

Treasurer comments: Fiscal YE 2016-17

After the accountant's review (NOT AUDIT) the finances for the 2016-17 fiscal year are complete.

General fund: Income was over budget in almost all categories; with excellent effort from the delinquent tax collector, and a larger payment from the State for Current Use, the "other tax" category was \$230,000 over budget. The Fire Department and emergency services group did not spend all their allocation, contributing \$24,470 to the surplus. Expense categories were largely under-budget, with the exception of the Other Officers group, professional fees, and miscellaneous town expenses. The line items which were overspent by more than \$2000 were: Selectboard's administrative assistant, published newspaper advertisements / public notices, ZBA costs, and professional services (\$6,500 for John Wood the Fire Department consultant, \$6,479 for accounting support, and legal fees for SB and ZBA totaled \$22,633.32; bills for another \$7728.48 arrived in July, bringing the cost to date for the Chippers issue to \$30361.80, plus the loss of our longtime Zoning Administrator. I cannot help but feel this was an ineffective use of funds, as it has not resulted in a benefit to the town as a whole, nor has it affirmed or clarified any vital aspects of our zoning bylaws. This expense is 6.6% of the General Fund budget, and is more than was spent on the entire Lister function. It is more than the cost to operate the town offices, and is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the library appropriation. It is only \$2000 shy of the cost of the replacement windows in the Town Hall. In short, it was a significant amount of money for Pomfret, compared to usual operating expenses, and the taxpayers should have more to show for an expense of that magnitude.)

The General Fund shows a surplus of \$73,491, after funding the Rainy Day reserve as required by the Town Meeting vote.

Highway fund: Highway income was \$113,000 greater than budget due to funding of grants which were not budgeted, and cash sale of the tractor/mower. Expenses were under-budget by \$25,000; funding the Rainy Day, paving, and bridge reserves according to the Town Meeting vote removed the accumulated surplus, leaving the Highway with a current year surplus of \$137,715.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen DesMeules

Treasurer