



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: January 31, 2014
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 95,478.72
- Expense Warrant: \$1,151,477.43

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Enclosed with your packet please find a letter from the State Dept. of Housing and Community Development in which they have advised the sale of the Upton Inn property is exempt from some sections of the housing regulations and that the complex will retain 20% of the units as affordable for a further 15 years.
- The economy must be picking up! Last week we received from the Planning Board a set of plans for a proposed new subdivision of eight lots on Grove Street called Whitney Farms at Cotton Gin Circle. This week we received a second subdivision plan for four lots on Hartford Avenue South called "Hartford Highlands". I have both sets of plans in the office if you'd like to stop by and have a look. The Planning Board has distributed these to a number of departments and is seeking comments back before taking the matters up, likely in March.
- We had a pipe burst in the attic of the North Street booster pump station last Sunday that has caused some damage and will require an insurance claim. We are still investigating why the pipe froze and burst so that we can ensure it is avoided in the future. The Fire Department responded and DPW has been busy this week getting the interior cleaned and equipment checked. The station stayed in operation so no homes lost water. We'll provide you with an update once we have more answers in place.
- After reviewing in more detail the application to the State to obtain some Chapter 70 "pothole" funds to provide some relief from the increase in our budget dedicated to school funding (rose 6% this year over last) I have decided not to send in the application. It would have required us to file for a waiver from the minimum required local contributions. That waiver was due by October 1st, and would have had to have been signed by a majority of the BVT member towns, that would have then adjusted their assessments. Without the waiver in place the application due this week would be invalid. However this is good information for the future, especially since the enrollment to BVT from Upton went up this fall by 25 students. We might have a better chance at these funds this next year.
- Congratulations to Jason Fleury in our water/wastewater division of the DPW for earning his 4-M wastewater license. Jason joined us in July last year and has been working hard

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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to obtain his licenses so he can become a fully qualified operator in both water and wastewater.

- Letters have gone out to our Town Hall neighbors regarding the proposed closure of lower Warren Street just below Nelson. We've asked for their input prior to the Board making a decision on what to do.
- In the January 30th edition of the Boston Globe – Globe West Section there is an article about affordable housing and forecasts made of population growth or constriction and how those will play a role. Upton was identified as one of the five towns anticipated to have the fastest growth from 7,500 in 2010 to over 10,000 in 2030, and thus more of a need for affordable housing. The link to the article is:
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/west/2014/01/30/mapc-study-says-more-affordable-housing-needed-spur-future-growth/G95ie10qW6dFla01K8QCPJ/story.html>
- We were served with notice this week of a potential lawsuit regarding a person who fell and broke their ankle slipping and falling on ice on Maple Avenue. We're referred it to our insurer for defense and will provide them with all information they require to handle this.
- We had four contractors turn out for the pre-bid meeting for the Library renovation project and bids will be due in our office on February 5th at 11 AM.