



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: January 24, 2014
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 78,858.68
- Expense Warrant: \$ 452,819.75

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- We've heard back from MIA that they will not defend the civil complaint and demand for a jury trial regarding a decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Kopelman and Paige will be representing us in this matter.
- The Governor's budget was announced this week and from the local perspective it is disappointing. The unrestricted government aid was level funded, as was most of the school related accounts. MMA came out shortly thereafter expressing their concerns over what was proposed, especially since state revenues have exceeded projections. Chairman Brochu and I attended the MMA annual meeting this weekend and Speaker DeLeo made a point in his remarks of stating his commitment on behalf of the legislature to increase local aid from last year, which was, as you can imagine, well received by the crowd on hand. He also committed to authorizing another \$300 million in Chapter 90 funds which hopefully will be fully released.
- I received some advice from BVT that the Town might have a chance at obtaining some Chapter 70 funds from the State due to the fact that our budget dedicated to school funding rose 6% this year over last. These are otherwise known as "pothole" funds (interesting word since its school money and not roads). There are three different categories and we may have a chance in one of them. Since it is a simple application I will send it off this week and we'll see what happens. If we don't qualify this year we may have a better chance next year as I confirmed this week that BVT enrollment of Upton students went up by 19 as of this past October. We can expect that to be reflected in their budget request for FY 14/15.
- The architect has taken a preliminary look at a change to the Town Hall parking layout if lower Warren Street was to be closed. His initial design shows that we could capture an additional 10 parking spaces by parking perpendicular to the building rather than in parallel as was planned. This doesn't include any space we might also capture on Warren Street just below Nelson. Based upon this information I will send out a letter shortly to our abutters to make them aware that we are contemplating this change.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
James A. Brochu, Chairman
Robert J. Fleming
Kenneth E. Picard

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- Training update – we had 23 people attend the MIIA sponsored workplace violence prevention training at the Fire Station on Monday, including two employees from Mendon. An excellent turnout for an important topic.
- We have retained a local contractor to complete one part of the exterior repairs to the Police Station approved in the last year. The doors will be replaced in the coming few weeks with a similar metal door. We are also working further with the architect to see if we can't figure out how to complete the rest of the repairs within the dollars already allocated for the project.
- We are getting a good response to the advertisement for the Library renovation project and bids will be due in our office on February 5th at 11 AM.
- I anticipate having the budget ready for you to pick up and review on Tuesday, January 28th. Should there be any change to that schedule I will let you know.