



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: April 4, 2014
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 77,076.15
- Expense Warrant: \$ 563,488.93

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- The energy aggregation project with Hampshire County COG is moving forward. We've received official notice that the State Department of Energy Resources has approved the project, and the Department of Public Utilities (DPUC) has scheduled a public hearing on April 15th, the next step in the process. The bidding process will take place after that, but the timing has not been determined exactly at this point.
- We opened proposals for ambulance billing services and on call engineering services on Monday. We received two proposals for the first service and 11 sets of proposals/qualifications for the second. We will be taking both of those under advisement and starting through the review and interview process over the next few weeks.
- We opened bids on Thursday for a Quint Fire Apparatus for which we've been including funds in the budget. We received two bids for the truck, one from the vendor representing the vehicle in Maryland, and one from Connecticut. The bid from CT is for \$275,000 and the other \$365,000. The Department is analyzing the bids to determine whether or not the lower cost vehicle meets the specifications we put out for bid.
- A big congratulation to Steve Johnson in Code Enforcement for passing all of the required exams to be fully certified as a local inspector. The building code is quite complicated and takes a lot of study and practice to be conversant and able to interpret it correctly. Steve has been working at this since he started in the fall of 2011. We're proud of his accomplishment.
- The Library reopened for business on Tuesday April 1st. The new finishes look great and a rearrangement of the book stacks has made better use of the space. The project went smoothly and I hope our patrons enjoy their visits in the future.
- The COA, in conjunction with Tri Valley is planning to have a volunteer luncheon on Friday, April 11th to recognize all of the volunteers that assist at the Upton Center. Watch your email inbox for an invitation to this event.
- The Board of Health is planning to hold a household hazardous waste collection day on Saturday, April 26th at the DPW. They will be holding a paper shredding day before the end of the fiscal year, likely to be in late May or early June.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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- We had two interested parties attend the pre-proposal meeting for the sale of the two lots on Orchard Street. The proposals are due on April 14th in our office at 4 PM.
- We had a virus impact the server at the Police Station this week which has required many hours of IT technical support to resolve that and get everything back up and running. We may need a Finance Committee reserve transfer to pay for the unexpected IT support to resolve this matter.
- If you were out on Hopkinton Road on Thursday or Friday you saw our DPW crew hot topping sections of the road to patch the potholes that emerged over the winter. Unfortunately we saw a lot of degradation of the road surface during the cold months.
- Two members of the Green Community Committee and I met with CMRPC staff this week regarding the DLTA grant for this project. The grant will provide technical staffing to complete the inventory of electricity usage, and to develop the plan to reduce usage by 20%. The Committee had already done a lot of work on several other components of the grant requirements, and this assistance from CMRPC at no cost to us should get us a long way to the last aspect of that work.
- We opened bids for refuse and recycling services on Wednesday. For the Town we received only two viable bids and the apparent low bidder is our current one, E. L. Harvey. We're working on the budget and will discuss options with the Board of Health to manage an almost \$53,000 increase in the costs from the present year. Three firms provided pricing for the two school districts and they have determined that the bid from BP Trucking will provide savings to both schools over the life of the contract.
- Today we received our Chapter 90 letter from the Governor's Office. I am quite disappointed to report that although the Legislature is again this year developing a \$300 million bond bill for Chapter 90, the Governor is at this time only authorizing \$200 million, so our amount for next year is \$319,315. I know you realize this means that we won't be able to complete all of the work we hoped to do this year, even with the \$200,000 in Town funds we plan to dedicate to the effort.