



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: September 13, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 72,808.89
- Expense Warrant: \$ 89,523.01

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- The opening of municipal well field #3 went well this week. All the boards that participated in this 14-year long process were represented, and I think everyone enjoyed the speeches, ribbon cutting, first drink of water from the new source and other refreshments. A thank you again to all who persevered to get this project done and by doing so ensures that the Town can better manage its system and meet its needs for water into the future.
- The State has issued its notice that the annual round of Community Innovation Challenge grants are open for funding again this year. The State has earmarked \$4 million for projects that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government. Last year we participated in two projects that were funded, and will seek to do so again this year.
- The paving of School, Fisk Ave and a portion of Mendon streets is scheduled to be completed this week on Thursday and Friday. This is of course weather dependent.
- To be released next week is a Request for Proposals (RFP) that seeks proposals from persons interested in the acquisition one or both parcels of land owned by the Town on Orchard Street. As you may recall, these parcels were created when the Town bought the Stephan's Farm parcel in 2004. The Town created four parcels and sold two of them a couple years later. We will seek proposals to sell the remaining two. Any proceeds derived from this sale must be used to pay off debt of the Town. Since the Stephan's Farm bonds will have already been paid off we will work with the Treasurer/Collector to determine which of the Town's outstanding debt should be satisfied next.
- As a result of the issues raised by the incident that occurred when the developer of Crosswinds brought in a paving crew to pave Station Street railroad crossing last week we are seeking to have the State convene a diagnostic team meeting to determine what safety infrastructure should be built to make this future road crossing safe. The paving all the way up to the rails of the crossing caused a Grafton & Upton Railroad train going from Hopedale through to Grafton to almost derail as it came upon rail bed. The results of this meeting and agreement on what should be installed will be conveyed to the Planning Board as part of the development process.

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

- Work continues on the Town Hall project with the focus on the basement. Ledge removal is continuing, and it is a slow and deliberate process. The large pile of rock in front of the building will be removed in time. Once it is out and shoring of the interior walls is in place to protect the structure, removal of the old steam boiler can be addressed. Staging will be erected in the main hall to begin work in that area. On the exterior the masonry work to be done will be started.
- I will be meeting with HRS Consulting next week to start the process to update the Town's classification and compensation plan. Meetings will be scheduled with all employees and with department heads to explain the process and get underway and employees will be furnished with questionnaires to be completed about their job duties.
- The Milford Board of Selectmen has signed a host community agreement with Foxwoods Massachusetts. This triggers the start of the process for Town's to negotiate surrounding community agreements with the developer. We have scheduled a meeting on Monday to meet with the planning agencies to go over their review of what has been provided by the developer so we can better gauge the impact of the casino facility on the Town of Upton and its residents.
- The Library Board of Trustees has signed off on the items of work recommended by Vertex to address the odor in the Library and the work in the basement and outdoors to continue to improve the air quality for the entire building. The Library has also posted a notice of the air quality issues in the Library and on its website. The plan of action is to have the Library rug removed and wall along the Children's area taken out and replaced as part of the overall Library renovation project. The basement dehumidification project will be coordinated by BVT, and the outside work between myself and Public Works. We'll keep you apprised of the progress on this overall.