By Finance Director, Cathy Ricker

The Town of Raymond closed its books for the year on June 30, 2020. Most towns in Maine have a fiscal year that ends in June, which coincides with the State of Maine. It shortens the time between the establishment of taxable value of the town and the commitment of taxes, and eliminates the need for tax anticipation borrowing.

The Town of Raymond does not rely heavily on fees to support its annual budget, so the unexpected downturn in the economy this spring did not impact the town in a major way. In total, revenue collected exceeded the projected budget.

Taxes for the current year we expect will be committed in September, with the normal due date for the first half of October 31, 2020.

Generous Donor Gives Hannaford Gift Cards to the Raymond Community Assistance Fund

Covid-19 has had vast effects on many people and the toll it is taking on daily life is undeniable. However, for all the disruption it has caused, coronavirus has also brought people together. Many mobilized quickly to help those in need. Communities banded together to help each other out through volunteering, donations or by simply checking in.

Barry MacKay is among those who wanted to help. As Covid-19 shut down businesses, Barry knew that there must be people in need. From the business owners to the employees, too many were thrust into an uncertain world. "I figured I could pay it forward. I know how fortunate I am, and that others have not been so fortunate," said MacKay. "I picked up some Hannaford gift cards and gave them to the Town of Raymond to be given out to those who needed them.”

When I spoke to him earlier this month he explained that he doesn’t have a lot of spare time for volunteerism, so he figured the Hannaford gift cards was the best way that he could help and make the most difference in people’s lives. "When I received my next paycheck, I went back to Hannaford and picked up some more and I continued to do that over the course of the summer," explained MacKay.

MacKay has donated $1,500 worth of gift cards to the Town of Raymond, which have been distributed by the General Assistance Administrator, Jenny Silverblade. "The cards are being given to people who apply for general assistance, the elderly and those in need,” explained Silverblade. “Thank you for your generosity, Barry MacKay!"

A “THANK YOU” FROM TOWN MANAGER DON WILLARD AND THE RAYMOND SELECTBOARD

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our citizens and patrons for your continued understanding and cooperation as we work together to address the serious health threats associated with the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. By following CDC recommended and town adopted health and safety protocols, we can help slow the spread of the virus. Your willingness to join this effort has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank our dedicated town employees for their ongoing service at this challenging time.
Greg Foster, Raymond resident and licensed forester

It is estimated that there are 80,000 non-industrial forest landowners in Maine. These people typically own between 10 and 1,000 acre properties, and are not primarily in the business of growing timber, as are industrial ownerships such as Irving, or Hancock Lumber. Approximately 35% of Maine's forest land is owned collectively by non-industrial type forest land owners. Being the largest ownership group of all the types, they are very significant in the world of forestry in Maine, as they supply the forest products manufacturing industry with just under 1/2 of the timber volume they need.

Like most towns in Maine, Raymond has many woodlots and many forest landowners. Most forest landowners generally are very gracious in allowing access. Provided the landowner's property is treated with respect, this land is likely to remain accessible. Illegal trash disposal (tires, furniture, etc.), and irresponsible use of ATV's often cause owners to post their property. If you happen to use private property or wish to contribute somehow in support of private landowners, visit https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/outdoor-partners-program/index.html for more information.