



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PRESS RELEASE

In compliance with the BoS Chair's request to affirm Article 10 of the ATM Warrant of 2014, The BOS would like to place for public record their endorsement of the Article based on the following rationale;

1. For the past several years the town's auditors have noted in their management letter that it would be prudent for the town to pursue changing the Treasurer Collector's position from elected to appointed.

Again this year the management letter states; "in our December 2011 letter to management, we recommended that the town consider a referendum to amend the selection method of its Treasurer Collector to an appointment by the Town's Board of Selectmen or its Town Manager. While the current Treasurer Collector possesses the skills necessary to support this position, future elected Treasurer Collectors may not.

The Town has less than 7,000 residents, which limits the available talent pool capable of being elected as Town Treasurer Collector. Recently two much larger towns (Milford and Franklin) approved by law changes to appoint their treasurer collectors versus having this critical position be elected".

2. This practice is endorsed and encouraged by the State Department of Revenue, who has submitted it in written form to all towns in the Commonwealth requesting a management review and matching the profile within the Commonwealth.

3. Although we all recognize the contribution of the present Treasurer Collector, we must plan for the future and be proactive in seeking change. Should he chose not to seek reelection; do we scramble to affect change, versus looking to the future before it becomes a critical situation?

4. For the past few years there are far too many elected positions not challenged, or worse, situations where there are no candidates. Society is becoming more complex and there are fewer people wanting to, or able to, hold office. What if no person came forward to run for this position? An appointment to this position eliminates the risk factor.

5. There was at the time (5 years ago) many citizens were apprehensive of a town of our size, creating a Town Manager form of government. Although a change can be difficult to accept at the time, the BOS knew it was for the future good of the Town. This action has now shown to have been the correct decision and very well received by the citizens. This process relative to the Treasurer Collector's position is no different. It's about the future, and as the Executive Officers of the Town, it is up to us to lead this initiative.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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