



# TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen  
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager  
Date: January 30, 2015  
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

### Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 86,371.75
- Expense Warrant: \$1,117,391.52

### For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Winter finally arrived in earnest this week with a large snowstorm Monday night into Tuesday. Our crews did a terrific job in very difficult conditions keeping the roads open and then cleaning up for several days afterwards. We did bring in extra equipment to help haul snow away from intersections to improve site lines for drivers, and to dig out fire hydrants in the hydrant district. Thus far our snow/ice budget is still intact but we'll see what the rest of the winter brings. There is a possibility that FEMA federal disaster assistance will be forthcoming due to the high amounts of snow. We'll monitor this and submit an application if it is possible to do so.
- It's that time again – time to take the State Ethics test. By law every employee as well as elected and appointed volunteer must do so every two years. The Town Clerk has sent out the directions for this to all, please turn your certificates in to her at your earliest convenience.
- Please welcome this week Bernadette Denson as the new Department Specialist at the COA. Bernadette is an Upton resident who brings terrific experience to this job, and was even a volunteer at the center in the past. We are looking forward to her contributions to the Center and our residents in the future.
- The Open Meeting Law training that was scheduled for Monday was postponed until February 9<sup>th</sup>. Please let Sandy know whether you prefer to attend the 3 PM or 6 PM class on that date.
- As you know, our contract to provide Hopedale with 911 ring down service has gone very well over the past 2 years. That contract is up for renewal in July and we have proposed an increase in the fee they pay of 10% a year. They have agreed to that so we will adjust our revenue projections accordingly.
- The Police Chief has put together a grant proposal to MIIA for a loss control grant of hopefully \$5,000. The grant would be used to supplement the funds for the new DVR system at the PD to purchase other equipment to enable the department to monitor

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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remote camera locations (Kiwanis Beach, VFW playground, Town Hall) for activities that are out of the ordinary. We hope to hear in March about the outcome of this.

- The CMMPO put off the meeting to review the status of various TIP road projects, including the one for Upton encompassing Hartford Avenue North/High Street/Hopkinton Road until February 11<sup>th</sup>. Bill McGrath, our engineer at BETA Engineering and I will be attending on that day to give an update.
- The Fire Department responded to an incident at Pratt Pond on Thursday where a resident had gone out onto the ice from River Street with a snow blower to clear snow where they like to ice fish. The ice is thin there and the snow blower fell through, thankfully not the resident. We dispatched the ambulance, boat, and other rescue equipment and staff and got the equipment out of the water. I must echo the Fire Chief in reminding residents that we never consider ice on ponds to be safe, and we especially don't encourage taking equipment out to clear snow.
- On Friday our Water/Sewer crew was out on Route 140 repairing a crack in a pipe in front of Millhaus apartments that was leaking water. They noted that we were pumping about 100,000 gallons more per day than usual, and had a company specializing in leak detection to narrow down the search to that area. Our staff then shut off some valves and was able to locate it, dig up the street and fix it during the work day. Thankfully they took care of this before it caused a much larger problem.