



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: May 16, 2014
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 71,278.93
- Expense Warrant: \$510,002.32

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Please be aware that we've received a press release from National Grid alerting us to a scam regarding calls to customers threatening shut off if customers don't make immediate payment. The fraudulent callers claim to be from National Grid and threaten immediate shut off unless the customer provides a credit card or bank account information so that funds can be accessed immediately. A copy of the press release has been posted on our website.
- Several events going on in Town this weekend. The Library book sale is on Saturday on the Knowlton-Risteen lawn. Great chance to stock up on reading material and also go in and see the renovated space. The VFW is holding their annual carnival this weekend as well.
- Good news on the TIP project. The State has finally signed off fully on the 25% design and so they should soon be scheduling the public hearing that is the next step. We're hopeful that it can be in the next month or so before people are away during the summer. We'll let you know as soon as we hear of the date and time.
- The draft of the State Senate version of the budget has come out. In many areas this budget mirrors what was approved by the House; however there are some increases that would be beneficial to Upton. We'll watch this closely, but it appears even a compromise budget will be good news for the Town and support the budget we passed at Town Meeting last week.
- Enclosed with your packet you will find a memo to me from COA Director Janice Nowicki updating me on a proposal she made to the COA Board and they accepted to change the way the monthly newsletter is disseminated. We are going to be transitioning from mailing this to all seniors, to a mixture of on line, distributed to various locations in town and a subscription to send it out in the future. We'd like to make sure it gets to those who want to see it, but also save on postage if it is possible.
- As you know, our Town Meeting approved the warrant article last week to renovate & expand BVT to add three new programs. By the terms of the regional agreement the

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

TOWN MANAGER
Blythe C. Robinson
One Main Street • Suite 1 • Upton, MA 01568
T: 508.529.6901 • F: 508.529.1010

project needed to pass in nine communities to become effective. We learned this week that it has failed in five and thus will need to be withdrawn this year.

- On Friday we have a conference call with Standard and Poors regarding our current bond rating. They have agreed to review our status and consider a change in our rating.
- The insurance company for the Town Hall project has approved the claim for the water damage that was a result of the hydrant flushing two weeks ago. The structural work to the north and south sides of the foundation is underway and going well. We expect that the contractor will be starting to install sheetrock in the building offices in the next week.
- Plans are underway for the annual Memorial Day Parade to step off from the Post Office to the Town Common on May 26th. The festivities will begin at about 9:45 AM.
- We received a good response to the two open positions. There were five candidates for the Department Specialist in the Treasurer/Collector's office, and 20 for the new full-time laborer position in DPW to maintain the cemeteries. The Personnel Board meets next week to qualify candidates.
- There has been some success in trapping beavers on Southborough Road and some more to be done. We've also requested an emergency order to breach a dam on Old Grafton Road at Route 140 and remove some beavers from that area as well.
- We received two proposals for IT Services and will soon be underway to review those and recommend a contract provider for July 1st.
- The Board of Health is coming up on May 31st. That event will be in the parking lot on Route 140 in front of the playground.
- My monthly project update report is included in your packet.