

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

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

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

brobinson@uptonma.gov

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: October 5, 2012
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 82,575.42
- Expense Warrant: \$ 211,340.58

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- We received good news this week in the form of a contract with National Grid for the installation of three phase power down West River Street to support the new well field and pump station. We had budgeted \$250,000 for this work and have been informed that the final price is \$217,732.31. I will include the agreement for this on the October 16th agenda for your approval so I may execute it.
- The design development phase of the Town Hall project is in full swing. The Building Committee met with the Owner's Project Manager on Thursday evening and reviewed the progress to date. The project is on track to bid out prior to the annual town meeting.
- Our attorney's appeared in court on our behalf regarding the lawsuit by Upton Development Group (UDG) versus the Town and number of current or former residents regarding a parcel of land for which UDG wishes to perfect title. Further research needs to be done on the parcel as there is a difference of opinion as to ownership.
- As might be expected, the reemergence of trains running to Hopedale on the Grafton & Upton railroad has been to the delight of some and not to others. We have received a few complaints about train whistles being blown at each crossing, particularly after dark. As you heard from the owner at the meeting Tuesday after this week his intention is to run one train per day during normal business hours, and that is the message we are passing on.
- The website is in the home stretch and it looks great!! Due to the hard work of our departments and boards who have put a lot of time into each of their pages there is quite a lot of information available. The Police Department has decided to close their current site and join ours, and I think you will be impressed with that design as well. We're looking forward to the October 15th go live date.
- The CPC met this week, with its major focus being a discussion on the South Street Park

project. They voted to hold a public hearing on the project on November 7th, a week before the special town meeting. Related to this the Recreation Commission has narrowed down its focus to one firm for future A/E services for South Street park. We have requested a proposal on project scope and fees from them and will be working with them to hopefully arrive at a mutual agreement. If so we would ask the Board to give us authorization to sign a contract if the Town Meeting in November approves the project.

- The surplus auction concluded on Thursday for the DPW plow truck, fire tanker, police cruiser and lights that were replaced at DPW. The total brought in from these auctions was \$ 17,015! We were especially pleased with this as the DPW truck had only received a bid of about \$4,000 this summer and we didn't sell it; this fall it brought in \$7,855. The police cruiser would have brought in a trade value of about \$500 and we received \$3,405 at auction.
- We had a positive meeting with Hopedale this week regarding providing ring down dispatch services for them. We discussed governance, training, equipment and process among other things. We will begin drafting an agreement to discuss further, scheduling a meeting with our union to discuss the impact, and be in contact with State 911 relative to technical issues and training.
- Just a reminder that Monday October 8th is Columbus Day and Town Hall will be closed.