



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: February 7, 2014
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 72,766.87
- Expense Warrant: \$ 85,055.76

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- By the time this report goes out it may be old news that Representative George Peterson has decided not to run for reelection this fall for the position he's held representing Upton for 20 years. As I told him when he called earlier this week we are sorry to hear of his decision as it is a loss for Upton, but pleased for him and wished him well in his retirement.
- The Town Hall project continues to move forward this winter. The duct work is about 70% complete, and rough electrical work has started. The cold weather has been a factor in trying to complete the underpinning in the basement, but hopefully that will be completed in the next week. After that stone can be laid in the basement so that the floor can also be poured, and hopefully in by the end of the month.
- Thus far this winter we've had 16 storms that have required response from DPW for road treatment to address slippery conditions all the way up to full plowing operations of many hours in duration. The snow/ice account stands at \$49,000 remaining prior to the storm we will be paying for this week from Wednesday. Thus the DPW has made a request to the Finance Committee for approval to deficit spend that line item so that we may continue to pay for whatever Mother Nature sends our way.
- Some good news on the regionalization front – the State Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) Grants were announced today and the storm water coalition that we're a part of (30 towns) won its third year of funding, for another \$80,000. This will enable all of us to continue to carry out our requirements in this area at much lower cost than trying to do so ourselves. Thanks to Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator from Spenser and everyone else for making this happen. We might have a better chance at these funds this next year.
- This week DEP held a follow up meeting with the Grafton & Upton Railroad, our DPW and public safety staff, and other relevant parties to review the styrene spill that took place at the railroad facility on December 18th. Spills such as this are rare, and it was a good opportunity to discuss what went well, and what could be done differently in the future to hopefully avoid such a situation, or be even better prepared in case it does.

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

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

- We had two contractors turn in bids for the Library renovation project. The apparent low bidder is Barbato Construction with a bid of \$52,489. This bid amount is within budget for the project. Thus the Library Board of Trustees will meet to award a contract in that amount at their meeting on February 6th, and we anticipate construction will begin in about a month.
- The Personnel Board met this week to review the draft classification and compensation plan prepared by our consultant. They were pleased with the result, and asked the consultant to move forward to finalize the report, prepare some alternatives for them to discuss as to a cost of living adjustment for next year, and provide some policies on how the plan would be managed going forward. Once the Board approves the final plan a meeting will be set up to roll it out to all employees and explain how it is to be implemented. Updated job descriptions will also be a part of this process.
- Diane Tiernan and I are working together on updating the RFP for curbside collection of trash and recycling that needs to be in place for July 1st. We are also planning to include both BVT and MURSD School districts as a “regional” initiative, with the goal of achieving some cost savings for each entity involved. We plan to put the RFP out for consideration in the next couple weeks.
- You may have noticed that there have been tree companies in town recently doing trimming work along various roads. This is part of National Grid’s efforts to keep lines clear to limit power outages due to downed trees. They have been spending a fair amount of time on Westborough Road, among others.