

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

James A. Brochu, Chairman

Robert J. Fleming

Kenneth E. Picard

TOWN MANAGER

Blythe C. Robinson

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Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: May 17, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 71,483.69
- Expense Warrant: \$ 52,574.88

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Beach stickers for Kiwanis Beach will be available on line this year! We've added these to the list of items residents can purchase without a trip to Town Hall. Any resident who wishes to do so will be required to enter the license plate of a vehicle they own that is registered in Upton in order to purchase a sticker. The link to this is: http://uptonma.vt-s.net/pages/uptonma_webdocs/onlinepay.
- The planning to move out of Town Hall for the renovation of the building has begun in earnest. All affected departments met this week and we've tentatively planned to move out of the building on Friday, June 21st, with a fall back date of June 28th if need be. A number of activities need to be coordinated to make this happen (church prepared for move in, utilities moved, moving company retained, etc). Included with your packet is a copy of the layout of the temporary Town Hall that we plan to implement. I will keep you apprised of how this goes over the next six weeks.
- The DPW, Police Chief and I had a meeting with a representative from DOT concerning a complaint DOT received about parking on Route 140 near the Library. It is the DOT's policy state-wide that no parking be allowed on a State road. We've reached a solution by which no parking will be allowed from approximately the walkway to the sidewalk from the Library to the intersection with Grove Street. The State will install a new sign and stripe the affected area so it is clear to motorists. They will also restripe the pedestrian crosswalk.
- The electronic permitting process is moving along. CMRPC received four proposals from interested vendors. The representatives of the nine communities will meet next week to short list those for interview, and those will take place on June 4th. For those staff persons who want to attend these, please mark that date on your calendars.
- As you know, bills went out just before Town Meeting to all water and sewer customers, and this is the beginning of our switch to quarterly billing. Over the past year we've been

- replacing water meters, some as old as 20+ years. The reason for doing this was to allow for remote reading and thus less work to accomplish the task. This has had an unintended Benefit for the Town in terms of higher than anticipated revenue. It turns out that water meters tend to become less accurate over time, running more slowly than they should, and customers may have been billed in the past for less water than they actually used. In this billing cycle we anticipate about \$80,000 additional, broken down into \$50,000 for water and \$30,000 for sewer. This will be helpful towards rate stabilization in the future. At this point we've replaced about 50% of the meters and will continue with replacements as the budget allows.
- The Senate Ways and Means budget was announced on Wednesday. On the good news side funds for education have gone up, but for the Town side of the budget there is \$21 million less for unrestricted government aid. This means a reduction of \$10,325 for Upton than the House version. As you know, both chambers will need to meet and reconcile these issues, so this amount is not set in stone. After the Town Meeting, because the mosquito control article did not pass the Town's budget was favorable by \$53,932. We'll keep our eye on what happens at the state house in the coming weeks.
- On Tuesday evening Selectmen Brochu and Fleming and I attended a meeting put on by the State Gaming Commission about the process for siting casinos. The meeting was very informative as to the process and the rights of surrounding communities should the applicant for the Milford Casino move forward with the process. The Milford Board of Selectmen will be holding a meeting on June 3rd at which the applicant for the casino will be presenting their plan. I plan to attend, and then follow up with the applicant as to whether or not they intend to include Upton as a surrounding community.
- The bid opening for the renovations to the exterior of the police station is scheduled for May 29th. At this point eight firms have taken out plans which are a good sign that we should receive several bids on that day.
- I will be out of the office next week taking some time off before the Town Hall project begins in earnest. Chief Bradley will be the Acting Town Manager, so please get in touch with him if there is anything you need in my absence.
- It is not too soon to put on your calendars two events that will take place on June 1st – the Annual Police Fishing Derby, and the document shredding day sponsored by the Board of Health.