



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: October 25, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 81,571.93
- Expense Warrant: \$1,086,791.37

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- It was a welcomed site today to come to work and see a concrete truck at Town Hall delivering material for the pouring of the elevator pit floor and two of the load bearing walls in the basement as well as see that we've turned the corner from removing material to putting it in. You may have noticed that the front steps of Town Hall have been removed, and that the exterior masonry work is fairly well complete with the installation of the helical ties and repointing of some grout.
- We're looking forward to celebrating the opening of the renovated Veterans Memorial Playground next Thursday the 31st at 5 PM. We've invited all those who donated over \$24,000 to match the funds recommended by CPC and approved at town meeting. The playground will be open for use after we put the final touches on it today. The kids have been clamoring to get in once the equipment went up.
- GEO TMS (electronic permitting) has gone live! We completed the process yesterday and set up all departments. We were delayed about two weeks getting the financial/banking end of things sorted out but that's been resolved. Monday we'll update our website so that residents/contractors can access it on line and we'll issue a press release about it.
- I've been made aware that there are \$10 million in available funds through the State for railroad crossing upgrades. We're going to work with the railroad to identify some crossings in Upton that would most benefit from this, and seek a grant to obtain them this year. A chance to improve safety for all would be a great opportunity.
- The Personnel Board met this week and qualified 7 candidates for interviews for the DPW Highway Heavy Equipment Operator position. Those will take place on Wednesday so we can move forward with filling those two openings. Applications close for the COA Director on October 31st.
- The Classification/Compensation study kicked off this week with two introductory sessions held by the consultant for both employees and supervisors to explain the process and educate all in how to fill out the position questionnaire, which is the basis for the updating of job descriptions.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
James A. Brochu, Chairman
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- Now that we've been designated a surrounding community to the proposed casino in Milford, the next step is to begin negotiations. Through our attorney (who will be paid by Foxwoods as required by state law) we are trying to have our first meeting this week.
- The surplus auction brought in \$5,650 in selling the old police cruiser and the Fire Chief's vehicle. The DPW Director's vehicle did not reach the reserve and we've been asked by the Board of Health to see if it would be better to keep this and sell the ACO vehicle which may be in tougher shape. DPW is assessing that and we'll auction again the vehicle we do not plan to keep.
- You may recall that in late summer we got about \$52,000 for the February snow storm, but that only covered our DPW efforts. Emergency management continued to press for recovery of our costs by police and fire, and that has been fruitful. Yesterday I signed a contract for receipt of another \$3,764.84.
- The Library project is moving along with a close review of the costs of each item, and some prioritization by the Board of Trustees and Director to remove some items from the renovation scope so that the interior issues can be addressed for not a lot more dollars than was previously approved. I commend them for making some choices that will help us refine the dollars needed for the November special town meeting. We're still working on the schedule of when the work will be done.
- A draft of what we anticipate is the final version of the earth removal permit has been completed is posted on our website for public review ahead of the next Selectmen's meeting on October 15th.