



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: November 1, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 83,465.81
- Expense Warrant: \$ 422,267.61

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- The next two weeks of Town Hall construction will continue to have materials being delivered and installed. Concrete pouring will continue for the footings and underpinning of the exterior walls where it is called for. Cutting of the steel beams and columns will commence soon so that those items can also be installed. Framing of the mechanicals and bearing walls in the basement will also be started. When the exterior front steps were removed we found that there was just a wood wall behind them. In order to improve climate control and water proofing of the basement a full concrete wall will be poured instead.
- It was wonderful to celebrate the opening of the renovated Veterans Memorial playground on Thursday afternoon. Public Works, in their usual fashion, did a great job advocating for this project, organizing it and getting it built. Also many thanks go to all who supported the project, donated funds, and donated their time and energy to getting it built. It's been wonderful to see it actively used every day by Upton children. The Fire/EMS Association Halloween parade kicked off just after, another fun and well attended community event!
- We received word from the Department of Revenue this week that the MURDS School District's Excess and Deficiency (E&D) amount for the last fiscal year is \$1,124,198. This number has more than doubled from a year ago when it was certified at: \$540,444.
- The audit of the FY 12/13 year has begun, as the auditors were on site this week to meet with our finance staff and begin their testing and review process. We are expecting a draft report from the firm completing the update to our OPEB (other post-employment benefits) in conjunction with this. As you know that valuation needs to be updated every three years and the liability carried on our books.
- Interviews took place this week for the DPW Highway Heavy Equipment Operator position. Six candidates were interviewed and we're following up with three of them. Applications closed for the COA Director position on October 31st and we received 17 applications. The Personnel Board will classify candidates for the position next week.
- The Classification/Compensation study continues. Employees should be filling out their position questionnaires and turning them in to their supervisor for review. All are due

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

back in our office by November 6th. Employee interviews with the consultants are scheduled for November 15th and 18th.

- The Police Department teamed up recently with the Men's Club to purchase portable radios that have been deployed to our schools and programmed to reach 911 so that in the event of an emergency the schools have quick and reliable contact with our public safety officers. As many communities are doing we are working to enhance the safety of our schools and this is a great step in that direction.
- 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 in the process of setting up our first meeting this week.
- The warrant for the November 19th special town meeting has been posted. The Finance Committee met on Wednesday night to review it and recommend action on the articles for which money would be expended. Unfortunately they did not take action due to the tax levy limit not being calculated at this time. We understand that the Assessor's Office is still in process with the Department of Revenue to certify the grand list and until that is done the limit can't be calculated. The Finance Committee will meet again on November 13th on this topic again.
- A draft of what we anticipate is the final version of the earth removal permit for the South Street Gravel Pit has been completed will be posted on our website early next week for public review ahead of the next Selectmen's meeting on November 12th.