



# TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen  
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager  
Date: February 28, 2014  
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

### Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 91,573.06
- Expense Warrant: \$ 862,945.03

### For Your Information/Follow Up:

- This week all thirteen of the Town Managers/Administrators from the BVT School District had a meeting with Dr. Fitzpatrick to discuss the proposed capital expansion project and the budget in general. It was a congenial meeting with a number of points of view shared. Several towns expressed concern about the school accepting only the "best" students rather than students who might benefit more from a vo-tech education than others. There was also discussion about the future financial obligations of the towns to paying for increased enrollment if the project is approved (200 students in future years), as well as the shifts in enrollment from one year to the next, such as the 25 additional students from Upton who entered school there this fall. We discussed meeting yearly in the future to share ideas and concerns. It was clear from the meeting that at least several towns plan to go the route of scheduling a debt exclusion ballot vote on the expansion project as they have financial constraints that do not allow them to include additional debt in their operating budgets.
- The Library has closed for renovation project and will not reopen again until Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be offering limited services from the Fay Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Risteen Building during this period.
- The Town Hall Renovation Committee has increased construction job meetings from bi-weekly to weekly for the next month or so. We are at a critical point of getting decisions made on various tasks, and they determined it would be more helpful to meet more often to ensure that issues are addressed. Attic insulation should be complete in the next two weeks as well as underpinning in the basement. All new wood bearing walls are constructed in the lower level that replaces walls that were deemed to be unable to continue to carry the load required. Waterproofing work has commenced, and we should be able to have base stone installed in the ground floor ahead of the pouring of the new basement floor in the next two weeks. The total amount of approved change orders has increased to \$172,000.
- I'm sure I'm not speaking just for myself when I say it was with great displeasure that cold weather returned this week! I anticipate that our snow/ice deficit is at about \$70,000 with what was processed on this week's warrant. On the good news side our renovated

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“new to us” 10 wheel dump truck/plow truck arrived from the vendor this week and it looks great. Hopefully we won’t have a chance to break it in until next winter.

- We’ve been contacted by CMMPO (Central Mass. Metropolitan Planning Organization) about attending their March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the TIP project. Both DPW Director Thompson and I plan to do so. We’re hoping to be able to give the board an update and perhaps reiterate our dedication to this project and desire to see it move forward as expeditiously as possible.
- Good news from CMRPC – both DLTAs projects that we asked to be included on are going to be funded. The planning work on the Town’s downtown priority development area will likely start this summer. Depending on our decision whether or not to form a Green Community Committee will drive whether we participate in planning assistance for that project. Since we were one of the four communities that directly supported this grant application we’ll be given first priority to get underway with technical assistance.