

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: November 23, 2012
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 71,759.26
- Expense Warrant: \$407,604.04

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Two meetings were held with DEP this week regarding issues on Maple Avenue. The first was with DEP, EPA, Board of Health, and other Town staff regarding noise issues emanating from the railroad, and complaints about trains idling. Regarding idling trains we identified several next steps to be taken. First, we need to ask some questions of Town Counsel as to whether or not we have the ability to issue citations under state regulations, and second, we want to set up another meeting that will include the railroad and the FRA so we can gain a better understanding of how the railroad yard works, and seek ways in which we can ensure that excessive idling does not take place. We shared concerns over the Town's ability to monitor idling issues at the site and suggested to the State and federal entity that if not perhaps they could take this on.

With regard to noise, as you know the BOH and the DEP have been working closely together over the past few months taking readings of noise levels. After the railroad installed some sound proofing materials at the pellet plant the noise levels dropped and up until the Veteran's Day holiday were within state regulated guidelines. A lower ambient noise level reading was obtained then, and thus the DEP will be coming out to take readings as well as ours to determine if this was a one time event, or if there has been a change that means the levels will necessitate another discussion with the GURR on what can be done to bring them back into compliance. The Board of Health intends to be at the December 4th meeting to discuss both of these issues.

- We received word this week that at long last the State Ethics Commission will be launching the on line ethics test for municipal employees and volunteers. The new test will be available on December 10th, thus any newer employee or municipal employee/volunteer that has not taken the test in two years needs to do so at that time.
- Water and sewer invoices were sent out to all rate payers recently. We are working with any user who calls about their bill to help them understand how their bill is made up.

- Does your department or board have some news or an upcoming event scheduled that residents might want to know about? The news and announcements section of the new website is a great way to keep folks informed about what's going on in Upton. If you need help posting an item please contact either Sandy in my office or Kelly in the Town Clerk's Office.
- Interviews for the Library Circulation Clerk took place this week and will continue to early next week. There are six people who will be meeting with the interview committee.
- A reminder to all that deer hunting season officially opens on Monday. We expect a fair number of hunters to be active in Upton, so everyone is reminded to take care if you are out in the woods. Hunting is allowed on Town property, and no hunting is allowed on Sundays.
- The financial team has a meeting with our DOR representative on Monday to go over all of the details so our tax rate can be set. The questions concern some details on the recap sheet, and the methodology for the rate increases in the enterprise funds.