

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Kenneth E. Picard, Chairman

James A. Brochu

Robert J. Fleming

TOWN MANAGER

Blythe C. Robinson

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Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: February 22, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 90,408.30
- Expense Warrant: \$ 99,025.14

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- We are expecting yet another weekend snow storm on Saturday into Sunday. While we haven't fully calculated the numbers we believe that the February 8/9 storm cost approximately \$50,000. We still have funds remaining in the snow/ice budget, but I expect that there will be a need for me to recommend to the Finance Committee the authority under State law to overspend this budget for the rest of the winter season. Hopefully spring is right around the corner.
- Unfortunately there is sad news to report this week. Upton lost a very dedicated volunteer in George Kennedy who passed away on Tuesday. He had served in various roles, but we fondly remember him as a registrar of voters for 52 years and our go to person for printing of Town stationary, envelopes and the like! Please also join me in extending our sympathies to Diane Judd whose father passed away after a battle with cancer. Mr. Carter was also an Upton resident and our hearts go out to Diane and her family at this difficult time.
- Interviews are complete for the part-time and full-time dispatcher positions, and I anticipate that I will recommend persons to fill those positions at the next Selectmen's meeting.
- We have advertised to fill both the COA Department Specialist and Town Accountant's positions – resumes for both are due by March 7th. I am also seeking the services of a qualified interim Town Accountant to manage our weekly affairs until the position can be filled permanently. I anticipate a recommendation to fill that role at the next meeting as well.
- The Town Hall Renovation Committee continues to be busy. With our consultants we are continuing to analyze the opportunities for a temporary Town Hall. We are expecting to receive another independent cost estimate of the construction project next week so we can confirm we are still on track with the budget as we go out to bid on March 6th.

- Just a reminder to all that the warrant closes for the annual Town Meeting on March 15th. At this writing there are 41 articles included. We anticipate that any business that would have been the subject of a special meeting this spring will also be taken up that night rather than scheduling a second meeting. Thus if you have any business that needs attention this spring please let me know!
- We have gotten word that our health insurance rates will be going up by 10% on July 1st. The utilization of this benefit by employees and their families is such that the claims paid out continue to exceed the premiums remitted. As a result the insurance company is seeking an increase to cover those costs. On the good news side, the MIIA health trust to which we belong had an overall good year, and the Board of Directors had capped rate increases at 10%. Had we not been in a larger pool and been rated on our own experience we understand that our rate increase would have been 17%. Nonetheless once the details of the rate increase are available I will be calling a meeting of the Insurance Advisory Committee to review them and see if there are any plan design changes we want to make to mitigate this increase.