



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: March 27, 2015
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 87,837.48
- Expense Warrant: \$ 77,209.35

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- The Green Community Committee has been going back and forth with the State on the projects that we can get accomplished this year with the grant monies received. There is good news that the projects planned at Memorial School will cost less than first planned. As a result, we're able to add some of the Town projects to the list including lighting upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant and Highway garage, and weatherization at the Fire Station.
- A thank you to the 45 people who turned out on Monday night for open meeting law training! We covered a lot of information in the two sessions that were held, and hopefully everyone came away with a better understanding of the law. Sandy and I learned that our agenda item topics likely need to be written in a more descriptive and detailed manner. Thus we've been looking at agendas from other Towns that may achieve this, and we will be making some changes to ensure that our agendas are meeting the intent of the law! The power point has been sent to all boards, and the tape of the meeting will be available on our website.
- Mr. Vincent Roy executed his contract for the position of DPW Director this week, and he is completing his other paperwork and tasks in preparation for his first day on the job on May 4th. We're looking forward to his joining us!!
- The date for a special election on the budget override will be Monday, May 18th. We'll meet with the Finance Committee on April 8th to finalize the number which is approximately \$1.5 million at this time.
- Governor Baker has formally requested disaster assistance for the four snow storms that began January 26-28. Upton's total dollars spent when FEMA rates are applied exceeded \$425,000 and the most we would receive if that is approved would be 75%. This would be a tremendous help to our budget if it did, as we've overspent the snow removal budget by \$200,000 at this point this year.
- The TIP project inched along closer to approval this week when the State held a meeting to vote on the design exception we had applied for. The regulations for this program

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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would have required a sidewalk on both sides of the street, but we applied for a variance to just have one on the south side of the road. That was approved, and now we should be in the queue for the 25% design public hearing this spring.

- We received fourteen applications for the two openings we have for part-time Communications Officer. The Personnel Board qualified eight of those to proceed to the first interview for which the date has not been determined.
- On Monday I'll be attending a meeting in Worcester to kick off the Village Center bylaw project that was funded with a DLTA grant to CMRPC. As you know we joined with West Boylston on this to look at crafting a local bylaw that would encourage appropriate development in our town center and Route 140 corridor.
- As a reminder, we'll be holding the ceremony to be designated a Purple Heart Community on Tuesday, April 7th. We're looking at having that in the Main Hall so that we can comfortably accommodate all who might like to attend.
- I spoke to the G&U Railroad owner this week who tells me that the project to install the safety equipment at the four crossings in Upton (Williams St., Hartford Ave South, Maple Avenue and Pleasant Street) is moving along and he's hopeful that construction can begin in about 6 weeks.