

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

1 Main Street, Box 1, Upton, MA 01568

Tel: 508-529-6901 Fax: 508-529-1010

brobinson@uptonma.gov

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: June 14, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 116,591.82
- Expense Warrant: \$ 131,645.12

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- On Monday I attended a meeting with the Gaming Commission, Milford Casino developer and two regional planning agencies to discuss the proposed casino in Milford and its impact on surrounding communities. The developer provided an overview of the project, and communities gave feedback and asked questions about the proposal. On behalf of Upton I brought up the issue of traffic, and that we are concerned that additional traffic on Hopkinton Road to reach 495 may be a burden for Upton. I also expressed our interest in having CMRPC and MAPC represent us in analyzing the proposal and studies so that we can take advantage of their strength in this area and help us determine what factors ought to be mitigated.
- On Tuesday I attended the annual meeting of the Route 495 Partnership, which has been in business now for 10 years. Enclosed with your packet is their 10-year anniversary report, and you'll note that Upton is now included on the map of the 33 communities they represent. Mr. Steve Crosby, the chair of the Mass. Gaming Commission was the featured speaker, and he gave a good overview of the gaming process in the state, and answered questions from area businesses and towns about that. As you know the Partnership focuses on transportation, energy and sustainable development and water resources. If you have any interest in serving on one of their committees they are welcoming new members, so please let me know.
- You might want to be aware that the Conservation Commission through Land Stewardship has sent a notice to Gail Harrington of Sweetwilliam Farm that the committee intends to begin completion of its trail work on the west side of the farm beginning on June 16th. It also appears that the sale of the farm is progressing and the Harrington's are in the process of preparing to move.
- The Library Board of Trustees has decided to delay the start of the renovation project approved at the Annual Town Meeting. They had contracted with a firm to have mold testing done, which determined that there is mold in the carpet, air and some drywall

They plan to wait for the report to be received that will contain recommendations on how to proceed. We are also holding off on the installation of more dehumidification in the basement until the report comes out, so we can determine what would be the best course of action. There remains \$9,253 in the Knowlton Repair Account from last year's warrant article for whatever repairs are require mitigation and exploring surrounding community agreements for mitigation. We intend to stay involved in this process to make sure Upton is appropriately represented.

- The State court judge handling the GURR railroad case in Grafton has ruled this week that the injunction to install a propane transfer depot in Grafton will remain in place. Both the GURR and the Town of Grafton have agreed that the case should be removed to the Surface Transportation Board and that is the next step in the process. At this time there is still no word from the STB on the pending Upton case.
- We are in the home stretch of getting ready to move out of Town Hall on June 21st. Packing is fairly well under control thanks to everyone's efforts. We will do our best to continue to respond to residents needs next week as the final packing takes place, and then as we unpack and settle in at 3 Milford Street on June 24th. The team effort to make sure the church is ready for our arrival has been tremendous, and everything we need should be there upon our arrival, with the exception of a working fax machine for the first couple of days. Apparently we can't have multiple orders in to Verizon for moves of lines on a single day, so we had to prioritize working phones before the fax machine....

A letter has gone out to our neighbors about the construction beginning, and signage will be erected on Warren Street about the road closing. The contractor anticipates fencing off the road and site on July 1st or thereabouts.

- The Board of Health has sent out an alert to residents regarding rabid woodchucks. Two of these animals have been tested and found positive for rabies, and a third is of concern. There is an alert on our website, and it is also running on cable tv. Hopefully these are isolated incidents, but residents are urged to take caution.
- Interviews are moving ahead for the Library Circulation Assistant, Water/Wastewater Operator in Training, Library Page and Personnel Board Assistant.
- Please mark your calendars for June 22nd, the annual 4th of July fireworks display hosted by the Upton Men's Club.