



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: July 19, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 82,934.26
- Expense Warrant: \$ 530,608.60 – FY 13, \$ 20,072.81 – FY 14

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- You may note above that there are two sets of expense warrants. As usual, at the beginning and end of the fiscal year there are two warrants to ensure that costs are reflected in the correct year. This week we'll be processing the last expense warrant for any items incurred in FY 12/13.
- The FY 13/14 State budget continues to be in play as the Governor had signed the budget, but vetoed sections of it including unrestricted government aid and transportation. We understand that was due to his belief that the funding for the budget was not sufficient for the projected needs. The legislature is taking up this issue again this week and seems to indicate that they have the votes to override the Governor on these issues. Stay tuned!
- I want to make you aware of several land/encroachment issues for which the landowner or association has reached out to me seeking resolution. First is that some of the landscaping and fencing on a portion of the Kenneth Village development has gone further than it should, and is in the conservation restricted area. Conservation is working with the association to resolve this matter, and the homeowner's association has asked that I be involved in the outcome. Second, you may recall that when Goss Pond was built, Mr. Henderson gave land to the Town that includes the Pond, as well as deeding land for access over which a trail was to be built for people to walk to the Pond. An abutter to the land on Green Lane has reached out to Land Stewardship and myself to express his displeasure at the proposed trail and its impact on his property. A site visit has been scheduled for Sunday, August 4th to walk the site and review the issue. Finally, a property owner on Orchard Street has been in touch with my office, Public Works and Conservation asking that the drainage culvert underneath Orchard Street be removed or relocated because it results in water on her parcel that may impact its development potential. The culvert has been in place since the 1980's and is critical to the integrity of the road in that area. Conservation is reviewing it along with Public Works, and advising the property owner on the situation.
- Work continues on the Town Hall project. The contractor is continuing with demolition of interior spaces. They also accomplished proper removal of the asbestos tile in the

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basement level that also needed to be removed. The boiler has been removed, bathrooms, and rooms on either side of the stage in the Main Hall. Next week they expect to remove the oil tank, and they will begin the process of installing shoring behind the building in preparation for the structural work in that area. The Treasurer's Office safe was finally safely relocated to temporary Town Hall.

- The Police Department was quite busy this week investigating the break ins of approximately 50 cars in several Upton neighborhoods. They have arrested two Upton individuals for these acts, and anticipate the arrest of a third. Charges will be brought against all.
- Proposals are due next week for an update to the Town's personnel pay and classification plan. They are due on July 23rd after which the Personnel Board will review proposals, hold interviews and select a firm with which to proceed.
- We received two bids on July 18th for the exterior renovation of the Police Station. Unfortunately, both exceeded the appropriation for the project. We are looking at options to replace the doors and other smaller aspects of the work that will enable the building to be weather tight for another winter season, as it is unlikely that we could have a Town Meeting in time to budget funds and complete the work this construction season. I will let you know what our plan is as soon as we've determined it.
- Chief Bradley and I had a meeting this week with a member of United Parish Church interested in putting together a "First Night Upton" celebration. She asked to meet with both of us to talk through the logistics of such an event so it can be determined whether or not to move forward with the idea. They have received a cultural council grant to help defray the cost of the event, and are looking to put together a program of arts events that celebrates local talent and provides a family friendly option to celebrate the ringing in of the new year. We anticipate meeting with them again in early October to see how the planning is going and work on details to make the event safe and successful.
- This week I had lunch with the new Town Coordinator from Hopedale, Mr. Steve Sette. He is finishing up his first month on job and seems to be settling in well. We talked about the dispatch contract and how well that is going, and opened the door for other sharing opportunities in the future.