

## Board of Selectmen

# Town of Upton

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# Massachusetts

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### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Kenneth E. Picard, Chairman**

**James A. Brochu**

**Robert J. Fleming**

### TOWN MANAGER

**Blythe C. Robinson**

1 Main Street, Box 1, Upton, MA 01568

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brobinson@upton.ma.us

Memo To: Board of Selectmen  
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager  
Date: September 7, 2012  
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

#### Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 85,925.77
- Expense Warrant: \$214,497.68

#### For Your Information/Follow Up:

- I am pleased to report that on Thursday we received signed copies of the Teamster's hourly and supervisor's contracts which means that all three contracts have been settled and are in place through June 30, 2015. It was a pleasure working with the unions through this process and reaching agreements that are equitable to the town and our employees.
- We received word that there will be a groundbreaking held on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> in Milford for the project that was funded by a state grant to upgrade the railroad crossings in Milford and Hopedale. The railroad has acquired some new business for which they will be running trains to those towns this fall. If you would like to attend please let me know and I'll get you the details.
- As I have mentioned in recent reports, a major focus of work recently and through September is getting the new website up and running. We expect to choose a vendor for on line payments shortly, and we're working with all departments to get their information loaded onto the page and linked to appropriate sites. We will be outreaching to all of the boards soon to make sure we have their meeting minutes so that we can load them and make them available to residents at the click of a mouse.
- On Thursday we had our rating meeting with Standard & Poors as part of our process to sell the bonds for the 3<sup>rd</sup> well field project on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The meeting went well, we were pleased to be able to tell S&P that the Town's financial position remains strong, that we balanced our budget this year without the use of one time revenues, and that we've made good headway in adopting policies and procedures that will help us stay on track in the future.
- The Upton family got a little bigger last week. Jeff Thompson and his wife welcomed daughter Iris into the world on August 31<sup>st</sup>!

- We have been approached by several firms who are in the process of developing solar installations in the area and are interested in signing up the town to purchase “net metering credits”. We have sent our recent electricity invoices to one firm and it appears that a savings of over \$20,000 per year could be realistic. On the advice of counsel we will be contacting other firms who are doing the same thing to determine what the best course of action for the Town is.
- The migration to the new basis for submitting and completing weekly payroll continues – we now have two weeks under our belts. All boards and departments are submitting payroll in both the old and new ways, and as soon as we are confident that all the bugs have been worked out we’ll no longer use the payroll warrant form. Many thanks go to Ann Perkins for her hard work and attention to detail that is going to make this a reality.
- The Recreation Commission will be meeting next week to determine a short list of firms who will be invited to participate in an interview process for the possible design of the South Street Park project. Our intent is to review all of them and select a firm who would be ready to begin work if funding for the project is approved in November.
- Next Thursday the Town Hall Renovation Project design phase will start to kick into higher gear. A meeting between the architect, OPM, Building Official and Fire Chief will take place to go over code matters and ensure that both officials are in agreement with the improvements we plan to make to the building.