

The Town weathered the COVID storm. Following all the State protocols, the Town's employees made it through the year without becoming sick with the virus. The State provided grants for a safe election, for supplies and materials to sanitize buildings and provide barriers between employees and the public, and for electronic means to fulfill municipal public meeting obligations (ZOOM). There was significant public participation in remote zoning hearings and Selectboard meetings, as well as the election and Town Meeting. Pomfret's taxpayers paid their tax bills; total delinquency dropped from July 2020 to June 2021, and one late account was brought current with a payment of roughly \$75,000. All of which enabled the General Fund to complete the year in the black.

As for the Highway Fund, the Town completed the repaving of Howe Hill, with the help of a State transportation grant of \$175,000. The Town planned to replace the 3 plow trucks; 2 of which were purchased and on the roads during the year, with the last one due before the snow flies for winter 2021-22. The 20-year old grader had to be replaced too. Prudent funding of reserves allowed these significant expenses without debt. Similar to the General Fund, grant income from the State helped the Highway Fund finish above water. There was a FEMA payment of nearly \$65,000 for storm damage suffered in a previous year, and a State payment of \$35,000 for support in lieu of the usual grants, which were not available during COVID.

Looking back, it was a dramatic year. Thank goodness it is behind us. And how lucky Pomfret is to come through in strong financial shape. Thank you, one and all.