



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: February 20, 2015
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 86,888.63
- Expense Warrant: \$ 148,762.04

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Besides the snowbanks piling up so is our costs for handling this winter. As of this weekend we are in deficit in the snow removal account by \$18,147. Hopefully March will bring less severe weather to help mitigate the costs over the last few weeks. We have had a couple of contacts from residents interested in when we are planning to clear the sidewalks on Route 140. We do not have a timetable for this, as we're focusing still on clearing intersections, catch basins, etc. The sidewalk machines can't manage the volume of snow now, so use of the loader, hired dump trucks and a police officer is needed. When we do start it will be between Millhaus and Maple Avenue where we believe the highest volume of walkers are.
- Our Water/wastewater employees should be commended for handling a difficult job this past week with a water main and house service on Fox Run. The line was frozen and thus at least 1 home had no water. Our employees worked round the clock for 2 days to thaw out the line and restore service. Unfortunately the major culprit (other than freezing temperatures) is the fact that a portion of this water main is buried just three feet deep when it should have been placed much lower. This may require a special project to address this in the future to stop the problem from reoccurring.
- The Library Feasibility Committee meets twice this week to interview firms who have submitted proposals for owner's project manager services and then recommend one for selection.
- I anticipate that health insurance costs for our Town employees will rise by 10.9% next year. The MIIA Health Trust board set a rate range this week of 3% - 10.9%, with the average increase expected to be 9.0%. Given the high utilization of our plan over the past two years I'm expecting that the highest increase will be assessed to us. Interestingly the State Group Insurance Commission (GIC) is expected to announce a 9% increase as well, along with significant hikes in co-pays and deductibles.
- The assessment center for the DPW Director candidates will be held at the end of the week, with three finalists participating.

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

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