

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**

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Memo To: Board of Selectmen  
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager  
Date: December 7, 2012  
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 85,706.19
- Expense Warrant: \$ 155,313.62

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- We received some good news from our insurer MIIA this week. We have had a low loss history over the last few years which MIIA considers excellent. Based upon this they are offering us a two year rate lock comprised of a zero percent increase in FY 2013/14, and a 2.5% increase in FY 2014/15. I plan to execute this agreement and adjust next year's budget submission for insurance accordingly.
- Unfortunately, with the good news also came some bad news this week. As I have mentioned to you previously, and we heard at the Multi-Board meeting last week State revenues have not come in on target through the month of October. On Tuesday the Governor announced a \$540 million shortfall and his plan to close that gap. He will be invoking his authority to make cuts in the executive branch spending, as well as various education programs. He will also file legislation to cut unrestricted government aid by 1%. That will result in a cut to Upton of about \$4,500. While this is a manageable amount in our budget, we will support MMA in advocating that this not take place.
- Congratulations go out to all of our voters in Upton! We learned this week that we have won a competition called the Senator Louis Bertonazzi Foundation Outstanding Citizenship Award for 2011-12 with the highest average voting percentage amongst 19 towns of 29.90%. The Town Clerk will receive a check for \$1,000 to be used as she sees fit to encourage voter turnout in the future, and the Board will be presented a plaque at a meeting in January.
- The Town Hall Renovation Committee attended the CPC Committee meeting this week to give them an update on the project, and discuss with them the financing for the project. It is a key decision for the CPC to make as to what percentage (up to 100%) do they want to recommend comes from CPC funds for the project, and how much of their undesignated funds do they want to put towards the total cost. The CPC has indicated that they are likely to recommend covering 100% of the project cost, and they would put down \$1.5 million of their reserves towards that. This amount will still enable them to

put aside the 10% match into the required accounts monthly, and grow their undesignated fund for other projects in the future. The Committee will be back before them in January once we've received the outside cost estimate on the design development drawings, a key milestone to determine if we're still on track with the original budget.

- This week I had the pleasure of meeting with two residents who are interested in serving on the Cable Advisory Committee. Don Arthur and Richard Hellgers would both like to serve on that committee, which would bring us up to a full complement of three. Mr. Arthur also expressed interest in the OPEB Trust Committee.
- Next week we welcome a new employee to our ranks. Jeff Hartman will be joining the Library staff as a Circulation Clerk. We are looking forward to having him on the team!
- Next week we anticipate having a meeting with representatives from National Grid to discuss with them their response to Hurricane Sandy. As you recall, the Fire Chief sent me a very detailed account of the issues we had recovering from that storm and our recommendations to National Grid on how we believe they could have been better handled.