and reconstruction. We had estimated that the paving work we wanted to do would cost about \$550,000, yet the low bid was just under \$489,000. We intend to save the difference so that we have some capability in the spring to make road repairs if the winter is very difficult, or add other work if not next spring. We'll bring that information to you at the next meeting when we ask for approval to execute the contract.
- 14 North Main Street – the Attorney General's Office let us know that the court gave the receiver some more time to complete his list of repairs and budget as it wasn't done in time for the hearing this week. It will now be heard on May 25th.
- Our Municipal Aggregation Plan has been submitted by Colonial Power to the State and now we begin the process to get that approved before we can go out to bid, hopefully by late summer.
- As you know, we turned in a grant application to the State for technology assistance a couple months ago. They have offered this up to Towns that had signed on to the Community Compact program. Our grant application was to upgrade our electronic permitting system from the one we have (as the result of a previous state grant), to one

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
James A. Brochu, Chairman
Robert J. Fleming
Gary Daugherty

TOWN MANAGER
Blythe C. Robinson
One Main Street • Suite 1 • Upton, MA 01568
T: 508.529.6901 • F: 508.529.1010

much more robust and customer service oriented. I received a call this week that our application ranked very well, and the State is trying to determine how to fund as many projects as possible given the large number of requests. There were other towns who submitted very similar projects, and I believe the State will be working with the vendor to achieve an economy of scale to fund these, so I think we will be successful!

- As most know, Town Meeting went well this week and it was nice to see a larger turnout of voters – approximately 250. The budget passed as presented after discussion on a few aspects, and all of the bylaws and capital articles we presented. Mosquito control and one of the petition articles failed, and the other petition for an override was passed over.
- A number of bids and RFP's are in progress at this time. They include:
 - Chip Sealing and drinking water chemicals - 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
 - Hazardous Waste Collection Day – DPW Facility - June 4th
- CMRPC is holding a meeting on May 18th of economic development commissions to discuss lessons learned, success stories and such. We have not had an active Industrial Development Commission in some years, but if you believe we may be able to appoint some members to that this might be a good meeting to attend.
- Now that the election and Town Meeting are behind us it is the time of the year that the Board begins to make a number of annual appointments. Sandy has already reached out to all of the current members of boards whose terms are up to gauge their interest in continuing. We will have openings (Personnel Board, Historical Commission and others) and we'll be advertising those shortly. We will also need to have a joint election for the Recreation Commission because there was a failure to elect anyone at the election, and that is the process to fill the vacancy. If you know of anyone interested in serving on a town board, please direct them our way, or to the website where they can get the application to turn in.
- Interviews are planned this next week for the Conservation Agent, and the Library Circulation Assistant.