

## **Report of the Highway Department**

To the residents of Fremont,

Thank you very much for your continued support that I receive every day throughout the year maintaining your roads. This is a very challenging job. Fortunately myself and the Town of Fremont have very dedicated workers and sub-contractors who put pride in everything they do to make our roads safe daily and better for the future. Thank you all for your help, you're the best.

2020 was a tough year for all of us. Let's hope for a better 2021 when we can say goodbye to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

I would like to start this by letting you know what your Highway Department did all last year and end with the goals for 2021.

The beginning of the year January, February and March we had less snow than usual. November and December were also very little. This helped save on the winter budget line for both the equipment hire plowing and half of the salt. The sand budget line was all spent stock piling for this years use. Fortunately we have a good supply for this winter ahead.

Spring came fairly early and thankfully winter cleanup wasn't too bad. We cleaned up road sand, did quite a bit of pothole patching, took care of fallen limbs and trees, did a lot of tree pruning, culvert and catch basin cleanings, repaired and replaced street signs and several other tasks.

Once spring cleaning was done, we moved onto reconstruction and paving projects for the summer. Thank you for approving the Town budget and all Warrant Articles for the funding of these projects. The first project was the second half of Chester Road. This road needed significant prep work before paving could be done. Trees were both removed and pruned to allow for new and improved roadside ditches. Old culverts were taken out and replaced with new and two rotted catch basins were replaced. Sections of this road needed to be re-graveled for a stronger base. The next step was grinding the old pavement which included regrading and compacting. Once this was completed, base hot top and shoulder gravel was done. This was a big project, but all went well.

The second road paved was Hooke Road. This subdivision is roughly thirty years old and needed the same reconstruction as Chester Road. We needed to start over because the road was too far gone to simply overlay the old pavement.

The third and final planned paving project was Ann Lane. This was another road that was built more than thirty years ago, needing a complete reclaim of the old pavement. Going over this road would have also been a complete waste of money as it would not have lasted. The three

roads came in at a cost of a little over \$283,000. Yes, expensive but built at today's paving standards.

The final paving project for 2020 was a small section of Shirkin Road. This was not a planned project, however heavy truck traffic prompted repairs needing to be done. An engineering report, traffic study and testing showed results that this section of the road was not built to handle the heavy weight commercial traffic. After completion, this road and Rogers Road were posted with a Weight Limit Ordinance at 26,000 pounds GVWR to reduce future damage.



We had a great year for road construction. Teamwork works well thanks to all the Highway Department workers, sub-contractors, GMI Asphalt and Dan Tatem of Stantec Engineering. A special thanks to the Fremont Garden Club for their work planting around our flagpole at the Highway Shed. Their beautification efforts are much appreciated!

The proposed 2021 highway budget asks for funds to put the final hot top on two roads that have a base coat only. These roads are Bean Road and Chester Road. They will then be complete. The operating budget also includes Mast Tree Estates, Deer Run, Kelsey Drive and Kirsten's Landing being reconstructed. These roads are in such poor condition that snow plowing is now tough to do. These three roads need to be reclaimed and have a suitable base installed before re-paving.

Fremont has 40+ miles of roads to maintain. Every year we are gaining to making our roads better.

The 2021 Highway Department budget for re-paving roads is higher than last years due to a decision made by our Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen to put the paving funds directly into the operating budget and not a Warrant Article.

I hope this informs you, the voters on how your tax dollars are spent. Every year for many years there is a Warrant Article for \$25,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment replacement. This year I am hoping to replace the Town's one-ton dump truck. It is a 2012 Ford F-550 with a front plow and sander. We use this truck every day. The maintenance bills last year were very high. I ask for your support on the Capital Reserve Article, Warrant Article 6.

In closing, I would like to thank so many people for the teamwork they all show everyday: the Fremont Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee, Fire Rescue Department, Police Department, Jeanne and Kathy in the Selectmen's Office and our Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leon Holmes Jr, Road Agent