

2023

Dummerston, Vermont



**Town Officers' 161st Annual Report
For the 12 Months Ending June 30, 2023**

TOWN OF DUMMERSTON

1523 Middle Road, East Dummerston, Vermont 05346

Population: 1864

Registered Voters: 1567

Meeting Times and Town Office Hours

Community Center Trustees	First Monday of each month, 7PM at the Community Center
Conservation Commission	Second Thursday of each month, 6PM
Development Review Board	Third Tuesday of each month, 6PM at the Town Office
Energy Committee	First Monday of each month, 5:30PM at the Town Office
Lydia Taft Pratt Library Trustees	First Thursday of each month, 5PM at the Library
Planning Commission	Second Monday of each month, 6:30PM
Recreation Board	As scheduled
Selectboard	Every other Wednesday, 6PM
Town Clerk & Treasurer	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9AM-3PM; Wednesday 11AM-5PM

Zoning

For information on zoning permits contact the Zoning Administrator at 802-275-5739 for an appointment.

Zoning Email: zoning@dummerston.org

Health Officer

David Baxendale: 609-915-9797

Telephone Numbers & Email Addresses

Town Office	802-257-1496/257-4671 (fax)
Town Office Email	townclerk@dummerston.org
Town Listers Email	listers@dummerston.org
Town Garage	802-254-2411
Dummerston School	802-254-2733
Lydia Taft Pratt Library	802-258-9878

In Case of Fire or Emergency DIAL 9-1-1

For Burn Permits Call:

Fire Warden, Ted Glabach	802-384-6994
Deputy Fire Warden, Allen Pike	802-258-0100
Fire Chief, Larry Pratt	802-579-9494

Election Locations

Most elections are held at the Town Hall in the downstairs of the Dummerston Center Congregational Church.

Taxes

Property tax bills are mailed on or about the 7th of July and are due in two installments, August 20th & February 20th.

The Grand List is compiled as of April 1st.

Cover: Fall at the Town Office

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NOTE: In an effort to reduce printing costs, reports from the agencies below are not included in the Town Report. For your information, the individual reports are available at the Town Clerk's Office:

AIDS Project of Southern VT
 Brattleboro Area Hospice
 Brattleboro Senior Meals, Inc.
 CT River Joint Commissions
 CT River Transit dba The Current
 DV Fiber
 The Gathering Place
 Grace Cottage Hospital
 Green Up Vermont
 Groundworks Collaborative
 HCRS
 Historical Society of Windham County
 Rescue, Inc.
 Senior Solutions
 SEVCA
 SeVEDS
 SE Watershed Alliance
 VT Dept of Health Brattleboro
 VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society
 Visiting Nurse Alliance
 Windham County Humane Society
 Windham Regional Commission
 Windham/Windsor Housing Trust
 Women's Freedom Center
 Youth Services

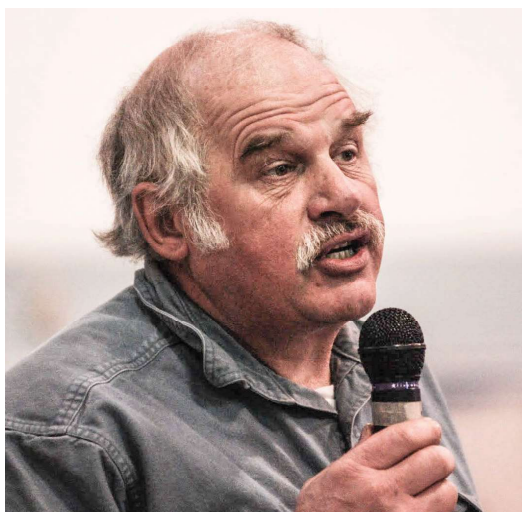
Dedicated in Honor of Ruth Barton and Lester Dunklee

This 2023 Dummerston Town Report is dedicated to two of our own who have served the town in many capacities over the years, sometimes as leaders, and sometimes as very willing and able foot soldiers, more than happy to contribute behind the scenes. We speak of and honor both **Ruth Barton** and **Lester Dunklee**. It's a pleasure to acknowledge two such community-minded residents of Dummerston, who have been recognized as very worthy of this honor.



Town meetings are likely responsible for most of our personal memories of **Ruth**. In this picture she is intently absorbing the business in progress, while thoughtlessly engaging in her lifelong hobby of knitting. Whenever she rises to speak, she is not shy about pointing out that her family goes back generations in Vermont. To emphasize that point, she may pour on the Vermont accent we have been told, “She has a lot of historical knowledge of the area, and she’s a smart lady, with a lot of common sense.” Her tolerance for extended, repetitious debate is sometimes tested, resulting in a motion to “call the question!” A selectboard member confided that they often sat wondering if she felt strongly enough about a motion under discussion to ask to be recognized, which she would often time for just when discussion seemed to be finished. “Whatever we were proposing to do, it could live or die by what Ruth had to say. It could be hard to overcome her opposition.” Ruth also seems to relish sensing the exact moment when it’s appropriate to make the “Call for Adjournment!”

Speaking of town meeting behavior should not distract us from the breadth of her volunteer efforts for the community. For many years she was Dummerston’s representative to the Brattleboro Union High School Board, and also served as Dummerston’s Weigher of Coal. She spent some time on the Recreation Board, and was our representative to Senior Solutions. Though her father was a Grange Master and she herself was a member earlier in her life, she has long chosen to be a voluntary contributor to the organization, taking money at the door for their suppers and craft sales, and helping Sally May with food shopping. She also contributes personal items of historical interest to the Historical Society. Ruth is described as genuine and a great person. Because whenever somebody is out of the house serving her community someone else is taking care of the home front, we also say thanks to Merrill Barton.



Lester has volunteered his time to the town in a multitude of ways. For many years he was on the fire department, for quite a while actively fighting fires, including a couple of “terrible” fires at the Putney Paper Mill. He’s still been spotted cooking pancakes at the Apple Pie Weekend Fire Department breakfast. He served multiple years on the selectboard, been a representative to the Windham Solid Waste Management District, worked in Dummerston emergency management, and since the town assumed ownership of the West Dummerston Community Center, served on that board until last year when the new board took over. At the Grange public suppers, he’s always elbow-deep in the dishwashing sink, and will otherwise do whatever is asked of him. But of course everybody is waiting for the mention of donuts! Lester took on the tradition of making donuts, including the recipes and equipment, originally for the fire department sugar on snow supper, and he has run with it. There is a community reverence for Lester’s donuts, and there’s always the hope at any big town event that he might walk in with a big box full of them. Lester has been described as humble and someone who avoids the limelight, a gentleman and a gentle soul, and even, as those who have spent any time with him in the Dunklee Machine Shop, somewhat of an information clearing house and a bit of an old-time philosopher. In addition to all that he does, he also delights in conversation. While he’s been out volunteering for the town, Deb Dunklee has been taking care of the home front, which we all greatly appreciate.

Pictures by Roger Turner: Ruth at 2012 town meeting and Lester at 2011 town meeting.

ELECTED OFFICERS**Moderator** (1 year term) Cindy Jerome**Town Clerk** (1 year term) Laurie Frechette**Town Treasurer** (1 year term) Charlotte Neer Annis**Selectboard**

Lewis White (remainder of 2 year term) 2024

Zeke Goodband (3 year term) 2024

Todd Davidson (remainder of 3 year term) 2025

Alex Wilson (2 year term) 2025

Maria Glabach (3 year term) 2026

Auditors (3 year terms)

Joe Little 2024

Ruth Hoffman 2025

Ray Harris 2026

Listers (3 year terms)

Michael Silberman 2024

Stephan Mindel 2025

Jean Newell (serve until March 2024) 2026

Charlotte Neer Annis (appointed until March 2024) 2024

Justices of the Peace*Elected November 2022/effective February 2023*Betsy Bates For Election Purposes Only

Ruth Hoffman Pearl Doubleday

F. William Holiday, Jr. Linda Hellus

Pamela McFadden Lynn Kuralt

Paul Normandeau

Lew Sorenson

Angela Lawrence

Library Trustees (5 year terms)

Vacant 2024

Jeanne Bristol 2025

Phyllis Emery 2026

David Schottland 2027

Lyle Holiday 2028

Trustee of Cemetery Funds

Selectboard 2024

WSED Directors

Deborah Stanford 2025

Eva Nolan 2026

APPOINTED OFFICERS**Planning Commission** (4 year terms)

Daniel Gehring 2024

Vacant 2024

Sarah Bergh 2025

Vacant 2025

Maria Glabach 2026

Vacant 2026

Annamarie Pluhar 2027

Development Review Board (3 year terms)

Alan McBean 2024

Vacant 2024

Cami Elliott 2025

Chad Farnum 2025

Jason P. Doubleday 2026

Vacant, Alternate (1 year term)

Vacant, Alternate (1 year term)

Zoning Administrator (3 year term)

Roger Jasaitis March 2026

Assistant Zoning Administrator

Vacant

Conservation Commission (4 year terms)

John Anderson 2024

Christine Goepp 2024

Lynn Levine 2024

Rick Mills 2024

David Greenewalt 2025

Amy Wall 2025

Emily Alexander 2026

Jesse Wagner 2026

Energy Committee (3 year terms)

Calvin Farwell 2024

Doug Morton 2025

Alex Wilson 2025

Eric Lineback 2026

Thomas Nolan 2026

Recreation Board (1 year terms)

Maeve Jenks

Margaret Shugart

APPOINTED OFFICERS, continued

Road Foreman	Lee Chamberlin	Farmland Committee	Noah Hoskins June Levinsohn Diana Lischer Jack Manix D. Read Miller III Elizabeth Wood
First Constable	Lewis White		
Animal Control Officer	Windham County Sheriff's Dept.		
Assistant Town Clerk	Eliza Greenhoe-Bergh	VT Community Development Program	Jack Manix
Selectboard Assistant	Vacant	Police Advisory Board Liaison	Vacant
Health Officer	David Baxendale	Social Services Advisory Committee	
Weigher of Coal	Ruth Barton		Sandra Campbell Libby Lafland Bill Pelz-Walsh Nancy Pelz-Walsh Terri Robinson Elsa Waxman
Poundkeeper	Ron Svec		
Inspector of Wood & Lumber	Lewis White		
Tree Warden	Godfrey Renaud		
Fence Viewers	Ruth Barton Harold Newell	Deerfield Valley Communications Union District	
Windham Regional Commission	Todd Davidson Matthew Hoffman	(alternate)	Eric Lineback David Evans
Delinquent Tax Collector (interim)	Charlotte Neer Annis		
Fire Warden (until June 2027)	Ted Glabach		
Asst. Fire Warden (until June 2027)	Allen Pike		
Windham Solid Waste Mgmt. District Representative	Michelle Cherrier		
Emergency Mgmt. Directors	Marty Forrett		
Green-Up Day Chair	Mark Brown		
Cemetery Committee	Lee Chamberlin Jean Newell		
Senior Solutions Representative	Carol Lynch		
Rescue, Inc. Representative (alternate)	Harold Newell Lew Teich		
CT River Joint Commission	Philip Goepp		
E-911 Contact Person	Listers		

TOWN OF DUMMERSTON VITAL STATISTICS

January 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023

BIRTHS FILED**Child's Name****Parent(s)' Names**

Willa Margaretta Ackemann	Sarah Catherine Gruver & Jesse Albert Ackemann
Landyn Paige Crowley	Bethany Erin Crowley & Timothy Paul Crowley
Nora Elizabeth Koski	Jacqueline Marie Koski & Kevin David Koski
Oliver Reid LaLone	Christine Noel LaLone & Dylan Sebastian LaLone
Penelope Jade Lockie	Jessica Frisco Lockie & Alexander Jeffrey Lockie
Hudson Michael McFadden	Emily Alison McFadden & Brandon Barrows McFadden
Teo James Montes de Oca	Toshia Renee Myers & Aristeo Henoc Montes de Oca
Vallie Lynne Mulready	Kayla Ann Mulready & James Joseph Mulready
Tyler Joseph Perkins	Ashley Nicole Perkins & Philip Richard Perkins III
Harrison Allyn Ridlehoover	Lillian Wilson Ridlehoover & Daniel Hillyer Ridlehoover
Sylvan Kenneth Schupbach	Molly Rebecca Schupbach & Jordan Alan Schupbach
Lucia Grace Smoot	Lorianna Ashlee Weathers & Michael Marcell Smoot
Lilly Helen Therrien	Chelsea Therrien & Bryan Therrien
Kennedy Aurora Walior	John Tanner Walior & Ciara Walior

DEATHS FILED

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Residence</u>
John Wilcox	84	M	January 1, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Barbara Elaine Covey	83	F	March 21, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Sheila Joan Lawrence	77	F	March 22, 2023	Brattleboro	Dummerston
Clarice Wilma Short	89	F	March 24, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Joel David Doerfler	78	M	May 14, 2023	Townshend	Dummerston
Robert Harold Nelson	83	M	May 28, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Fraser Abbott Moss II	61	M	June 22, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Steven R. Napoli, Sr.	49	M	July 3, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Douglas B. Hamilton, Sr.	85	M	July 4, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Gary J. Bedard	60	M	August 5, 2023	Brattleboro	Dummerston
Robert Sherwood	70	M	August 10, 2023	Brattleboro	Dummerston
Althea McBean	97	F	August 24, 2023	Brattleboro	Brattleboro
Douglas John Kroc	71	M	September 25, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Sally Ann Perry	83	F	October 4, 2023	Townshend	Dummerston
Norbert Stahl	100	M	October 23, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Edgar Roger Dubois	87	M	October 25, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Mary E. Tyler	94	F	November 2, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Susan Keene Kern	80	F	November 13, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Maria G. Buscaglia	63	F	November 14, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston
Elizabeth Hartmann Blake	83	F	November 28, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston

CIVIL MARRIAGES FILED

<u>Names</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Annette L. Cappy Richard Peter Ethier	February 3, 2023	Vernon	Brattleboro Dummerston
Clara Vaughan Fagley Taylor Reese Tracey	May 4, 2023	Brattleboro	Vernon Dummerston
Matthew Denison Bacon Becky Jo Blodgett	May 29, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston Dummerston
Derek Paul Weiss Katie Marie Martin	June 2, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston Dummerston
Allegra Eileen Kellorgg Thomas Michael Napolitano	June 3, 2023	Dummerston	Portland, Maine Portland, Maine
William Read Miller Catherine Elizabeth Caroleo	August 27, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston Dummerston
Kelsey Rabideau Parker Austin Waite	October 14, 2023	Moretown	Dummerston Brattleboro
Aliana A. Stevenson Ezekiel M. Goodband	November 20, 2023	Putney	Dummerston Dummerston
Krista Phyllis Oberholtzer Travis Louis Leavy	December 2, 2023	Grafton	Dummerston Dummerston
Richard P. Gallup Staci Bledsoe	December 13, 2023	Dummerston	Brattleboro Brattleboro
Aisha Marie Momaney Charles John Crawley III	December 27, 2023	Dummerston	Dummerston Dummerston

Auditors Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Dummerston for the year ended on June 30, 2023. These financial statements are the responsibility of those town officers authorized by law to draw orders and keep accounts. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §§1683 and 1684, which require that we examine and adjust the accounts of all town officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer.

Our objectives were to validate through sampling methods the correctness of the town accounts, detect errors or misstatements in these accounts, and verify the financial condition and results of operations of the Town for the year ended June 30, 2023.

We believe the financial statements included in this report to be fairly stated in all material respects. We wish to thank all those who contributed information for this report.

Dummerston, VT
January 26, 2024

Ruth Hoffman
Joe Little
Ray Harris

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>June 30, 2022</u>	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
Capital Fund	\$169,057.41	\$152,499.41
Cemetery Fund	\$72,052.58	\$79,077.10
Conservation Commission Fund	\$2,048.96	\$2,698.94
Energy Committee Fund	\$3,703.80	\$3,716.54
Farmland Protection Fund	\$41,196.94	\$46,454.44
Fish and Wildlife Fund	\$134.01	\$130.04
Fred Miller Fund	\$102,645.56	\$105,129.01
Gravel Pit Reclamation Fund	\$13,120.24	\$13,877.21
Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)	\$15,262.29	\$18,154.32
Prospect Hill Pasture Fund	\$11,037.26	\$16,090.54
Reappraisal Fund	\$31,635.96	\$39,844.79
Recreation Board Fund	\$11,134.69	\$10,372.07
Restoration Fund	\$54,358.73	\$58,542.08
West Dummerston War Memorial Fund	\$2,813.07	\$2,820.80

Capital Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022		\$169,057.41
Add:		
Interest Earned	470.71	
Taxes Voted	<u>140,000.00</u>	
		140,470.71
Deduct:		
WDVFD 2019 Pumper Payment #5	65,470.76	
2022 Ford 550*	<u>91,557.95</u>	
		<u>157,028.71</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023		<u><u>\$152,499.41</u></u>

* Net after sale of 2014 Dodge for \$25,000.

Cemetery Fund

Balance in Cemetery Fund July 1, 2022		\$72,052.58
Add:		
Interest Earned Checking Account	73.58	
Sale of Perpetual Care	1,600.00	
Gain in Putnam Fund	6,740.94	
FY 2023 Town Appropriation	<u>5,300.00</u>	
		13,714.52
Deduct:		
Mowing & Maintenance	<u>6,690.00</u>	
		<u>6,690.00</u>
Balance in Cemetery Fund June 30, 2023		<u><u>\$79,077.10</u></u>
(includes Lots Account balance)		

Lots Account

Town of Dummerston, Trustee
 Lots Sold - Income to be Used to Care For Lots

Balance in Account July 1, 2022		\$33,756.00
Add:		
Olmstead (Wilder)	600.00	
Bonura (Taft)	400.00	
Sbardella (Wilder)	<u>600.00</u>	
		<u>1,600.00</u>
Balance in Lots Account June 30, 2023		<u><u>\$35,356.00</u></u>

Cemetery Fund monies maintained in:		
Money Market Checking Account		19,384.79
Putnam Fund		<u>59,692.31</u>
		<u><u>\$79,077.10</u></u>

Conservation Commission Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$2,048.96
Add:	Interest Earned	0.82	
	Programs	58.00	
	Donations	140.00	
	FY 2023 Town Appropriation	<u>1,000.00</u>	
			1,198.82
Deduct:	Speakers' Fees & Program Expenses	300.44	
	Website Maintenance	<u>248.40</u>	
			<u>548.84</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$2,698.94</u></u>

Energy Committee Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$3,703.80
Add:	Interest Earned	<u>12.74</u>	
			12.74
Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$3,716.54</u></u>

Farmland Protection Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$41,196.94
Add:	Interest Earned	157.50	
	Donation	100.00	
	FY 2023 Town Appropriation	<u>5,000.00</u>	
			5,257.50
Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$46,454.44</u></u>

Fish and Wildlife Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$134.01
Add:	F&W License Sales	499.50	
	Interest	<u>0.03</u>	
			499.53
Deduct:	Payment to State	<u>503.50</u>	
			<u>503.50</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$130.04</u></u>

Fred Miller Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$102,645.56
Add:	Interest Earned Checking Account	105.94	
	Gain in Vanguard Fund	<u>2,377.51</u>	
			2,483.45
Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$105,129.01</u></u>

Fred Miller Fund monies maintained in:

Money Market Checking Account	39,639.79
Vanguard Fund	<u>65,489.22</u>
	<u><u>\$105,129.01</u></u>

Gravel Pit Reclamation Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$13,120.24
Add:	Interest Earned	46.97	
	Dummerston's Deposit	210.00	
	Putney's Deposit	<u>500.00</u>	
			756.97
Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$13,877.21</u></u>

Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022 \$15,262.29

Add:	FY 2023 Town Allocation	5,000.00	
	Interest Earned	<u>64.37</u>	
			5,064.37

Deduct:	HRA Disbursements	<u>2,172.34</u>	
			<u>2,172.34</u>

Balance in Fund June 30, 2023 \$18,154.32

Prospect Hill Pasture Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022 \$11,037.26

Add:	Interest Earned	53.28	
	Donations	<u>5,000.00</u>	
			5,053.28

Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>

Balance in Fund June 30, 2023 \$16,090.54

Reappraisal Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$31,635.96
Add:	State Act 60 & Lister Education Funds	9,899.00	
	Interest Earned	<u>104.43</u>	
			10,003.43
Deduct:	Legal Expenses	<u>1,794.60</u>	
			<u>1,794.60</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$39,844.79</u></u>

Recreation Board Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$11,134.69
Add:	Interest Earned	3.30	
	Gouin Field Revenue	1,762.00	
	Donations	<u>100.00</u>	
			1,865.30
Deduct:	Gouin Field Expenses	2,324.65	
	Soccer Expenses	<u>303.27</u>	
			<u>2,627.92</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023*			<u><u>\$10,372.07</u></u>

* \$3,191.64 of balance is restricted to Gouin Field Use

Restoration Fund

(Separate General Ledger account. Earned from Land Records recording)

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$54,358.73
Add:	Revenue - Restoration	2,408.00	
	Rev. Computerize Land Records	<u>2,408.00</u>	
			4,816.00
Deduct:	Land Records Expenses	<u>632.65</u>	
			<u>632.65</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$58,542.08</u></u>

West Dummerston War Memorial Fund

(Certificate of Deposit)

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$2,813.07
Add:	Interest Earned	<u>7.73</u>	
			7.73
Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	
			<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$2,820.80</u></u>

ARPA REVENUE & DISBURSEMENTS

(Separate General Ledger account)

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022		\$249,363.54
<u>Revenue</u>		
FY 2023	<u>262,970.82</u>	262,970.82
<u>Disbursements</u>		
FY 2023	<u>179,354.37</u>	<u>179,354.37</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023		<u><u>\$332,979.99</u></u>

ARPA EXPENDITURES

(as of January 22, 2024)

Dummerston Community Center	\$47,032
Dummerston Historical Society	\$25,365
Dummerston Recreation Department	\$11,275
Evening Star Grange	\$20,703
West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department	\$43,428
Municipal Office	\$42,947
Highway Department	<u>\$48,136</u>
	\$238,886

GENERAL FUND
Comparative Balance Sheet
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>6/30/2022</u>	<u>6/30/2023</u>
Assets:		
Cash	\$452,362.24	\$704,776.21
Due To/From General Fund	-299,951.91	-620,191.31
Total Assets:	<u>\$152,410.33</u>	<u>\$84,584.90</u>
Liabilities:		
Real Estate Taxes Paid in Advance	7,812.33	5,020.98
Due to State - Marriage Licenses	100.00	150.00
Due to State - Dog Licenses	65.00	190.00
Employee AFLAC payments	236.37	124.74
FY 2021 Surplus to be used in FY 2023	92,779.27	0.00
FY 2022 Surplus to be used in FY 2024	0.00	51,417.36
	<u>\$100,992.97</u>	<u>\$56,903.08</u>
 Fund Balance	 <u>51,417.36</u>	 <u>27,681.82</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u><u>\$152,410.33</u></u>	<u><u>\$84,584.90</u></u>

HIGHWAY FUND
Comparative Balance Sheet
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>06/30/22</u>	<u>06/30/23</u>
Assets:		
Due To/From General Fund	\$110,879.98	\$98,042.91
Liabilities:		
FY 2021 Surplus for FY 2023	12,837.07	0.00
FY 2022 Surplus for FY 2024	0.00	98,042.91
	<u>\$12,837.07</u>	<u>\$98,042.91</u>
 Fund Balance	 <u>98,042.91</u>	 <u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u><u>\$110,879.98</u></u>	<u><u>\$98,042.91</u></u>

HIGHWAY STRUCTURES FUND

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$55,927.76
Add:	Taxes Voted	<u>25,000.00</u>	25,000.00
Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$80,927.76</u></u>

HIGHWAY BLASTING & LEDGE CRUSHING RESERVE FUND

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022			\$36,540.00
Add:	Taxes Voted	<u>19,096.00</u>	19,096.00
Deduct:	No Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Fund June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$55,636.00</u></u>

Statement of Delinquent Taxes

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Real Estate Property Taxes

	As of 6/30/2022	For Collection February 23, 2023	Collections	Abatements*	Balance as of 6/30/2023
2011	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2012	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2013	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2014	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2015	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2016	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2017	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2018	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
2019	\$6,141.52		\$4,119.72		\$2,021.80
2020	\$18,490.79		\$12,216.05		\$6,274.74
2021	\$35,215.90		\$22,063.27		\$13,152.63
2022		\$102,032.34	\$70,831.58		\$31,200.76
Totals	\$59,848.21	\$102,032.34	\$109,230.62		\$52,649.93

* Abatements are granted under V.S.A. Title 24 Chapter 51 sec. 1535 upon the decision of the Board of Abatement.
Decisions are on file in the Town Office for public review.

Analysis of Delinquent Taxes

As of June 30, 2023

<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>All Years</u>	
Ayer, Deborah	\$ 4,339.92	
Balin, Gary	\$ 995.82	
Covey, Jennifer	\$ 33.53	***
Crossman, Debra	\$ 134.06	*
Fellows, Christopher	\$ 1,352.44	***
Gordon, Mary	\$ 714.32	
HB2 Alternative Holding LLC	\$ 592.50	***
Hellus, Ellen	\$ 2,534.25	*
Holton, Seth & Caitlin	\$ 21.44	***
Jackson, Justin	\$ 85.88	
Koski, Kevin	\$ 5,244.58	*
McMahon, Jesse	\$ 594.10	*
Miller, D Read	\$ 6,324.60	*
Miller, D Read III	\$ 11,165.21	*
Romanoff, Richard Estate	\$ 12,649.74	*
Weeks, Tabitha	\$ 952.67	***
Wilcox, Cynthia	\$ 4,102.15	***
Wood, Arthur J Jr	\$ 812.72	
TOTAL	\$ 52,649.93	

* denotes partial payment by 12/31/2023

*** paid in full by 12/31/2023

NOTICE: You may be entitled to an abatement of your delinquent taxes under 24V.S.A. 1535. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the Board of Abatement, please contact the Town Clerk at (802) 257-1496.

Statement of Current Taxes Raised
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Municipal	Homestead	Non-Residential
Taxable Parcels	1012		
Acres	18,551.14		
Real	296,077,300	174,756,700	121,320,600
Add:			
Non Approved Contracts		0	776,400
Equipment	94,100	0	94,100
Deduct:			
Veteran	280,000	240,000	40,000
Land Use	15,687,133	5,911,988	9,775,145
Contracts	1,365,900	0	1,271,800
1% of Grand List	2,788,383.67	1,686,047.12	1,111,041.55

<u>Tax Rate Name</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Grand List</u>	<u>= Total Tax Raised</u>
Non Homestead Education	1.4389		1,103,277.55	1,587,506.05
Homestead Education	1.5875		1,686,047.12	2,676,600.56
Local Agreements	0.0055		2,788,383.67	15,336.39
Highway Blast/Crush Fund	0.0068		2,788,383.67	18,961.09
Highway Structures	0.0090		2,788,383.67	25,096.00
Capital Plan Fund	0.0502		2,788,383.67	139,976.76
Highway	0.1571		2,788,383.67	438,055.12
Municipal	0.1003		2,788,383.67	<u>279,669.01</u>
Total Taxes Billed				\$5,181,200.98
Education portion of State Credit Received				-737,407.58
Municipal portion of State Credit Received				<u>- 9,954.37*</u>
Adjusted Total Taxes billed				\$4,433,839.03

Distribution of Taxes

State Education Property Tax Homestead/Non Residential Tax	\$3,531,902.26**
Municipal/Highway and Local Property Tax	799,904.43
Delinquent Taxes to Collector	<u>102,032.34</u>
Total Taxes Accounted For	\$ 4,433,839.03

* Includes \$645 late HS 122 filing fee retained by town. See FINAL FY2023 Act 68 Cash Flow

**See FINAL FY2023 Act 68 Cash Flow for Municipality

**FY2023 Act 68 Cash Flow for Municipality, FINAL Data
Based on FINAL Education Grand Lists, 24-Apr-23**

District: **Dummerston**
s.u.: **Windham Southeast SU**

LEA ID: **T061**
County: **Windham**

FY2023 Education Spending Summary

Local Windham
Southeast USD

1. Total Education Spending grant owed to the School Districts
3.
4. Percent of equalized pupils from Dummerston at school district(s)
5. Education spending Dummerston is responsible for

Page 2, line 11 + line 19

		47,272.701		1.
	0%	9.84%	0.00%	3.
		4,651,633.78		4.
				5.

Homestead Education Tax

6. Homestead Education Grand List
7. Homestead tax rate (base rate is \$1.00, adjusted by district spending and CLA)
8. Homestead education liability

Homestead EGL x Homestead tax rate

Reference	Municipal Treasury	School District Treasury	State Treasury	
1,687,847.12				6.
1.5875				7.
2,679,457.00				8.
32 V.S.A. § 6059(a)	747,361.95			9.
	9,309.37			10.
	738,052.58			11.
line 4 - line 9	1,941,404.42			12.
				13.
22 V.S.A. § 5402(c)	645.00			14.
line 12 - line 14	1,940,759.42			15.
32 V.S.A. § 5402(c)	4,368.16			16.
	1,936,391.26			17.
	0.00%			18.
		1,936,391.26		19.
	100.00%			20.
				21.
	1,941,404.42	5,013.16	1,936,391.26	22.

9. Total credit for tax bills
10. Municipal portion of credit
11. Education portion of credit
12. Subtotal

14. Late Fee Retained
15. Amount raised on homestead properties

16. 0.225 of 1.0% of homestead liability retained by municipality
17. Net homestead education taxes available for school districts & Education Fund
18. Local amount of homestead tax liability for education spending plus categorical grants
19. Windham Southeast USD amount of homestead tax liability for education spending plus categorical grants
20.
21. Homestead education tax liability to the state treasury
22. Subtotals

Non-homestead Education Tax

23. Non-homestead education grand list
24. Non-homestead tax rate (base rate is \$1.466, adjusted by the CLA)
25. Non-homestead education liability
26.
27. Amount Raised on Non-homestead properties
28. 0.225 of 1.0% of Non-homestead liability retained by municipality
29. Net Non-homestead education taxes available for School districts & Education Fund
30. Local amount of Non-homestead tax liability for education spending plus categorical grants
31. Windham Southeast USD amount of Non-homestead tax liability for education spending plus categorical grants
32. Non-homestead education liability to the State Treasury
33. Subtotals

Non-homestead EGL x Non-homestead tax rate

1,111,341.55				23.
1.4389				24.
1,599,109.00				25.
				26.
1,599,109.00				27.
32 V.S.A. § 5402(c)	3,598.00			28.
line 27 - line 29	1,595,511.00			29.
	0.00%			30.
		1,595,511.00		31.
	100.00%			32.
				33.
	1,599,109.00	3,598.00	1,595,511.00	34.

35. Totals

line 20 + line 32

3,540,513.42	8,611.16	3,531,902.26		35.
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**FY2023 Municipality Payment Schedule TO the State Treasury
(Homestead payments are based on line 19, Non-homestead payments on line 31)**

	September 10, 2022	December 1, 2022	December 10, 2022	April 30, 2023	June 1, 2023
Homestead taxes		0.00			0.00
Non-homestead taxes		0.00			0.00

A.

**Payments to the School District by the Town Treasurer
16 V.S.A. § 426(a)(b); 32 V.S.A. § 6066a(a)**

School District
Subtotals

36. Homestead taxes to the Local school district
37. Non-homestead taxes to the Local school district
38. Homestead Taxes to Windham Southeast USD
39. Non-homestead Taxes to Windham Southeast USD
40.
41.
42. Act 144 local construction property tax sent to the school district by Dummerston
43. Total education tax dollars sent to the school district(s) by Dummerston

line 24				
line 31				
	1,936,391.26			
	1,595,511.00			
		3,531,902.26		
Total	3,531,902.26			

If you have any questions about these data, please contact **Julie Robinson** at Julie.Robinson@vermont.gov
If she cannot be reached, contact **Brad James** at Brad.James@vermont.gov

HIGHWAY FUND**Statement of Revenue – Estimated and Actual**

	Budget 7/1/22– 6/30/23	Actual 7/1/22 – 6/30/23	Adopted 7/1/23 – 6/30/24	Proposed 7/1/24 – 6/30/25
FY 2021 Surplus	12,837	12,837.07		
FY 2022 Surplus			98,043	
FY 2023 Surplus				0
Property Taxes	438,128	438,128.00	427,150	574,950
Highway State Aid	132,990	136,590.36	136,500	136,500
Gravel Pit Reimb. From Putney	0	54.94	0	0
Sale of Used Equipment	0	70.00	0	0
Transfer from General Fund	0	11,006.46	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$583,955	\$598,686.83	\$661,693	\$711,450

HIGHWAY STRUCTURES FUND**Statement of Revenue – Estimated and Actual**

	Budget 7/1/22– 6/30/23	Actual 7/1/22 – 6/30/23	Adopted 7/1/23 – 6/30/24	Proposed 7/1/24 – 6/30/25
Property Taxes	25,000	25,000.00	125,000	0
State Aid Revenue	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$25,000	\$25,000.00	\$125,000	\$0

HIGHWAY BLASTING & LEDGE CRUSHING RESERVE FUND**Statement of Revenue – Estimated and Actual**

	Budget 7/1/22– 6/30/23	Actual 7/1/22 – 6/30/23	Adopted 7/1/23 – 6/30/24	Proposed 7/1/24 – 6/30/25
Property Taxes	19,096	19,096.00	26,659	27,459
TOTAL REVENUE	\$19,096	\$19,096.00	\$26,659	\$27,459

HIGHWAY GRANTS FUND**Statement of Revenue - Estimated and Actual**

	Actual 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023	Anticipated 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024	Proposed 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025
Grant in Aid FY22	17,500	0	0
Grant in Aid FY23	0	31,000	0
Grant in Aid FY24	0	0	21,000
VT Better Rds Grant	0	0	52,000
Paving Grant	0	36,541	0
PACIF Equipment Grant	2,234	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$19,734</u>	<u>\$67,541</u>	<u>\$73,000</u>

JULY 2021 STORM DAMAGE - COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS
(Separate General Ledger account)

FEMA Reimbursements

Received FY 2023	\$314,951
Received FY 2024	<u>\$25,203</u>
	\$340,154

Repair Costs

7/1/2021-6/30/2022	\$216,744
7/1/2022-12/31/2022	<u>\$97,123</u>
	\$313,867

Surplus	<u><u>\$26,287</u></u>
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GENERAL FUND**Statement of Revenue – Estimated and Actual**

	Budget 7/1/22– 6/30/23	Actual 7/1/22 – 6/30/23	Adopted 7/1/23 – 6/30/24	Proposed 7/1/24 – 6/30/25
FY 2021 Surplus	92,779	92,779.27		
FY 2022 Surplus			51,417	
FY 2023 Surplus				27,681
Tax Revenue:				
Property Taxes	279,769	187,634.80	374,431	449,984
State Current Use Payment	74,150	54,887.00	54,887	50,950
CU Lien Release Penalty	0	290.00	0	0
State Pilot Program Payment	8,300	7,848.86	6,792	8,110
Delinquent Taxes	0	109,230.62	0	0
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	0	7,874.02	0	0
Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	0	9,059.49	0	0
	\$362,219	\$376,824.79	\$436,110	\$509,044
State Funds:				
Railroad Corporate Tax	2,700	4,111.47	2,700	2,700
Equalized GL Study	0	1,042.00	0	0
VTTC - Local Fines	3,370	4,166.99	4,500	4,250
	\$6,070	\$9,320.46	\$7,200	\$6,950
Permits & Licenses:				
Liquor Licenses	350	210.00	300	250
Weight Permits	280	255.00	280	260
Dog Licenses	900	965.00	850	970
Zoning Permits	2,100	1,425.00	1,500	1,500
Land Development Permits	190	150.00	500	500
Appeals/Conditional Use Permits	1,500	2,150.00	1,000	1,000
	\$5,320	\$5,155.00	\$4,430	\$4,480
Fees & Charges for Services:				
Fees for Recording Documents	20,000	13,244.00	20,000	13,420
Fees for Filing Documents	80	70.00	120	70
Fees for Issuing Licenses	550	504.00	600	500
Certified Copies of Records	410	466.00	420	440
Uncertified Copies of Records	2,900	0.00	0	0
Charges for Record Search	600	237.00	475	430
Registration Renewals	30	54.00	45	60
Charges for Use of Copier	0	1,398.25	2,000	1,900
Miscellaneous Fees & Charges	0	2.00	0	0
	\$24,570	\$15,975.25	\$23,660	\$16,820

Other Revenue:

Insurance Reimbursements (incl. Fire Dept., Hist. Soc., LTP Library)	9,350	13,550.98	12,503	13,444
Interest Earnings	350	3,386.13	800	7,000
Workers Comp. Reimbursement	0	2,391.00	0	0
Refunds	0	485.19	0	0
Animal Impoundment Fees	100	0.00	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	110.00	0	0
Reappraisal Fund Transfer	0	8,857.00	0	0
Reimburse. From Reappraisal Fund	0	192.50	0	0
Total Other Revenue	\$9,800	\$28,972.80	\$13,303	\$20,444
 Total General Fund Revenue	 \$500,758	 \$529,027.57	 \$536,120	 \$585,419
Total Highway Fund Revenue	\$583,955	\$598,686.83	\$661,693	\$711,450
GRAND TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,084,713	\$1,127,714.40	\$1,197,813	\$1,296,869

SUMMARY OF MUNICIPAL TAXES

	Voted 2023 For FY 2024	Proposed FY 2025
Taxes to be raised for General Fund	374,431	449,984
Taxes to be raised for Highway Fund	427,150	574,950
Additional Articles		
Capital Fund	25,000	110,000
Highway Structures Fund	125,000	0
Highway Blasting & Ledge Crushing Reserve Fund	26,659	27,459
Total Municipal Taxes	\$978,240	\$1,162,393

Increase from last year \$184,153
 % of increase 18.82%

ALL TAX AMOUNTS WILL CHANGE IF ADDITIONAL ARTICLES ARE VOTED IN OR BUDGET LINE
 ITEMS ARE CHANGED AT TOWN MEETING

THE TAX RATE IS NOT SET UNTIL JULY

HIGHWAY FUND**Actual and Estimated Expenditures**

	BUDGET FY '23	ACTUAL FY '23	BUDGET FY '24	PROPOSED BUDGET FY '25
HIGHWAY MAINT.				
Wages - General & Winter	219,842	192,819.43	228,715	273,840
Personnel Expenses	4,100	4,953.80	4,400	4,900
MSHA Training	0	0.00	0	0
Culverts	12,000	10,427.60	12,000	12,000
Crushing Gravel & Ledge Prod.	18,565	22,678.20	24,500	25,025
Chloride	11,400	14,152.24	14,000	14,000
Gravel Pit - Operating Exp.	1,040	863.00	1,500	3,600
Gravel Pit - Bond Payment	64,506	64,506.00	63,942	62,742
Contract Services	4,000	7,070.00	4,500	5,000
Retreatment	96,000	96,315.58	120,000	120,000
Bridge Repairs	1,000	853.25	1,000	1,000
Covered Bridge Maintenance	600	0.00	600	600
Road Sign Replacement	800	765.32	1,000	1,000
Miscellaneous	1,000	47.47	1,000	1,000
Salt	20,000	20,416.32	23,000	23,000
Sand	12,500	9,104.22	14,000	15,160
Road Line Painting	3,000	0	5,000	5,000
Street Lights	3,600	4,033.98	3,600	3,600
Vehicle & Equip. Ins.	13,802	15,720.00	16,210	16,903
Garage - Supplies	1,500	2,968.53	2,100	2,500
Fuel Oil & Firewood	500	550.00	800	0
Telephone - Garage	450	907.54	576	780
Telephone - Cell	500	422.87	500	350
Building Maintenance	2,000	4,551.57	2,000	2,500
Electricity	2,400	1,624.03	2,400	2,600
Gasoline	2,000	3,646.14	1,000	1,000
Diesel Fuel	42,000	56,239.26	63,000	59,000
Motor Oil & Grease	1,500	1,027.57	3,000	3,000
Operating Costs	18,000	15,144.88	20,000	20,000
Equipment Repairs	22,000	41,222.04	24,000	28,000
Radios & Radio Repair	500	289.45	500	500
Small Tools & Equip.	1,500	651.93	1,500	1,500
Act 64 Payment to State	1,350	1,765.00	1,350	1,350
Owed VLCT/PACIF for Overpayt.	0	2,949.72	0	0
TOTAL HIGHWAY	\$583,955	\$598,686.94	\$661,693	\$711,450

HIGHWAY STRUCTURES FUND

Actual and Estimated Expenditures

	BUDGET FY '23	ACTUAL FY '23	BUDGET FY '24	PROPOSED BUDGET FY '25
Structures Projects	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

2023 BRIDGES & STRUCTURES INVENTORY

<u>NUMB</u>	<u>ROAD NAME</u>	<u>STRUCTURE</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>BUILT</u>	<u>CHECKED</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>REPLACEMENT COST</u>	<u>REPLACEMENT SCHEDULED</u>
1	East-West Rd.	7	8'7" x 78'	1996	excellent		\$100,000	
2	East-West Rd.	B-10	21' x 114'		fair	new membrane 2008	\$2,000,000	
3	East-West Rd.	B-18	26' x 36'	1935	fair		\$1,000,000	
4	East-West Rd.	44	72" x 84'	2000	excellent		\$200,000	
5	East-West Rd.	B51	6' x 48'	1939	fair		\$400,000	
6	Park Laughton Rd	8	12' x 42'	2016	excellent	multi plate arch (AS Clark)	\$200,000	
7	Park Laughton Rd	B11	2.5' x 30'		fair	boiler tubes flood before	\$176,500	2024
8	Miller Rd	B15	9' x 26'		good		\$200,000	
9	Greenhoe Rd	B5	6' x 40'		good	small floods w/4" rain	\$300,000	grant
10	Bunker Rd	B6	14.5' x 100'		good		\$500,000	
11	Bunker Rd	19	48" x 40'		good		\$100,000	
12	Middle Rd	B17	6' x 50'		good		\$200,000	
13	Middle Rd	B22	6' x 50'		good		\$200,000	
14	Middle Rd	B24	6' x 40'		good		\$200,000	
15	Middle Rd	B26	6' x 60'		good		\$200,000	
16	Canoe Brook Rd	B8	6' x 40'	2004	excellent		\$300,000	
17	Waterman Rd	1	60" x 30'	2018	excellent	poly-coated	\$40,000	
18	Waterman Rd	B2	10' x 90'	2001	excellent		\$200,000	
19	Tucker Reed Rd	B9	24' x 16'	2016	excellent	cement - AS Clark	\$200,000	
20	Leonard Rd		5' x 30'		poor	boiler tube, rust	\$200,000	2026
21	School House Rd	5	48' x 100'		good		\$50,000	
22	Kipling Rd	B1	6' x 50'		good	boiler tube	\$200,000	2040
23	Dutton Farm Rd	1	12' x 62' arch	2013	excellent	multi plate arch (Town)	\$300,000	
24	Rice Farm Rd	13	6' x 50'		excellent		\$200,000	
25	Rice Farm Rd	22	8' x 75'		good	boiler tube	\$200,000	2043
26	Beaver Pond Rd		5' x 20'		good	boiler tube	\$150,000	2038
27	Beaver Pond Rd	8	5' x 20'		good	boiler tube	\$200,000	2035
28	Bear Hill Rd	B7	16' x 31'	2000	excellent		\$500,000	
29	Stickney Brook Rd	B3	10' x 26'		good	needs work on wing wall	\$3,000,000	
30	Stickney Brook Rd	14	43" x 30'		poor	too small, short & bent boiler tube	\$100,000	
31	Stickney Brook Rd	26	8' x 50'	2011	excellent	multi plate arch (Town)	\$200,000	
32	Stickney Brook Rd	46	4' x 40'		good		\$200,000	
33	Stickney Brook Rd	B53	12' x 30'	2019	excellent	bridge (Evans Const)	\$200,000	2019
34	Sunset Lake Rd	B14	8' x 30'		good		\$200,000	2048
35	Johnson's Curve Rd	3	5'x7' x110'		poor		\$500,000	2028
36	High Bridge Rd	B1	11' x 32'	2008	excellent	new deck	\$700,000	
37	Covered Bridge			1997	fair	replace decking every (to replace decking every 13 years at an approximate cost of \$50k)	\$500,000	
38	Green Iron Bridge				excellent	rebuilt 2010-2011		
39	Camp Arden Rd	B15	5' x 60'		fair	boiler tube, flooded before	\$200,000	2032
40	Green Mtn Camp Rd	6	6' x 80'	2002	excellent		\$200,000	
41	Quarry Rd	2	18' x 35' arch	2015	excellent	multi plate arch (AS Clark)	\$200,000	
42	Ryan Rd	B1	8' x 40'		good		\$300,000	2050
	Camp Arden Rd		10' x 30'		excellent	Belco	\$100,000	2022
	Hague Rd		8' x 30'				\$100,000	2030
Total does not include replacement costs for Green Iron or Covered Bridges							<u>\$15,416,500</u>	

GENERAL FUND**Actual and Estimated Expenditures**

	BUDGET FY 23	ACTUAL FY 23	BUDGET FY 24	PROPOSED BUDGET FY 25
SELECTBOARD				
Selectboard Salaries	2,500	2,250.00	2,500	2,500
Wages - Clerical	8,653	0.00	9,000	9,901
Selectboard Expenses	250	675.79	250	250
Legal Notices	300	52.50	300	200
Meetings/Training	350	0.00	350	350
V.L.C.T. Assessment	3,439	3,439.00	3,557	3,666
WRC Assessment	4,495	4,361.38	4,778	4,974
WSWMD Assessment	11,700	11,729.80	12,866	13,300
BCTV Assessment	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	1,200
Professional Services	1,500	1,747.25	1,500	1,500
FICA & Medicare	25,956	22,627.15	27,023	31,112
VT Child Care Contribution Tax	0	0	0	1,789
Retirement	12,310	11,002.18	12,803	15,743
Health Insurance	44,780	49,238.60	51,505	54,553
Health Reimbursement Acct. (HRA)	5,000	5,000.00	0	5,000
Unemployment Insurance	719	642.00	564	499
Workers Compensation	14,528	15,456.00	16,384	16,813
Public Official Liability	6,520	7,105.00	7,690	7,224
Property Owners Policy	5,200	4,323.50	7,446	8,488
BCA/State Appeal Refund	0	362.47	0	0
Transfer to Highway Fund	0	11,006.46	0	0
Total Selectboard	\$149,400	\$152,219.08	\$159,716	\$179,062
ADMINISTRATION				
Wages - Town Clerk	33,597	33,258.63	34,948	39,897
Wages - Assistant Clerks	9,651	7,849.92	10,040	11,044
Wages - Treasurer/Tax Collector	23,633	22,758.58	25,116	27,628
FEMA/ARPA Admin	0	350.74	0	0
Elections - Operating Supplies	1,950	1,683.05	1,550	2,855
Supplies & Postage	3,500	4,659.88	3,600	4,000
Annual Bulk Mail Permit	290	275.00	300	300
Dues & Meetings	400	170.00	400	450
Wages - Auditors	450	450.00	600	600
Wages - Town Report typist	100	0.00	100	100
Supplies - Auditors	30	0.00	30	30
Training - Auditors	180	86.40	180	180
Town Meeting Training	70	0.00	70	70
Town Report - Printing & Postage	2,600	2,992.31	2,730	3,150
Listers - Wages	18,544	16,316.52	19,288	21,216
Lister Clerical Wages	1,818	0.00	1,891	0

Listers - Reappraisal Wages	0	0.00	0	0
Listers – Reappraisal Supplies	0	192.50	0	0
Listers - Supplies & Postage	300	64.89	350	300
Listers - Meetings & Training	400	150.00	400	400
Listers - Licenses & Software	1,400	1,893.10	1,750	1,900
Listers - Legal Notices	150	123.40	150	150
Reappraisal Fund Transfer	0	9,899.00	0	0
Mapping	1,200	1,634.20	1,450	1,475
Listers - Travel Expenses	250	235.36	250	250
Wages - Delinquent Tax Collector	0	0.00	0	0
Del. Tax Collector Expenses	200	28.00	200	200
Total Administration	\$100,713	\$105,071.48	\$105,393	\$116,195

PLANNING/ZONING

Wages - Zoning Administrator	13,650	13,299.01	14,196	15,616
Supplies & Postage - Zoning	200	252.77	200	200
Supplies & Postage - PC	50	0.00	50	50
Supplies & Postage - DRB	150	0.00	150	150
Legal Notices - PC	250	0.00	250	250
Legal Notices - DRB	1,200	1,422.20	1,200	1,200
Meetings & Training - Zoning	200	0.00	200	200
Meetings & Training - PC	200	0.00	200	200
Meetings & Training - DRB	250	0.00	250	250
Legal Services	0	2,738.70	0	3,000
Computer Hardware/Software	0	270.40	0	0
Printing - PC	100	0.00	100	100
Travel - Zoning	200	92.45	200	200
Travel - PC	100	0.00	100	100
Travel - DRB	100	0.00	100	100
Clerical - PC	350	0.00	350	350
Municipal Planning Grant	0	0.00	0	0
Total Planning/Zoning	\$17,000	\$18,075.53	\$17,546	\$21,966

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Municipal Building Supplies	400	451.65	450	600
Telephone	1,360	2,913.97	1,700	2,335
Janitor Service	1,950	1,965.00	2,000	2,400
Building Maintenance	1,550	548.50	1,550	1,560
Lawn Care	1,130	1,355.00	1,500	1,800
Electricity	1,680	1,507.34	1,700	1,700
Water	200	280.00	200	200
Copier Expense	2,200	2,045.56	2,300	2,300
Computer Expense	8,875	7,714.70	8,900	8,900
New Equipment	250	0.00	250	250
Total Municipal Building	\$19,595	\$18,781.72	\$20,550	\$22,045

PUBLIC SAFETY

Sheriff's Department Contract	17,400	17,400.00	17,980	18,560
Rescue Inc. Assessment	44,350	44,979.19	45,245	45,693
Wages - Health Officer	0	0.00	0	0
Health Officer Exp.	50	0.00	0	0
Windham County Humane	600	600.00	600	600
Animal Control Contract	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>4,470</u>	<u>4,579</u>
Total Public Safety	\$65,400	\$65,797.19	\$68,295	\$69,432

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Protection - Operating Expenses	61,445	61,445.00	61,445	50,000
Fire Protection - Capital Fund	0	0.00	0	26,000
VLCT Insurance (Reimb. by WDVFD)	<u>9,208</u>	<u>10,407.48</u>	<u>10,741</u>	<u>11,909</u>
Total Fire Department	\$70,653	\$71,852.48	\$72,186	\$87,909

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Annual Operating Expenses	1,200	0.00	1,200	600
EMD & Assistant EMD Wages	6,500	0.00	6,500	4,000
Total Emergency Management	\$7,700	\$0.00	\$7,700	\$4,600

WASTE COLLECTION

Trash Pick-up - Hwy Garage	1,080	990.00	1,080	1,080
Green Up Total	350	198.20	350	350
Litter Disposal	125	48.00	125	125
Total Waste Collection	\$1,555	\$1,236.20	\$1,555	\$1,555

HEALTH & WELFARE

Aids Project of Southern Vermont	200	200.00	200	200
Brattleboro Area Hospice	400	400.00	400	400
Brattleboro Senior Meals	600	600.00	700	900
Southeast VT Transit	250	250.00	200	250
Dummerston Cares	100	100.00	750	750
Gathering Place	500	500.00	400	500
Grace Cottage Hospital	1,000	1,000.00	550	400
Groundworks Collaborative	4,000	4,000.00	4,000	4,000
HCRS	850	850.00	800	850
Senior Solutions	900	900.00	900	900
SEVCA	1,900	1,900.00	1,900	1,900
VT Center for Independent Living	100	100.00	100	0
Visiting Nurse Alliance	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
Winston Prouty (Windham Child Care)	500	500.00	600	600
Women's Freedom Center	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
Youth Services	500	500.00	500	500
Total Health & Welfare	\$13,800	\$13,800.00	\$14,000	\$14,150

CEMETERIES

\$5,300	\$5,300.00	\$9,125	\$7,625
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RECREATION BOARD

\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
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COMMUNITY CENTER

\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
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LIBRARY	\$15,300	\$14,872.07	\$18,834	\$22,040
CONSERVATION				
VT Assoc. of Conservation Districts	100	100.00	100	100
SE VT Watershed Alliance	220	220.00	220	220
Conservation Commission	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
Energy Committee	0	0.00	0	0
Farmland Protection Fund	5,000	5,000.00	7,000	5,000
Total Conservation	\$6,320	\$6,320.00	\$8,320	\$6,320
COUNTY TAX	\$24,022	\$24,022.00	\$29,500	\$30,630
MISCELLANEOUS				
Bank Service Charges	50	40.00	50	40
Historical Society of Windham County	200	200.00	200	200
Memorial Day	150	150.00	150	150
Miscellaneous	0	8.00	0	0
SeVEDS	3,600	3,600.00	3,000	1,500
Total Miscellaneous	\$4,000	\$3,998.00	\$3,400	\$1,890
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$500,758	\$501,345.75	\$536,120	\$585,419
Total Highway Fund Expenditures	\$583,955	\$598,686.94	\$661,693	\$711,450
Total Expenditures	\$1,084,713	\$1,100,032.69	\$1,197,813	\$1,296,869

TOWN OF DUMMERSTON EQUIPMENT	MILEAGE 12/31/2023	HOURS 12/31/2023
1986 Morbark Wood chipper model 13	N/A	949
1990 Rawson screening plant owned w/Putney	N/A	6,400
2012 John Deere backhoe	N/A	6,733
2013 Kubota tractor	N/A	4,238
2015 Western star 6 wheel dump truck	62,513	-
2017 Dodge Ram 5500 4 by 4	45,142	-
2016 Western Star dump truck	71,961	5,851
2019 John Deere 622 grader	N/A	2,406
2020 Freightliner 6 wheel dump truck	49,476	3486
2020 John Deere loader	N/A	1440
2022 Western Star 6 wheel dump truck	11,856	-
2023 Ford 550	7,737	-

**WEST DUMMERSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
ENGINE APPARATUS**

Engine 1 2019 International/E-One	7,151	357
Engine 2 2009 International/E-One	10,199	1040
Engine 3 1999 Freightliner/E-One	13,726	1721

CAPITAL FUND BUDGET PLAN

	LIFE SPAN	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-2033	2033-2034
2016 Western Star	10 years				180,000								
2017 Western Star	10 years					180,000							
2019 John Deere Grader	15 years												350,000
2017 Dodge	8 years				90,000								
2020 Freightliner	10 years								180,000				
2020 John Deere Loader	16 years												
2013 Kubota Tractor	10 years			85,000									
Ferri Flail Mower	10 years							20,000					
2022 Western Star	10 years										190,000		
2022 Ford 550	8 years	91,558											
2012 Backhoe	16 years						120,000						
Fire Truck-engine 3 (1999)	30 years												
Fire Truck-engine 2 (2008)	30 years				113,000	113,000	113,000	113,000	113,000				
Fire Truck-engine 1 (2018)	30 years	65,471											
Estimated yearly spending		\$157,029	\$0	\$85,000	\$383,000	\$293,000	\$233,000	\$133,000	\$293,000	\$0	\$190,000	\$0	\$350,000
Taxes raised		140,000	25,000	110,000	350,000	330,000	225,000	150,000	250,000	100,000	150,000	100,000	200,000
Beginning Balance		152,028	177,499	202,818	170,184	207,490	199,863	217,223	174,614	274,928	235,423	335,847	186,452
Estimated interest @ 0.18%		471	319	365	306	373	360	391	314	495	424	605	336
Estimated balance forward		\$152,499	\$177,818	\$203,184	\$170,490	\$207,863	\$200,223	\$217,614	\$174,928	\$275,423	\$235,847	\$336,452	\$186,787

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year the Selectboard would like to raise \$110,000 to replenish the Capital Fund

Cemetery Committee

The Dummerston Cemetery Committee is appointed annually by your Selectboard to oversee the sale of burial lots and administer the yearly paperwork for the Town's five cemeteries. This past year has been quieter than normal with few burials.

If anyone is interested in perpetual care burial lots, please contact the Town Office. Presently there are available lots at Taft Cemetery on Route 30 and Wilder Cemetery on Rice Farm Road.

The committee wishes to say THANKS to Terry Chapman who has been a "behind the scenes" valuable member for a good many years. We will miss you, Terry!

Community Center

No Report Submitted

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission continues its mission of addressing the environmental questions and concerns of our fellow Dummerstonians. The Commission conducted many in-person community and educational events on conservation topics. This year's event calendar included a visit from Sam Schneski, Windham County Forester, to discuss new aspects of the Use Value Appraisal tax incentive program, a talk on bird rehabilitation with wildlife rehabilitator Fred Homer and veterinarian Ron Svec, a talk on land conservation with Pieter Van Loon, Vermont Land Trust lead forester, a presentation on "The Good, the Bad, and the Incredible World of Bats" with Ceacy Henderson, a presentation by the Rich Earth Institute on recycling human waste as fertilizer, and a talk on "Getting Started with Native Plants" with Jocelyn Demuth, proprietor of the Native Plant Nursery, Checkerspot Farm, in Colrain, MA. This year the Commission entered into a contribution-sharing arrangement with the Community Center for these events, which helps to support both organizations.

The Commission is an active member of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions and hosted a gathering of regional conservation commissions at the Grange, including a presentation by Cory Ross on the history and function of the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District. We continue to prepare and issue our monthly newsletter, which goes out to nearly 500 subscribers. The newsletter includes varied seasonal nature notes, stories, and upcoming events. This year we added a section for readers to contribute local photographs and videos. The Commission also administers a Dummerston Conservation Commission Facebook group and "Conservation Stations" with books and other conservation-centric information for visitors and passers-by. We also researched and submitted a "Memorandum on Ridgeline Development and Protection" to the Selectboard. This action item was assigned to the Conservation Commission in the 2018 Town Plan and required research into various approaches across the state as well as careful consideration of Dummerston's unique topography and needs. An important aspect of the Commission's programs is our own continual self-education, so we can more effectively contribute to the implementation, review and updates for certain aspects of the Town Plan, as specifically charged therein to the Commission.

In 2023 the Commission continued to financially support the Bonnyvale Education Center's work with students at Dummerston Elementary School. BEEC staff are working with grades Pre-K through 6 grades doing a combination of in-person and remote programming, with a program of menu options from which teachers can choose. The Commission physically maintains several recreational sites within Dummerston, including Prospect Hill, the rain garden on Route 30, and Dutton Pines State Park. Finally, the Commission collaborated with the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District to successfully apply for a grant to build an improved water drainage system and access point to the beach by the Covered Bridge. This grant has been fully funded and requests for proposals will go out in early 2024. When completed, this project will allow residents and tourists safe access to this scenic spot while protecting the ecosystem and water from further erosion of the bank and an opportunity for interpretive signage relating to Dummerston in general and this location in particular.

Dummerston Review Board

The Dummerston Development Review Board (DRB) holds public hearings and issues formal written decisions on development applications as specified in the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Dummerston. Issues for consideration include Variances, Conditional Use Permits, Site Plan Reviews, Sign Permits and Zoning Administrator Decision Appeals. The DRB is made up of 5 sitting members and 2 alternates, all appointed by the Selectboard. The DRB regular meeting time is 6 PM on the third Tuesday of each month preceded by pertinent site visit(s) and review if required. Meeting notices and any deviation from this schedule are posted at the Dummerston School, the Town Office and at the West Dummerston Post Office bulletin boards. Applications to be heard by the DRB are posted at the above sites and the Commons at least 15 days before the meeting date. Times, dates and locations are published as a part of the hearing notice process.

The DRB is a quasi-judicial board which affords applicants and “interested parties” the right to appeal decisions to a higher court. It is important for "interested parties" to participate in the review of an application so that all pertinent information is entered into the hearing record. The meetings of the Board are public and all citizens are invited to attend.

All the DRB final decisions from fiscal year 2022-2023 are available for review at the Town Office. To access the DRB Webpage, visit Dummerston.org web site and click on Development Review Board. This page will provide DRB information including Public Hearing Notices of applications up for review, site visit times, notices of special meetings, DRB procedures, minutes and the finalized formal decisions. Links to Dummerston Zoning Bylaws, Vermont Statutes and other relevant information are also available through this webpage.

Persons interested in serving on the Board should contact the Selectboard for consideration when a vacancy occurs. Current Board members are Peter Doubleday, Cami Elliot, Chad Farnum, Vice Chair and Alan McBean, Chair. It would be great to have some new faces on the Board and there is plenty of room. Currently we have one fulltime, 3-year position and two, 1-year alternate positions open. Our Zoning Administrator writes the decisions for the board so the bulk of time spent is attending the one monthly meeting. If you are curious, a 1-year alternate seat is a great way to check out the board without a huge commitment. Please contact the Selectboard for more information or attend one of our monthly meetings. They are open to the public.

Dummerston Cares

Dummerston Cares is an all-volunteer organization committed to the health and well-being of all residents, regardless of their age, socio-economic status or health condition. Last year we were able to touch the lives of our neighbors in every corner of Dummerston with valuable programs and support services (at no charge) because of many dedicated volunteers and generous donors, including the Town of Dummerston and Community Chest.

Members of Cares Board included Catie G. Berg (Secretary), Reverend Shawn Bracebridge, Susan Daigler (Treasurer), Phyllis Emery, Norris Evans, Meg Lyons (Vice President), Pam McFadden, Steve Mindel, and Bill Schmidt (President).

Highlights of Our 2022-23 Year

Rides Program - Thirteen drivers provided 12 residents 150 rides to medical and other appointments, both locally and in the wider area, travelling a total of 5,598 miles.

Everyone Eats – 583 meals were distributed during the final months of this program in 2022. In addition to weekly meals, several families received a Thanksgiving dinner.

End-of-Summer Picnic – Cares’ organizers teamed up with scores of Dummerston volunteers and organizations for a family picnic on September 11 at the school that included a “Wheels” Parade, lawn games, storytelling, live music, beverages, desserts, and much camaraderie.

Medical Equipment Loans – Twenty-one residents borrowed 37 pieces of equipment that included such helpful items as walkers, wheelchairs, and shower chairs.

Declaration of Inclusion – Following the lead of Governor Phil Scott, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and many towns in our state, the voters of Dummerston overwhelmingly approved the following Declaration of Inclusion on March 7, 2023:

*We welcome all person, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, differing ability, economic status & education.
We commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community.
We value respectful civic engagement in all forums.*

Update on January 25, 2024:

We are pleased to report that the Select Board voted to endorse the Declaration of Inclusion, approved by the electorate on March 7, 2023, with the following resolution.

The Dummerston Select Board endorses the vote of Dummerston residents supporting the Declaration of Inclusion.

Dummerston Cares has therefore removed, from this year’s warning, our petitioned article charging the SB to adopt the Declaration of Inclusion after Town Meeting in March of 2024.

Scores of residents received the benefits of other Cares programs, such as **Chores Corps**, **Emergency Home-Heating-Fuel Assistance**, **Friendly Visits**, and **Yoga and Tai Chi Classes**.

Looking Ahead to 2023-24

Two new initiatives arise, starting with a “Raise the Alarm” fire safety program in partnership with W. Dummerston’s Volunteer Fire Dept. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and escape ladders will be provided and installed free of charge to all who sign up. In the spring we hope to start “Dummerston Walks,” for residents to take monthly guided nature and other walks.

If you wish to volunteer, learn more, have an idea for a new community program, or would like to support Cares with a gift, please visit www.dummerstoncares.org, call Cares Message Line (802) 257-5800, or contact us at P.O. Box 302, West Dummerston, VT 05357.

Energy Committee

As the climate crisis grows and energy costs increase, the Dummerston Energy Committee (DEC) has been working on various projects, as well as general education efforts.

The committee currently consists of Eric Lineback (Chair), Calvin Farwell, Doug Morton, Thomas Nolan, and Alex Wilson. We generally meet on the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm via Zoom.

This year, we continued working on promoting modern wood heat for town residents, the Button Up state-wide energy efficiency education program, and on evaluating opportunities for advancing the use of plug-in electric and electric-hybrid vehicles, including both cars and bicycles. We continued monitoring and advocating for state legislation and other programs affecting energy use and sourcing, climate change, energy efficiency, and resiliency – such as the Affordable Heat Act, the Environmental Common Agenda, Climate Action Plan (CAP), the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP), the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), and others.

One of our most significant projects has been engaging the town in the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP), a new grant program funded by Vermont Building and General Services (BGS) and administered by regional planning commissions to help communities become more energy resilient. We applied for and received a \$4,000 MERP “mini-grant” which we will use to bolster our resiliency efforts. And we are also in the process of applying for free Level 2 Energy Resilience Assessments (energy audits) for the town office, town garage, and Community Center buildings. This work will lead to ultimately applying for MERP Implementation Grant funding of up to a total of \$500,000 for various projects identified through the assessments.

In addition, as a follow-up to work we previously did with Efficiency Vermont, we completed our proposed plan for replacing the old and inefficient lighting system at the town garage (Highway Department), and we continue to work on developing a plan to install a distributed solar PV system for town electricity needs.

Over the coming year, we will continue these ongoing activities with a focus on how to help Dummerston and its residents reduce their energy consumption and use all forms of energy as wisely as possible. We will also continue monitoring and contributing to the state’s various efforts regarding energy, resiliency, and climate change.

On a final note, DEC is always looking for new members to add to our team. Let us know if you might be interested. We are widely recognized as the “coolest” committee in town, so please consider getting involved – regardless of your background. You can contact us anytime at energy@dummerston.org.

Green Mountain Camp

Green Mountain Camp completed its 106th season in 2023! For well over a century, campers from near and far have been making cherished memories at GMC. Nearly 290 different campers registered for a total of 400 sessions, carrying on the traditions begun in 1917. Camp director Billie Slade and her staff of 55 (8 from Dummerston) welcomed 92 new faces. Our mission to empower girls to believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference in the world remains relevant today.

As we navigated through the aftermath of the pandemic, it proved to be more crucial than ever that girls have a safe place to play and learn while building appreciation of each other and the land around them. In 2023, the camp provided more than \$19,000 in tuition assistance to 51 children who needed financial aid. One of the highlights of the year was being able to welcome some of our newest Vermonters to GMC, with eight resettled Afghan refugee children attending camp. The generosity of this community allows the camp to be an inclusive place for girls of various backgrounds and that diversity makes the experience richer for all.

In keeping with our focus on working towards a "greener" Green Mountain Camp, we completed our "Harness the Sun" campaign this year to convert most of our electricity usage to solar power and that project is complete. We are in the process of building an energy efficient house for our director, including an office and meeting space as the old residence was in need of replacement.

We kicked off this initiative with a wonderful reunion event in July, complete with live music and tours that was very well attended. This project is being made possible in part by the generous support of individuals, organizations and businesses, many located right here in Dummerston. This generosity of spirit has been the foundation of our collaborative efforts and GMC is most grateful! We value our ongoing relationship with local businesses and have contracted with several of them to work on past and present projects, including the construction of the new house and office at GMC. Many of these projects are focused on making the camp more environmentally friendly and more accessible to all and are intended to serve us well into the next century of camp.

After 12 years at the helm, guiding GMC through our centennial, the pandemic and many years of change and growth, our Executive Director Billie Slade has retired. She joins us in our excitement at welcoming our new director Samantha Lucheck to GMC. She is an experienced camp professional who is looking forward to leading the camp into the future and to joining the Dummerston community.

We hope that you will keep GMC in mind as a place to hold an event during the warmer months. The facilities have been used by nonprofits, youth groups, school picnics, weddings, birthday parties, family reunions, and others who want a unique setting for their time together. With the addition of a fully equipped ADA bathroom, we are excited to open the camp up to even more people. We would love to have more residents of Dummerston take advantage of this special place, and offer a special rental rate for you!

Please visit our website at www.greenmountaincamp.com for more information about Green Mountain Camp. We are proud to be one of Dummerston's many treasures and value being an integral part of this community.

Highway

This year was also busy. The State of Vermont gave us a \$30,000 grant; this was to do stone-lined ditches, grass-lined ditches and sheet run off. The grant is designed to get water off from the road as soon as possible, into a ditch that has stone or grass to minimize sediment into our streams. Stone-lined ditches are used on slopes 5% or greater, depending on the volume of water. Grass-lined ditches are from 0 to 5% slope. Sheet runoff is the best possible solution for the environment, in most spots. This allows the water to disperse evenly along the road. Anytime water has to run down the road, it will gain velocity and sediment and this is what we're trying to keep out of our landscape and streams.

Next year we are also applying for the same grant and we will be working on flooding issues on East-West Road near Nourse Hollow Road, Park Laughton Road, Spaulding Hill Road, Falls Brook Road, and Green mountain Camp Road. We will be doing ditching on hydraulically connected segments.

From this year's Capital Plan, we will be asking to replace our Kubota tractor. This is used for mowing, leaf blowing and some raking during mud season.

Using ARPA money, we replaced the outside wood boiler at the highway garage which has been working well this winter. We are getting engineered plans on three structures so we will be more prepared in the future. The Covered Bridge decking is 13 to 14 years old and needs to be replaced; we are hoping to do that this summer.

The Selectboard also approved replacing a structure on Park Laughton Road. The existing structure is two older boiler tubes; they are deteriorating and will only hold storms of three to four inches of rain before flooding. The replacement will be a 20-foot long bridge.

The Town has a Structures Inventory which is made up of bridges or culverts over 3 feet in diameter. The structures have a lifespan of approximately 100 years. In the Town Report there is a page on the Structures Inventory which give an approximate replacement date and cost. There is approximately \$14,916,500 in inventory; **not** including the Covered or Iron Bridges. Last summer we installed 18 new culverts; put out approximately 3500 cubic yards of gravel and 3000 cubic yards of sand.

Historical Society

January Annual Meeting The theme for discussion at this, our first in person meeting in many months, was “School Days in Dummerston”. Some folks who attended school in our very own building and others who spent early years in both West and East Dummerston Schools had wonderful stories to tell. Thanks to all who shared their youthful tales and to all those who listened, chuckled and remembered their own early adventures.

April Quarterly Meeting We were most fortunate to receive a gift AND have a program central to the purpose of a historical society. Charles Marchant, Bob LeBlond, and Lester Dunklee showed a collection of digitized glass plate negatives of Dummerston scenes donated by Barbara Johnson. The audience helped to identify the subjects. The negatives were part of a larger collection including Vernon and Brattleboro whose historical societies, along with Dummerston, received the digitized images and the negatives for their archives. Our Society’s significant photo collection was much enriched by this gift. The three presenters are part of a group who have preserved thousands of historic photographs over the years. Our warmest thanks to them and Barbara.

July Quarterly Meeting This gathering was a grand tribute to Don Hazelton, lifelong Dummerstonian whose apples, strawberries, and maple syrup made Dummerston Center an important part of regional agriculture for decades. Don is remembered well for his kindness and public service. His good heart, his tractor, and his sound judgment solved many a problem for his neighbors. An attempt to pay him embarrassed him and he would refuse. A number of homes stayed warm because of the work he and his friends did with the Wood Pantry, bringing firewood to those in need. Family and many friends gathered at the Schoolhouse to honor him and wish him well in retirement.

October Quarterly Meeting This program, *Remembering Dr. Grace Burnett, (1886-1963)*, took advantage of our large collection of material about our Dummerston native who was Brattleboro’s first female physician. This program featured not only Dr. Burnett, but also the distinguished Dr. Robert Tortolani who spoke about the medical career of his pioneering predecessor. Dr. Burnett’s early house calls were made on horseback and by horse and buggy. She delivered thousands of babies, some now well aged but still alive. She was a competitive blue ribbon horsewoman, a member of a dozen community and professional organizations, a director of the Valley Fair, and a great supporter of the SPCA. Our Society has many photos from her albums and forty-four volumes of her medical library.

In addition to our quarterly meetings we presented two special exhibits this past summer

Faces of Dummerston: A Work in Progress (June 11 – August 6). This exhibit, curated by Charles Fish, opened with a public reception on Sunday, June 11th. It was a display at the Society's Schoolhouse of about 150 photographs of town residents. Some images were ancient; more were taken within living memory. Teachers, farmers, firemen, bankers, truckers, writers, engineers— some posed, others captured in natural settings. Some photos are yet to be identified. Visitors were invited to add names and catch errors. After the exhibit the pictures were preserved in albums to which new faces will be added over time. Also on display was Charles Fish's amazing collection of cameras and other gear representing photographic practices of past and present.

Artisans of Dummerston (August 13 – October 8). This very special exhibit representing artwork/crafts of Dummerston residents opened with a public reception on Sunday, August 13. Twenty-six local exhibitors filled the Schoolhouse with a wide variety of works in multiple

media: oil and watercolor paintings, photography, jewelry, wood carvings, weavings, fiber arts, quilts, leather works, sculptures, pottery and fine pieces of furniture.

We wish to thank the Selectboard for their support in allocating funds from the ARPA monies recently received from the Federal Government. Projects completed include addition of insulation in the attic and basement, installation of 2 Heat Pumps, washing the exterior (painting to be completed in the spring of 2024) and replacement of an exterior door. The Schoolhouse is “buttoned up” and ready for whatever weather Vermont chooses to deliver for many years to come. We are deeply appreciative.

Our focus in 2024 will be to continue our work as preservers of our beloved Schoolhouse, our past and present Dummerston history and to bring programs of interest to our members and friends. We are always looking for volunteers. Details? Please call Muriel Taylor, 802-380-7525.

A reminder that T-shirts and Dummerston Covered Bridge note cards are available at the Town Office or by contacting us at dummerstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We appreciate the generous mini-grant from C&S Printers for printing the calendar. All sales help fund our ongoing expenses such as heat, electricity and insurance. Thank you for your continued support.

The Dummerston Historical Society always welcomes donations of historical interest to Dummerston and we encourage you to join us in 2024 as a member, a volunteer, a participant in our programs or as a viewer of our exhibits. Please note that you do not need to be a member of the Society to attend any of our functions. Our Schoolhouse is handicapped accessible. You are always welcome.

The following comprise our board of directions: Muriel Taylor, Pres., Charles Fish, V.P., Sara Ryan, Sec., Ruth Hoffman, Treas., and Jody Normandeau, John Pinkney and Gail Sorenson, Directors. Please see our website at www.dummerstonhistoricalsociety.org.

Listers

We continue to work on inconsistencies and corrections to the town wide reappraisal. Many details continue to need attention. We will continue updating pictures of properties as changes occur.

We had another busy year processing real estate transfers. We had a total of 90 transfers of various types, from January through December, including sales, subdivisions, establishment of trusts, and so on. At present, Dummerston has 1011 properties of which 117 are in Current Use.

Our work continues in maintaining the grand list, and monitoring Homestead Declarations, Form HS 122. At this writing (December, 2023) we still have 93 non filers. A reminder --If you declare Vermont as your place of residence, you are required by law to file the HS-122 form in a timely manner each year.

Our posted office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9 AM until noon. Please call us for an appointment if needed at the Town Office. You may also leave an email message at listers@dummerston.org or leave a voicemail at 802-257-1496.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission has the responsibility of updating the Town Plan and amending the town's Zoning Bylaw. It is, by statute, party to Act 250 proceedings, as well as the Public Utility Commission's hearings on energy-related developments in Dummerston. The Planning Commission's seven members are appointed by the Selectboard to 4-year terms.

Current members and terms are:

Daniel Gehring 2024

Sarah Bergh 2025

Maria Glabach 2026

Annamarie Pluhar 2027

[vacant seat] 2024

[vacant seat] 2025

[vacant seat] 2026

The Planning Commission has 3 vacancies - we encourage members of our community with an interest to attend a meeting to see if you may want to contribute your energies to the Town through the Planning Commission. The group represents a diverse range of interests, and it can be an even stronger commission with more voices. Dummerston residents who would like to serve on the Commission may submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard.

In 2023, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and adopted improvements to the zoning bylaw which were sent to the Selectboard for final review. The amended bylaws can be found on the town website. The content approved focused on solar screening provisions and air transportation facilities. Food truck and signage is another area of focus that was worked on but not resolved yet. Next year we will be switching focus to updating the Town Plan.

The Planning Commission's regular meeting is on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm, the meetings are currently being held in hybrid form on both Zoom and in person. Meeting locations are shared in each month's agenda. All meetings are open to the public. Meetings are warned on the town website as well as at the town office, school, and West Dummerston P.O. Agendas and minutes are posted on the commission's page of the town website.

Please do not hesitate to talk with any commissioner if you have an interest in, or question about the Town Plan, Zoning Bylaw, or any other business before the Commission. Written comments are also welcome and can be emailed to planning@dummerston.org or mailed to the Town Office.

Selectboard

The Selectboard welcomed three new members this year; Alex Wilson was elected in March while Lewis White and Todd Davidson were appointed to fill seats that had become vacant.

Most of the \$512,000 the town received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has been allocated. Starting in 2022 funds were allocated to the Evening Star Grange for roof and ceiling repairs, the Town Office for weatherization, new signs, office equipment, a new generator and cleaning out several decades of bat poop from the attic. The Town Garage received funds for a new wood fired boiler and repairs to the roof. The WDVFD received about \$63,000 for building upgrades and equipment. The Community Center used ARPA funds to follow up on extensive recommendations from a building inspection. The Recreation Board received funding for upgrading their programs and the Historical Society received funding for weatherization and painting. The Covered bridge will have new oak planking installed in the travel lane and engineering studies for structures were made for Leonard, Johnson's Curve and Park Laughton roads. Park Laughton Road will have a new structure, or bridge, installed this year for a cost of \$180,000.

Following an early summer storm the Board has been working with residents along Salmon Brook to make use of the USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection Plan to stabilize the waterway's banks. It's a long process and still in the early stages.

Work on the budget began in October, meeting every week through January. Our earliest draft tried to accommodate all requests but would have resulted in a 49% increase in taxes to be raised. We worked for months to reign in discretionary spending while trying to increase wages to bring us closer in line with averages around our area. Our final budget proposal will raise the amount of taxes to be raised for municipal and highway spending by 18% over last year. We usually have a surplus that can be used to reduce this amount but we just don't have one to use for this year. Voters attending Town Meeting in March will, as always, have the final say.

The Selectboard would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers that put time and effort into working together on the commissions, committees, boards and elected offices in town. Just about every group could use more help. We'd especially like to acknowledge and thank Charlotte Neer Annis who, as our Town Treasurer, went well beyond her job description to do an excellent job working on the aftermath of the July 2022 storm and dealing with FEMA and their requirements. Our hats are off again to Jean Newell. After her term ended last March, she offered to come back as a Lister for one more year when we had no one coming up to fill her seat. Thanks again Jean.

Town Clerk

Life at the Town Office was a bit quieter during 2023. Town Meeting was again held by Australian ballot in March. The voting percentage of registered voters was 27.93%, almost exactly what it was the previous year. I want to thank all the volunteers who worked at the polls. Your help is greatly appreciated!

During fiscal year 2023, this office issued 18 motor vehicle registration renewals; 6 marriage licenses; 222 dog licenses; 11 Fish & Wildlife licenses. We earned \$1,864.25 for certified and informational copies and \$13,244.00 in recording fees. \$4,816.00 was added to the reserve funds for restoration and computerization of the Land Records. An additional \$1,278.00 was earned by issuing various licenses and permits. We recorded 330 instruments in the Land Records totaling 1447 pages, which filled nearly three books.

West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department

The West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1950 and we are now in our 73rd year of continuous operation. As was true in 1950, today's department is a 100% volunteer organization that serves the Town of Dummerston as well as the surrounding communities through a mutual aid system. We are honored to be able to contribute to the department's history, responding to the emergencies of our friends and neighbors. We thank the Town of Dummerston and our fellow residents for your on-going support.

The nonprofit (501c3) organization is composed of approximately 20 men and women who are active on either the fire or rescue side of the organization—or both. The Fire volunteers typically complete a 184-hour certification course through the State's Fire Academy and then maintain that certification through several dozen hours per year of continuing education. The Rescue volunteers (many of whom are also Fire volunteers) complete similar training and are also required to maintain those certifications each year. Many members have additional technical certifications in areas such as hazardous materials, vehicle extrication, and FEMA's Incident Command System. Our members carry pagers around-the-clock so that we can respond to applicable 911 dispatches in Dummerston and surrounding towns.

The department is also assisted by non-responding Auxiliary members who contribute in a range of capacities such as bookkeeping, fundraising, and event production. Many of those on the Fire Department Auxiliary are family members or firefighters and rescue personnel. Without the critical assistance of the Auxiliary members, the department could not function. New volunteers in either capacity are always welcome.

In October 2023, the department elected Larry Pratt Jr. to be our new Chief. The department would like to thank, and recognize, former Chief Rick Looman for his enormous contribution to the department over many years. Chief Looman brought the department through many major milestones including the fundraising and construction of the new Center Station in 2017. Rick has contributed thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours (many in the middle of the night) to our community and department. Thank you, Chief Looman!

In addition to being able to respond to calls for help, the WDFD enjoys participating in community events throughout the year. For example, last winter, the department shuttled water to fill the ice rink at the Dummerston School. We annually hose down the West Dummerston Covered Bridge to extend its life. Fundraisers over the past year included a Chicken BBQ at the KOA Campground, a youth fishing derby in Dummerston Center, a golf tournament at the Brattleboro Country Club, and our annual Pancake Breakfast held in conjunction with the Apple Pie Festival—where we also provide tours of our equipment. We also participated in a fire safety and awareness day at the Dummerston School and kicked off a new partnership with Dummerston Cares to install smoke detectors in homes around town.

We have many plans for the future. On the Fire/Rescue side, we have numerous operational initiatives such as implementing an online reporting software, on-going medical training, and increased fire training with several mutual aid departments. Seven of our members, for example, took part in two full days of emergency medical training in early December 2023 and several are working towards EMT certifications.

As an organization, we have three strategic goals for the coming year:

- First, we plan to make our organization more accessible to those who are interested. In 2023, the Town held a special town meeting (and an informational meeting) to decide whether or not to purchase a new engine for the department. It was clear to the department that not all residents felt that they understood the department's priorities, tight

finances or mechanisms for accountability. Going forward, we will be fully transparent, with annual budgets, tax filings and information related to our organization made available on our website (www.westdummerstonfire.com).

- Second, we are going to work on our overall financial sustainability. It has become clear that the money we currently earn from fundraising and taxes is not keeping pace with the rising costs of running the department.
- Third, the department seeks to ‘grow our tent’ and engage more Dummerston residents in the success of our department. The demand on our volunteers to complete more training and respond to more calls is pushing against increasing demand on those same volunteers to run an increasingly complex organization and carry out fundraisers.

There are many ways that you can help the West Dummerston Fire Department without putting on a helmet. If you would like to lend a hand, or find out how you can, please consider dropping by one of the stations on a Tuesday evening or give Chief Pratt a call to say hello!

Respectfully,
West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department
Larry Pratt Jr. – Chief
Leon Dunbar – Deputy Chief
WDFD Board of Trustees

Call Volume (December 2022 - November 2023)

As a department we enjoy reviewing our call history and learning lessons from the year. It is also a reminder that ‘Emergency Department’ might be a more apt name than ‘Fire Department’. Total call volume was 239, which was down from last year’s record 264. Of note, while the recent trend of increasing medical calls appears to have slowed, the increased volume appears to be becoming a permanent reality. In 2022, the department responded to 138 medical calls, a number that rivals previous total call volumes of just ten years ago. The department responded to 38 motor vehicle accidents (a record). The department was dispatched to provide mutual aid assistance to our friends and neighbors in nearby towns 22 times. 4 times, we received mutual aid from other departments.

138 Medical
38 Motor vehicle accidents
22 Trees/wires
11 Automatic fire alarms
4 Carbon monoxide
2 Brush/illegal burns
1 Chimney fire
1 Structure fire
22 Mutual aid given

239 TOTAL

(4 mutual aid received)

Modified Cash Basis

West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department
Unrestricted Operating Budget

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed
	Jul '21 - Jun 22	Preliminary Jul '22 - Jun 23	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Budget Jul '24 - Jun 25
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Fund Drive	0.00	18,572.75	16,000.00	16,500.00
Fundraisers				
Barbecue	0.00	3,216.50	3,500.00	3,500.00
Golf Tournament	21,405.00	23,395.00	22,500.00	21,000.00
Pancake Breakfast	0.00	4,545.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Total Fundraisers	21,405.00	31,156.50	30,500.00	29,000.00
Interest Income	35.28	181.97	0.00	200.00
Investments				
Dividend, Interest (Securities)	39.92	80.45	0.00	80.00
Total Investments	39.92	80.45	0.00	80.00
Memorial Contributions	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Contributions	13,542.82	2,305.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	28.31	0.00	0.00
Motor Vehicle Billing	0.00	6,664.64	5,000.00	5,000.00
Town of Dummerston Appropriation	61,918.00	61,445.00	61,918.00	101,968.00
Total Income	98,819.87	120,555.41	115,418.00	154,748.00
Gross Profit	98,819.87	120,555.41	115,418.00	154,748.00
Expense				
Business Expenses				
Business Registration Fees	0.00	100.00	50.00	50.00
Total Business Expenses	0.00	100.00	50.00	50.00
Computer Expense	1,000.03	356.33	478.00	817.00
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees	0.00	895.00	950.00	950.00
Contract Services - Other	0.00	260.00	300.00	270.00
Total Contract Services	0.00	1,155.00	1,250.00	1,220.00
Contribution Expense	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dues	352.00	272.00	400.00	357.00
Equipment	4,423.41	5,723.11	5,000.00	2,500.00
Facilities and Equipment				
Depr and Amort - Allowable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Facilities and Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire Prevention	255.00	577.40	600.00	580.00
Fishing Derby	115.28	251.53	250.00	250.00
Fundraising				
Bake Sale	259.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Barbecue	0.00	1,314.27	0.00	1,350.00
Fund Drive Letter	0.00	1,038.58	1,250.00	1,150.00
Golf Tournament	10,611.49	11,934.46	10,500.00	12,000.00
Pancake Breakfast	0.00	1,410.42	1,500.00	1,500.00
Fundraising - Other	0.00	149.99	200.00	0.00
Total Fundraising	10,870.69	15,847.72	13,450.00	16,000.00
Grounds Maintenance				
Lawnmowing	510.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,100.00
Grounds Maintenance - Other	300.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Total Grounds Maintenance	810.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,350.00
Insurance				
Building/Auto Insurance	7,989.00	9,522.00	10,000.00	11,975.00
Work Comp	1,219.00	1,219.00	1,300.00	1,220.00
Total Insurance	9,208.00	10,741.00	11,300.00	13,195.00

Modified Cash Basis

West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department
Unrestricted Operating Budget

	<u>Jul '21 - Jun 22</u>	<u>Jul '22 - Jun 23</u>	<u>Jul '23 - Jun 24</u>	<u>Jul '24 - Jun 25</u>
Maintenance				
Building Maintenance	1,283.43	364.40	3,000.00	2,500.00
Equipment Maintenance	4,680.95	7,280.75	4,500.00	5,500.00
Generator Maintenance	0.00	0.00	500.00	1,200.00
Truck Maintenance	6,119.83	4,514.15	5,000.00	6,000.00
Total Maintenance	<u>12,084.21</u>	<u>12,159.30</u>	<u>13,000.00</u>	<u>15,200.00</u>
Meals/Travel				
Fire Dept Picnic	0.00	124.64	0.00	500.00
Meals	100.28	48.40	0.00	100.00
Total Meals/Travel	<u>100.28</u>	<u>173.04</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
Miscellaneous	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00
Mutual Aid Assessment	30,100.00	30,702.00	32,000.00	33,500.00
Office Supplies	678.23	286.98	400.00	500.00
Operations				
Printing and Copying	27.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Software Implementation Cost	0.00	4,414.90	0.00	0.00
Software License Fee	0.00	4,770.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Supplies	2,083.24	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Total Operations	<u>2,110.74</u>	<u>9,184.90</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>
Radio Equipment	684.28	0.00	3,000.00	2,500.00
Radio Maintenance	0.00	125.95	500.00	500.00
Rescue Equipment/Supplies	994.75	542.99	2,000.00	2,500.00
Soda & Water	72.78	20.88	300.00	300.00
Tee Shirts & Jackets	1,205.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
Telephone				
Telephone - Center Station	1,311.08	1,328.11	1,330.00	1,410.00
Telephone - West Station	654.04	673.04	675.00	720.00
Total Telephone	<u>1,965.12</u>	<u>2,001.15</u>	<u>2,005.00</u>	<u>2,130.00</u>
Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Uniforms				
Personal Protective Equipment	8,069.54	518.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Uniforms - Other	35.25	169.55	200.00	250.00
Total Uniforms	<u>8,104.79</u>	<u>687.55</u>	<u>10,200.00</u>	<u>10,250.00</u>
Utilities				
Electricity-West Station	2,145.95	2,196.62	2,235.00	1,850.00
Electricity - Center Station	864.28	947.00	950.00	1,175.00
Internet - Center Station	1,084.81	1,396.08	1,400.00	2,080.00
Internet - West Station	1,082.55	1,393.68	1,400.00	2,080.00
Propane - Center Station	3,263.82	110.14	2,500.00	2,850.00
Propane - West Station	2,187.23	4,603.70	3,500.00	3,150.00
Total Utilities	<u>10,628.64</u>	<u>10,647.22</u>	<u>11,985.00</u>	<u>13,185.00</u>
Vehicle Fuel	1,392.02	1,061.47	1,250.00	1,800.00
Total Expense	<u>97,171.20</u>	<u>102,647.52</u>	<u>115,418.00</u>	<u>126,284.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>1,648.67</u>	<u>17,907.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>28,464.00</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>1,648.67</u>	<u>17,907.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>28,464.00</u>
Capital Fund Contribution				<u>28,464.00</u>
Adjusted Net Operating				<u>0.00</u>

Windham County Sheriff's Department

I'm pleased to report our efforts working with our towns regarding improvement of regionalized policing in Windham County. Regionalizing services is not a new recommendation for Vermont. There have been countless studies for many decades recommending Vermont transition to regional systems to save funds and allocate services more appropriately. The Windham County Sheriff's Office has held two meetings inviting nineteen towns (specifically, towns who don't have a police department) to the discussion on how to provide an improved regionalized policing service from what services we provide now. We've begun with the problem statement: "Members of the public within Windham County receive inconsistent and non-uniform policing, resulting in lack of response to reported crimes, being disenfranchised by lack of access to services, and an increased propensity for vigilantism." As my office works with the towns to tackle that problem statement, two questions to answer become immediately clear: How is a regional service governed? How is a regional service funded?

Of the nineteen towns invited, seventeen have indicated their interest in the discussion, including the Town of Dummerston, on how we materialize improvement of policing in Windham County. We are excited to work with the towns and public to develop the answers to these questions that allow for stability to town budgets which also meets the public's general expectations of access to emergency services, including policing.

Our Regional Animal Control Officer (ACO) program, which Dummerston is a member of, continues to grow each year now representing nine towns. The initial work of the member towns has been a remarkable success, addressing animals that are vicious; at-large; neglected; unregistered; and in need of quarantine.

Our Regional Emergency Communications Center received upgrades this year as well, providing better workspaces for those answering emergency and non-emergency calls. We have increased from two workstations to four, providing opportunities to better align the public's access to emergency services with best practices. Our Center answers approximately 43,780 phone calls each year, which generates 12,008 responses the communities we serve.

The Windham County Sheriff's Office is pleased to serve the people of Dummerston and look forward to the upcoming year. If you have a need for our services, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 802-365-4942 for non-emergencies or 911 for emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheriff Mark R. Anderson

Call Types	Count
Accident - Injury	1
Accident – Leaving Scene	1
Accident – Property Dmg	4
Animal - At Large	9
Animal - Vicious	3

Animal - Welfare	4
Animal Problem	4
Arrest on Warrant	1
Assist - Agency	7
Assist - Motorist	6
Attempt to Serve	1
Directed Patrol	5
Drugs - Possession	1
DUI	2
Motor Vehicle Comp	5
Noise	1
Public Speaking	1
SMART Cart	1
Suspicious Event	2
Traffic Hazard	1
Traffic Stop	185
VIN verification	2
Grand Total	247

Windham Solid Waste Management District

History and Current Status: The Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) was formed in 1988 by eight towns who cooperatively managed a 30-acre landfill on Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro until it closed in 1995. As more towns joined the District, a regional materials recovery facility (MRF) was constructed by the District adjacent to the closed landfill and processed dual-stream recyclable materials for 20 years until it stopped operating in 2017. Currently 18 towns are members of WSWMD which employs 6 full-time and 3 part-time persons to provide educational programs and operate the transfer station and composting facility on Old Ferry Road.

Town Solid Waste Services: Seven member towns, Dover, Jamaica, Readsboro, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Wilmington operate transfer stations for trash and recyclable materials. Other materials such as tires and electronics are also collected by some transfer stations, and most of the single stream recyclables are processed at the Casella MRF in Rutland. All town transfer stations are required to provide containers for drop-off of food scraps. Three towns, Brookline, Halifax, and Marlboro provide 24-7 drop-off sites for recyclables. Three towns, Brattleboro, Vernon, and Westminster provide residential curbside trash and recycling collection. Five towns, Dummerston, Guilford, Newfane, Putney, and Somerset do not provide any trash or recycling services. Residents and businesses can contract with haulers for trash and recycling collection services. There are also two companies providing subscription collection of food scraps. The WSWMD website has a map showing the services provided by each town.

Financial Report: WSWMD finished fiscal year 2023 (FY23) with a budget surplus of \$64,693, a portion of which has been allocated toward the construction of the expanded compost facility. Revenues of \$1,461,136 off-set total expenses of \$1,294,617 and \$102,443 of capital plan and facility reserves. The annual assessment to member towns for fiscal year 2024 was kept to a 4% increase.

Transfer Station: The WSWMD transfer station is a regional drop-off center for trash, recyclables, organics/food scraps, construction & demolition debris, scrap metal, and appliances. The transfer station also handles electronics, fluorescent tubes, ballasts, lead-acid and household batteries, waste oil and oil filters, paint, sharps/syringes, textiles, books, tires, and household hazardous waste. Use of the transfer station is limited to residents and businesses from member communities and requires the purchase of an access sticker at \$50/year. Approximately 3,000 customers purchase annual access stickers. There is no additional charge for recycling and composting. Fees are presented at www.windhamsolidwaste.org.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF): The District voted to close the MRF in July 2017 but continues to accept cardboard from commercial sources. Cardboard is baled and sold, generating revenue for the District. Revenue in FY23 was \$55,851, a significant decrease from the prior year due to declining markets for recycled cardboard. Industry projections suggest higher commodity prices for cardboard in FY24.

Composting Facility: Of all recyclable materials handled by the District, the only ones that are reused locally are food scraps and yard debris. The food scrap composting facility is in its 10th year of operation and is the 2nd largest food scrap composting facility in Vermont. WSWMD donates compost for school and community gardens.

As the food scrap composting mandates of Act 148 have been phased in, the total quantity of food scraps processed at the site have increased each year, and therefore the District will be constructing a new composting facility that will have a building with aerated windrows, air collection for odor control, as well as rainwater and liquid management systems for the

compost piles. The expansion will allow the District to continue to locally manage organic wastes while meeting state permitting requirements for a larger capacity facility. Funding for the new facility is from federal and state grants, as well as District funds. Non long-term debt is anticipated.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP): All towns in Vermont are required to meet state solid waste management requirements through implementation of an authorized SWIP. The District writes and implements a SWIP on behalf of all its member towns, and so provides compliance and the accompanying services to each member town. 2023 was the third year of the five-year term of the current SWIP, which addresses household hazardous waste collection, education and outreach, as well as numerous other requirements.

Solar Array: WSWMD leases its capped landfill to Greenbacker Capital to operate a 5 megawatt solar array, the largest group net-metered project in the state. Greenbacker has contracted to provide solar power for 20 years to the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Halifax, Newfane, Readsboro, Vernon, Wardsboro, and Wilmington.; schools in Brattleboro, Marlboro, Putney, and Vernon; as well as Landmark College, Marlboro College, and the Brattleboro Retreat. The project provides significant cost savings for municipal and school budgets. Greenbacker Capital has a 20-year lease and pays the District a minimum of \$120,290/year for use of the landfill, as well as 50% of renewable energy credits, for total annual revenue of over \$250,000.

Household Hazardous Waste: Management of household hazardous waste is a costly and difficult service required by state regulations. Member towns benefit by having the District provide this service to all District residents and small businesses at the WSWMD Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot in Brattleboro (and occasional one-day special events in member towns, although none were hosted in 2023). The HHW Depot is open by appointment one day each week from May through October. This year participation continued to increase, with 377 households and 14 small businesses served by the program. The average disposal cost per user also increased almost 30% to \$103, for a total program cost of \$52,100 including indirect costs. The costs are offset by a Vermont DEC grant program, operating costs of the District, and a nominal user fee of \$10 per visit. The Depot provides a convenient way for residents and small businesses to dispose of their hazardous waste.

Community Outreach & Technical Assistance: The District continues to provide technical assistance for schools, businesses, and towns. In 2023, WSWMD completed work on a grant from the US Department of Agriculture which resulted in a suite of videos that are available on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/@wswmd). The videos won the 2023 Municipal Partner Award from Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV). Throughout the year the District was also able to provide educational resources including in-person tours or workshops to the Dover, NewBrook, and Vernon schools, and virtual classroom workshops to Guilford, Jamaica, NewBrook, and Townshend schools. For the towns with transfer stations (Dover, Jamaica, Readsboro, Stratton, Townshend, and Wilmington) the District has continued to provide more signage and technical assistance. In 2023, the District assisted over 40 businesses with their waste management needs.

Special Event Outreach and Technical Assistance: The WSWMD Special Event Bin lending program grew in popularity in 2023 with our new improved bins and with the pandemic receding. The bins, used to separately collect recyclables, food scraps, and trash, were used at 24 special events this year. They are available to towns, businesses, residents, and institutions for use at fairs, festivals, weddings, etc. In addition, WSWMD offers free technical assistance to help events reduce their waste.

Zoning Administrator

This report covers permits processed during the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. A total of 43 Permits were processed during this period and can be sorted into the following categories: **26 Zoning Permits, 8 Conditional Use Permits, 1 Sign Permit, 3 Land Division (Subdivision) Permits and 2 Site Plan Approvals.**

The permits are specifically for the following:

- **Single Family Dwelling: 4 approved**

This category includes new construction, reconstruction or change in Use to a Single Family Dwelling or 2 Family Dwelling including mobile homes, modular homes, manufactured homes, camps, “tiny houses” and yurts.

- **Accessory Dwelling Unit: 1 approved**

This category includes efficiency or one-bedroom apartments that are clearly subordinate to a single-family dwelling, and have facilities and provisions for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation. This includes Accessory Structures used as Accessory Dwelling Units including; Tiny Houses, Yurts, garage apartments, barn apartments, etc.

- **Addition to Living Space: 8 approved**

This category includes adding additional living space and/or reconstruction or conversion of existing living space or structural alteration of living space. (Heated space)

- **Addition: 9 approved**

This category includes adding and/or reconstruction or conversion of existing space or structural alteration of existing space. (Unheated space)

- **Accessory structures: 9 approved**

This category includes all residential development not intended for residency, such as storage sheds, barns, studios, garages, access roads, bridges, etc.

- **Decks/porches: 3 approved**

This category includes any unheated structures including entryways.

- **Access Road: 1 approved**

- **Conditional Use: 11 approved, 1 denied. 2 Waivers denied.**

This category includes conditional use, signs, site plan and change of use applications. These require Development Review Board approval. Examples are; Home Business (Category B&C), Commercial activity, Business Uses, Agricultural Uses, Short term rental, Signs, structures in Flood hazard areas, Rights of Way, Variances and Waivers.

- **Land Development (Subdivisions): 3 approved**

The subdivision of an existing lot into 2 or more legal lots or lot line adjustments.

Note: Some applications contained more than one category of permit.

Please remember **that Zoning Permits are required for any Land Development** defined as:

The division of any land parcel into two or more parcels; the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation or enlargement of any structure or sign; any mining, excavation, landfill, or construction of access road; or any change in the use of structure or land.

Also, note that **all Commercial Activity, Structures and Uses require a Zoning Permit except for Home Business Category A.**

Please contact me to determine if any permits are needed, for more information or if you have questions.

Roger Vincent Jasaitis, Zoning Administrator, zoning@dummerston.org 802-275-5739

Lydia Taft Pratt Library

What has changed?

In the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the library actively dedicated ourselves to working to improve the online experience that our users have. Perhaps the most important thing to happen this year has been the newly invigorated Friends-of-the-Library group that evolved as a result of a long term strategic planning effort. A FriendsGroup serves as a support, fundraising, and advocacy arm of the Library, led by volunteers. Calling themselves “Lydia’s Friends,” the group got organized, and hosted a Geranium Festival and Bake Sale for the library. The money raised from that event allowed the library to commission a professional web designer to build a new website. Although it is still a work in progress, library users may now register for a library card by filling out an online form. Similarly, users may place requests for books via interlibrary loan using a form connected to the website. And, as before, users may search the online book catalog and access online databases and other resources, from one easy-to-navigate web page. They may also access our eBook and audiobook collection (OverDrive via Libby) from our website. Find the new website at www.dummerstonlibrary.org

What has stayed the same?

We are told that our community values the personal and individualized service they receive in a small library like ours. That will never change. We continue to reach out with news and information via our monthly email newsletter and our social media updates on Facebook. We continue to work to support the information, education, and recreational needs of our community. While we work to improve our online experience, we continue to struggle with the limitations of our small space and our geographical challenges. We continue to seek creative alternatives to address these issues. We learned that many people are willing to travel a few miles when the destination offers something of interest to them, as in the case of the Sourdough Workshop that we offered last spring. Conversely, we offered a children’s program on the Town Common in the center of Dummerston last summer, and people appreciated the centralized location. Feel free to be in touch about any library related issues at 802-258-9878 or dummerstonvtlibrary@gmail.com.

What are we looking forward to in the 2023/2024 fiscal year?

Exciting new Museum Passes!

Our friends group has already dedicated themselves to funding our Museum and Events Pass Program, in order to make passes available to registered library users to museums including: The ECHO Leahy Center, MassMoca, The Eric Carle Museum, The Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, The Northshire Museum and many others. Let us know where you’d like to go! Maybe we can get a pass there too!

More open hours!

Our library is presently open on Tuesdays, 2-6, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1-5, and Saturdays 10-1. Pending the passage of the budget proposal, the library will be open 20 open hours/week starting in July of 2024.

Software upgrade!

In 2023/2024 we will be looking to join the Catamount Library Network as part of our efforts to improve our online experience. As part of the Catamount Network, our library users will be able to search other network libraries simultaneously, and they will be able to place requests directly for those materials that we do not own in Dummerston. In other words, users will place the request, and the book will come to our library. This will have the effect of significantly enlarging the collection of materials that are quickly available to our users, even though our square footage is likely not increasing.

LYDIA TAFT PRATT LIBRARY BUDGET**REVENUE**

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
Grants	200	936
Town Support**	15,300	35,320
Donations - Annual Appeal	4,100	4,100
Donations - Miscellaneous	1,043	2,000
Interest	5	5
Fundraising - Events	3,000	3,500
Total Revenue	<u>\$23,648</u>	<u>\$45,861</u>

EXPENDITURES

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
Librarian Salary/Benefits*	12,448	20,800
Library Assistant	N/A	8,320
Memberships/Professional Devel.	100	300
Mileage	50	100
Internet/Wifi	600	400
Library World Subscription (Technology)	600	500
GMLC (OverDrive)	N/A	250
Catamount (ILS)	N/A	700
Website	N/A	250
CANVA Pro	N/A	120
Books/Audio/Visual (Library Materials)	3,950	3,361
Rent Paid to Community Center	2,200	5,400
Rent for programs	N/A	600
Insurance	100	200
Programs/Summer Reading	500	300
Program Supplies	N/A	200
KitKeeper (Book Club)	N/A	30
Telephone	600	600
Post Office Box Rental	100	150
Supplies	500	300
Furniture/Equipment	500	500
Water Dispenser	N/A	200
Postage - Interlibrary Loans	500	150
VTLIB Courier	N/A	1180
Cleaning Services	500	350
Fundraising Expenses	400	600
Total Expenditures	<u>\$23,648</u>	<u>\$45,861</u>

*The Librarian's salary/benefits is paid out of the General Fund.

** Any Town Support funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year after payment of Librarian's salary/benefits are transferred from the General Fund to the Library Fund.

Library Fund

Balance in Fund July 1, 2022:	\$25,495.62
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Receipts:

Donations - Miscellaneous	1,350.00	
Donations - Annual Appeal	4,867.00	
Interest Earned	6.13	
Grants	300.00	
Transfer from Town's General Fund	2,618.53	
Silent Auction	<u>2,027.00</u>	
		11,168.66

Disbursements:

Automation Expenses	904.72	
Library Materials (Books, CDs, DVDs)	3,280.37	
Fundraising Expenses	614.66	
Insurance	106.00	
Postage	430.67	
Post Office Box Rental	114.00	
Rent Paid to Community Center	2,200.00	
Programs/Summer Reading	1,192.46	
Supplies	675.18	
Telephone	660.11	
Cleaning Expenses	104.00	
Professional Development	160.00	
Returned check	50.00	
Equipment	331.78	
Purchases with ARPA Funds	<u>2,872.47</u>	
		<u>13,696.42</u>

Balance in Fund June 30, 2023*	<u><u>\$22,967.86</u></u>
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*In addition, the bequest from the estate of William R. Menezes has been designated a Library Capital Fund to be used for library improvements; a 1 year CD ended the FY with a balance of \$7,274.50.

**Windham Southeast Supervisory Union
Windham Southeast School District**

**WSESU / WSED SEEK TO IDENTIFY CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities. The process of locating, identifying and evaluating children with disabilities is known as Child Find.

Windham Southeast Supervisory Union schools conduct Kindergarten screening each spring, but parents may call to make an appointment to discuss their concerns at any time. As the school district of residence, WSESU has the responsibility to identify and provide services to any child with special needs who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

If you have, or know of any WSESU resident who has a child with a disability under the age of 21 or a child who attends a private school located in Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Putney or Vernon, we would like to hear from you. This includes individuals who are homeless, migrant, home schooled and/or individuals attending private schools. Sometimes parents are unaware that special education services are available to their children.

Please contact the School Principal at any of our WSESU Schools or the Director of Special Education, Tate Erickson, at 802-254-3748 or terickson@wsesdvt.org.

Brattleboro Area Middle School	802-451-3500
Brattleboro Union High School	802-451-3400
Academy School	802-254-3743
Green Street School	802-254-3737
Oak Grove School	802-254-3740
Dummerston School	802-254-2733
Guilford School	802-254-2271
Putney Central School	802-387-5521
Vernon Elementary School	802-254-5373
Early Childhood Special Education	802-254-3765

2023-2024 CERTIFIED STAFF SALARIES

Certified Salaries effective July 1, 2023

Employee	Degree	Step	% Time	Salary
#1	MA+30	L	100	\$87,580
#2	MA+30	L	60	\$52,548
#3	MA+30	15	100	\$80,042 *
#4	MA+30	12	100	\$74,719
#5	MA+30	12	100	\$74,719
#6	MA+30	11	100	\$72,946

#7	MA+30	5	100	\$62,305
#8	BA+75	L	100	\$87,580
#9	MA+15	L	100	\$83,480
#10	MA+15	13	100	\$74,771
#11	MA+15	10	100	\$69,450
#12	MA+15	8	100	\$65,902
#13	MA	L	60	\$48,838
#14	MA	L	100	\$81,397
#15	MA	L	100	\$81,397 *
#16	MA	12	100	\$71,275
#17	MA	11	100	\$69,502
#18	MA	11	100	\$69,502
#19	MA	4	100	\$57,087
#20	BA+45	12	100	\$71,275
#21	BA+30	L	100	\$72,304
#22	BA+15	L	100	\$68,671 *
#23	BA	L	100	\$65,036

2023-2024 CLASSIFIED STAFF SALARIES

Classified hourly wages effective July 1, 2023

Employee	Rate		Employee	Rate
#1	\$29.21	*	#10	\$22.71
#2	\$29.21	*	#11	\$20.71
#3	\$28.21		#12	\$20.71
#4	\$27.64		#13	\$20.21
#5	\$26.71	*	#14	\$20.21
#6	\$24.71		#15	\$19.21
#7	\$23.71		#16	\$19.21 *
#8	\$23.31	*	#17	\$18.71
#9	\$23.31	*	#18	\$18.71 *

* WSESU Special Education Employees

REPORT FROM THE WINDHAM SOUTHEAST SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

The Windham Southeast School District (WSESD) Board wishes to express gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has worked to ensure our students are at the center of all our decisions. In particular, we wish to acknowledge the tireless work of these various stakeholders and partners: Parents and Caregivers, Teachers, Peer Coaches, Academic Support Staff, Special Educators, Early Education Staff, Counselors, Social Workers, Nurses, Custodians, Coaching Staff, Principals, Superintendent, School Office Staff, Central Office Staff, School Board Members, Committee Members, Student Leaders, and Leadership Councils. Though it is impossible to capture the depth of our gratitude in this written report, our recognition goes out to

everyone who keeps the best interest of our students at the heart of their questions, actions, and work.

The primary purpose of the WSESD Board is to focus on the governance of the School District, which includes: defining the vision and goals for the School District, keeping the community informed about Board actions, challenges, and progress, monitoring the fiscal health of the School District, and focusing policies on student achievement. The work of the WSESD Board strives to be student-centered and data-informed in all that we do.

As the WSESD Board focuses on serving students at the nine (9) Schools in the School District, we look to the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) to provide services in the areas of: Superintendent Services, Human Resources and Payroll, Special Education, Technology and Business, Equity and Social Justice, Curriculum and Assessment, and Early Education Services. Annually, the WSESD Board designates a School Board Member residing in each town in the School District (Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, and Putney) to serve on the WSESU Board.

In 2023, the WSESD Board focused in earnest on developing healthy processes, effectively collaborating with the Administration, and setting goals for the School District. As part of the School District's Continuous Improvement Plan goal-setting process, the WSESD Board participated in a Board-Administration Retreat which established concrete, student-centered goals for the 2023-2024 School Year. In addition, the WSESD Board held a governance-focused retreat which allowed an opportunity for team building as well as identifying values and goals, such as: building an effective relationship with Administration and measuring student experience and excellence in our School District. The Board has also developed a Board Orientation Manual, which is a first step toward systematizing the flow of information to new Board Members as they are elected or appointed, as well as providing a useful resource for already existing Board Members.

The work of the WSESD Board is captured and shared in minutes and Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) recordings on the School District's website. Some highlights from the last year include:

School Board Configuration - Appointments & Student Representatives. Shortly after the 2023 WSESD Annual Meeting, the Board began work to fill an open position for a Brattleboro resident. It took multiple months of searching, but in the end, seven (7) interested Brattleboro residents put forward their names for consideration. It is heartening to see such a high level of interest! In addition, the first-ever Student Representatives to the WSESD Board ended their term at the close of the 2022-2023 school year. Thank you to Kaiya Colby and Ben Berg for their service! For the 2023-2024 school year, Student Representatives Jayden Gonzalez and Alora Lawyer have stepped forward to serve.

Work of Board Committees. Much of the important work of the WSESD Board starts at a committee level. These are excellent opportunities for community engagement and we thank all community members who have participated in committees, including: Personnel, Policy & Amendment, Finance, Independent Budget Review, Social Justice, Programmatic and

Performance Equity, Communications Council and Leadership Councils for all schools. Minutes and agendas for these committees can be found on the School District website.

Policies within WSESD. The Policy & Amendment Committee has been steadily working to establish, update, and maintain policies that reflect the goals and values of our School District. There are too many policies to highlight here, however, a few key policies focused on in the past year were: F42 Student Dress Code, H7 Leadership Councils, D1 Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Background Checks, and D17 Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding.

State-wide Concern For School Budgeting. As you read through the WSESD budget information and the report from the Independent Budget Review Committee, know that the WSESD Board is working to stay informed of changes to Vermont State law that will impact our School District. The Board recognizes the work of School Administrators and the Central Office to present a fiscally responsible budget, while continuing to provide critical services that were developed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Climate Surveys and Continuous Improvement Plan. The WSESD Board receives regular reports from Administration on a host of topics and these reports are captured in meeting minutes and slideshows that are shared on the School District website. One key area of focus has been on Climate Surveys and the Continuous Improvement Plan process. At the heart of the WSESD Board's work is a commitment to actions that are student-centered and data-informed. Data from Climate Surveys and through the Continuous Improvement process are a critically important part of this commitment.

Supporting BUHS. The WSESD Board sees Brattleboro Union High School (BUHS) as an important entity in the School District. Each of the elementary and middle schools in the School District send students to BUHS and the healthy functioning of the school will impact our entire community. Therefore, the WSESD Board has focused on the following BUHS-specific areas in the last year: approving the establishment of interim leadership, supporting student-driven changes to the school mascot and team name, providing clarity in a decision around natural surfacing for Natowich Field, and hearing concerns around food access for students during the school day.

Sexual Abuse Investigation. In December 2021, the WSESD Board undertook a series of steps that began the investigation into allegations of sexual abuse within the School District. This involved engaging an Independent Investigator to run the investigation, including managing a fact-finding process. As of December 2023, the WSESD Board is awaiting a report from the Independent Investigator. The Board has communicated to the investigator the need for urgency around receiving a final report related to the investigation.

The WSESD Board and the Superintendent are committed to working together with a “shared moral imperative — a relentless commitment to the learning of all students, no exceptions.” This is outlined in a book that we are collectively focusing on entitled *The Governance Core*, by David W. Campbell. “When trustees, superintendents, staff, faculty and parents all operate with the same broad understanding of the moral imperative, the district can accomplish amazing

learning - year after year.” The WSESD Board is excited to continue support for our students and families in the coming year!

Kelly Young, WSESD Board Chair
On Behalf of the WSESD Board

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union has a dedicated, experienced and caring staff, administration, and school boards that offer a wide variety of educational opportunities for our students. Our goal is to provide the children of our communities with a high quality and well-rounded educational experience, as well as ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.

Over the last few years, our school system has faced many serious challenges that the Covid pandemic has brought to us. We have overcome these challenges by keeping students' needs and priorities at the forefront of our decisions. Because of this, through much adversity, we are a strong united school system that is proud to collaborate with all stakeholders to benefit the growth and success of our students.

We are proud to report that we are moving forward as a school district. We are fiercely driven to meet the many social/emotional, behavioral, and academic needs of our students. To do this we have continued to develop our Continuous Improvement Plan that guides our work as a school system.

Large goals of our Continuous Improvement Plan include the continued development and implementation of MLSS (Multiple Layered Systems of Support) and EST (Educational Support Teams). As an administrative team, we meet regularly to study, plan, and collaborate on the development of these necessary school systems and structures. Naturally, all of our schools are in different places at this moment in time; however, it is our goal to continue to work together with all stakeholders to develop these systems at every school in our school district while also appreciating and admiring the unique characteristics of each school community.

For this 2023-24 school year, we have set a goal to increase our student academic achievement and student social/emotional development by 10%. As a school system we routinely engage in data informed decision making including three formal data checkpoints in the fall, winter, and spring to analyze student data and to develop both whole class and individual student plans.

MLSS (Multiple Layered Systems of Support) and EST (Educational Support Teams) at its core is the development and design of a school structure where all kids receive core instruction as well as layered instruction for intervention and enrichment. We emphasize collaboration, common planning time, and the regular use of data to identify what our children need to be successful and to grow. Maximizing our many resources to work together and to build efficient school systems and structures to support our staff, with an emphasis on increasing student engagement, is our continued goal.

Another goal for our school system that is reflected in this plan is the ongoing development of our Diversity Equity and Inclusion office. Through our Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) office and Curriculum & Assessment office we continue to support our staff and students by providing district level and school based academic coaches which increases our ability to collaborate across schools. We continue to explore the use of peer observation models as another way to build informal support for teacher growth.

The academic, social/emotional, and behavioral needs continue to be at an all-time high. However, we are confident that with the continued development of systems to efficiently utilize our resources, aligned with data informed decision making, we will excel and reach our goals. This school year and in our planning for next school year we have continued to invest in a plan for positions such as instructional coaches, academic support teachers, and school social workers to help in meeting the many needs of our students. We feel that our plan to continue to invest in the support of these areas is essential for our students at all levels. With the support of this plan and with the continued work on effective school structures we will meet our challenges and give our students what they need to be successful.

With the assistance of federal recovery funds, we have worked closely as an organization to balance the importance of supporting new building projects and upgrades throughout our school district to enhance the quality of the school day experience. A large emphasis of our building improvement work has been on upgrades to ventilation/air quality control systems and energy-efficient heating projects. We understand the importance of the school setting for our students and staff and continue to work thoughtfully with our capital planning.

Our school district is fortunate and thankful for the incredible effort, collaboration, and hard work of our school boards, administrators, teachers, and staff. We are a strong school community that I am proud to serve!

All schools in Windham Southeast School District and Supervisory Union appreciate the overwhelming support that we feel and receive from our families and greater communities. Thank you for your continued support!

Please remember that the voting for the annual Windham Southeast School District budget, including schools in Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, and Putney as well as Brattleboro Area Middle School, Brattleboro Union High School, and the Windham Regional Career Center will take place at the WSESD Annual District Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19th in the BUHS gymnasium.

Mark Speno
Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF THE DUMMERSTON SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

I write this report to you during the last days of 2023, a year filled with learning together in community at Dummerston School. The sights and sounds of children playing in the mud kitchen, tackling a complex math problem, making beautiful music with their classmates,

searching for just the right text evidence to support a thesis, hiking in the woods trail, tending the gardens, taking a shot at goal, and painting a mural are just a handful of the everyday moments we have the privilege to experience with our students, ages 4 through 14. As a PreK-8 school, the developmental needs of children take center stage for us—and we relish the opportunity to partner with our students in their learning journey over the course of so many years together.

Like other schools in the district, Dummerston School continues to navigate a complex educational landscape as we support students in recovering, socially, emotionally, and academically, from the pandemic. In support of this work, Dummerston School implements a Multi-Layered Systems of Support approach in which all students receive high-quality, rigorous core programming as well as intervention to address gaps in skills and enrichment to provide opportunities for extending the depth and breadth of learning. The 2023-2024 school year marks our second year in implementing two new core curricula –Illustrative Math and Expeditionary Learning. All students in grades K-3 also receive core programming in a research-based phonics program. Understanding and embracing each student’s unique learning profile, as well as the complex needs of a cohort, is a complex task—academic support and special education teachers, as well as our school counselor, school social worker, and nurse, regularly team with classroom teachers to assess and monitor students, develop instructional plans based on data, and implement those plans collaboratively.

At Dummerston School, we work from the research-based premise that academic, social, and emotional development are not separate domains but rather inextricably intertwined and the foundation of our work. In order to maximize the effectiveness of our learning environment, Dummerston School has implemented Developmental Designs since 2020, a student-centered framework for integrating community and relationship building, self-awareness, and reflection into daily activities. As part of this work, all students participate in daily morning circles, work together to develop a schoolwide social contract, plan and coordinate All-School Meetings, practice restorative skills, plan and facilitate student-led family conferences, and participate in Buddy Classroom programming.

Through this framework, we continue to expand student leadership opportunities. The Middle School Student Leadership Team (ASSET) examines student survey data and works collaboratively on action projects to improve school climate, including Spirit Weeks, schoolwide celebrations, and service projects. This past spring, the ASSET Team worked with Afghan muralist Negina Azimi to design and paint a mural in our middle school hallway, as well as organized activities for Black Lives Matter Week. In addition, our 8th-grade students are working with the Greater Falls Restorative Justice Center this school year, engaging in training related to allyship and participating in a classroom exchange with Kiley Prep Middle School in Springfield, MA. Students in grades four and up can also join GLOW, Dummerston School's QSA. Under the guidance of staff advisors, this group provides a space for students to understand LGBTQ+ rights and support an inclusive environment for all students, staff, and families. In all of these student leadership settings, we seek to empower all students to see themselves as leaders, to positively influence their learning environment, and to engage in complex and challenging learning in the process.

Core programming is not limited to math, science, literacy, and social studies at Dummerston School; music and visual arts, physical education, technology education, and library and media skill development are essential components of our curriculum. Earlier this month, grades K-5 music classes, Middle School Chorus, Advanced Band, and Jazz Band performed for the public at our annual Winter Concert: *A Celebration of Winter*. Last May, these same ensembles, plus our beginner band students, performed for the first Spring Concert since 2019. Earlier that same month, the Spring Arts Night featured a gallery of student art, as well as choral performances. These events anchor our community, providing a space for students to showcase their growing skills as artists and performers and for family, staff, and friends to come together in celebration of the arts. After-school programming is another outlet for students to spend time in mixed-age groups, express their creativity, learn new skills, and connect with staff in engaging contexts. We offer robust soccer and basketball programs for middle-school students, as well as after-school Clubs to students in grades 4-8, including Improvisational Theater, Garden Club, Cooking Club, Jazz Band, Chess Club, Disc Golf, and Art Club. In addition, we continue to provide literacy and math tutoring for students in grades 1-4, as well as partner with Meetings Waters YMCA to offer the ASPIRE after-school program for students in grades 1-5.

Core programming at Dummerston School is also not limited to an indoor classroom. On the contrary, student learning expands beyond our walls into outdoor classrooms, the woods trail, school gardens, and sports fields. In just a few weeks from now, students will be participating in the tradition of Winter Sports—skiing at Mt. Snow, ice skating at Living Memorial Park, or participating in a nature-based learning program with Southern Vermont Natural History Museum staff. We are proud of our students' active engagement in and love of their outdoor surroundings.

Maximizing the potential of our physical building and surrounding campus to facilitate instruction and learning continues to be a top priority for our school community. Improvements this past year have included the installation of new pavement in the back of the school, pavement sealing in both the front and rear of the building, Early Learning Center renovation, asbestos abatement and carpet replacements, and lighting and electrical upgrades. Incredibly, our Outdoor Learning and Playground Renovation Project is nearing completion. This past spring, thanks to volunteers, Finish Line Construction, and our school facilities crew Dan Bailey and Peter Burdo, the main pavilion was raised and completed, providing a beautiful space for school and community gatherings, classroom meetings, and recess activities. Also completed last spring were a set of raised garden beds in the main playground, offering a second space for children to engage in garden tending (and grazing) during recess. Three new elements, including a fully accessible Sway Fun, a second Interstellar Climber, and an inset slide with a rock scramble were also installed this past fall.

The installation of these last elements and the completion of the pavilion represents a major milestone for our entire school community. Four years ago, the Leadership Council embarked upon this project, creating a five-year plan for major renovations that would take into account the varied developmental needs of our entire school community, from early childhood through adulthood. Four years later, thanks to your support, these new spaces are alive every day with play, learning, community, and connection. The Family Involvement Team and Leadership

Council will host a celebration this spring. Until then, THANK YOU for all of your contributions to this project and your continued support!

The Leadership Council and the Family Involvement Team have been invaluable in partnering with our school and community to develop and accomplish shared goals as well as build relationships and connections among families, students, and staff. To that end, in addition to their constant support of our playground project, the Family Involvement Team hosted a number of community events over the last year, including a Contra Dance with Andy Davis last May, an outdoor Family Movie Night, a Pumpkin Walk on Halloween Eve, Family Bingo Night, a screening of the documentary *Screenagers Next Chapter*, Community Work Parties, Winter Sports volunteer coordination, and a Teacher Appreciation lunch. A special thanks to Leadership Council representatives, Family Involvement Team members, and all Dummerston community volunteers for their unwavering support of Dummerston School students, staff, and families.

As always, we are honored to partner with all of you in support of Dummerston School students. We welcome your continued feedback and encourage your participation in our school community. Our Dummerston School Leadership Council meets monthly. Members include Jessica Nelson, Michelle Green, Christine Bricault, Emily Wagner, Carmen Winchester, Julianne Eagan, Ellen Rago, Daniel Gehring, Hannah Van Loon, Caroline Picker, Melissa White, Lance Neeper, Rick Bryck, Kim Lane, Molly Oglesby, and Maeve Jenks. The public is welcome to attend our meetings. Meeting schedules and agendas are posted on both the Dummerston School website at dummerston.wsesu.org. Please stay tuned for additional updates on our Facebook page, and visit our website to read more about our school's programming and staff this year.

Julianne Eagan, Principal

Administration

Mark Speno	Superintendent
Frank Rucker, Ed.D.	Business Administrator
Julianne Eagan	Principal

Teachers

Megan Altshuler	Academic Support Teacher
Anna Bassett	Academic Support Teacher
Rita Corey	Music Teacher
Kathleen Evans	Grade 3 Teacher
Benjamin Ferguson	Art Teacher
Susannah Friedman	Grade 5 & 6 Humanities Teacher
Lindsey Glabach Royce	Grade 5 & 6 Stem Teacher
Heidi Gray	Grade 2 Teacher
Kimberly Lane	Physical Education Teacher
Edna Levin	Special Education Teacher
Keith Marshall	Grade 7 & 8 Stem Teacher
Kiersten McKenney	Intensive Services Teacher
Bethany Montgomery	Grade 1 Teacher
Seth O'Connor	School Social Worker
Molly Oglesby	Pre-K Teacher

Melissa Petroski	Librarian-Tech Ed Teacher
Ellen Rago	Grade 7 & 8 Humanities Teacher
Kaitlin Tafe	Grade 4 Teacher
Ana Williams	Kindergarten Teacher
Carmen Winchester	Academic Support Teacher K-4
Marie Wright	Special Education Teacher

Staff

Kristine Aquino	Intensive Services Interventionist
Daniel Bailey	Facility Manager
Peter Burdo	Elementary Night Custodian
Lynn Cameron	Classroom Paraeducator
Melanie Chamberlin	Classroom Paraeducator
Ingrid Cutler	Intensive Services Interventionist
Bridget Devlin	Classroom & Pre-K Para
Kelly Gabriel	Intensive Services Interventionist
Sophie Guerrina	Intensive Services Interventionist
Marcus Hoak	Classroom Paraeducator
Melanie Keiser	Administrative Assistant
Ann Knapp	Classroom Paraeducator
Honnee McManus-Brock	Classroom Paraeducator
Jonah Pauloo	Special Education Paraeducator
Benjamin Riseman	Intensive Services Interventionist
David Tafe	Technology Assistant
Chelsea Therrien	Special Education Paraeducator
Hannah Van Loon	Classroom Paraeducator

Special Services

Mary Ann Runge	Nurse
Elizabeth Richards, M.D.	Medical Advisor
Nicole Thomas	School Counselor
Tate Erickson	Director of Special Education

DUMMERSTON ENROLLMENT

Class	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
PreK	10	8	15	15	15
K	20	15	15	20	20
1	15	17	17	15	18
2	16	15	19	14	14
3	9	18	13	19	19
4	13	9	19	13	18
5	16	13	8	18	13
6	25	17	12	6	20
7	19	24	16	13	7
8	17	18	21	17	12
	160	154	155	150	163

BAMS/BUHS Students from Dummerston for 2023-2024

Grade 7	3
Grade 8	0
Grade 9	12
Grade 10	21
Grade 11	13
Grade 12	20
	<hr/>
	69

BRATTLEBORO UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Brattleboro Union High School continues to offer a variety of opportunities to its students. Students in grades 9-12 are offered a large array of academic options, music, theater, athletic and club activities. BUHS supports its students to develop into young adults who are conscientious community members ready for what comes next.

This school year, BUHS is focused on developing and implementing an MLSS (Multi Layered Systems of Support) approach to supporting students. We have a building based collaborative team that began working in the summer, and this group is meeting regularly throughout the school year to assess the effectiveness of our systems and to provide ongoing support and professional development to all of our teachers and administrators. As a component of MLSS, we are in our initial year of implementing a local common assessment system. We are using STAR Renaissance, an adaptive software that allows us to assess reading and math proficiency for students in grades 9 through 11. We will use the results of these assessments, which will be given three times each year, to understand the needs of our struggling students and to adapt our instruction and intervention to support all students.

Here at BUHS, we continue to carefully assess our facility needs. We are continuing to look ahead at some important planned maintenance on our climate systems. Our wood chip boiler saw another round of improvements this past summer to our feeder system and a tuning of the chip boiler itself to be more efficient during the heating season. This work continues every summer. This past summer our campus did replacements of HRVU 9, 10, 24, and 25 all of which serve our locker room areas campus-wide. These units are more energy efficient and provide better airflow to those spaces. Also, this past summer we saw our heat exchangers get a full preventative maintenance cleaning. We installed glycol feeders in 4 of our mechanical rooms to help with HVAC unit freeze-ups during really cold days/nights. Currently in FY 23/24 we have some large sections of roofing being replaced including added insulation to get us to an R-value of 40; repair work to the asphalt and sidewalks continues, and flooring work continues. Brattleboro Area Middle School locker rooms are on track to be completed by the end of FY 23/24 or early FY24/25.

Moving forward we continue to improve our campus by replacing and upgrading outdoor lighting, concrete work, and field improvements. Currently, we are working on a complete campus interior retrofit of our lighting system to LED. We will continue to replace HVAC

equipment through our capital planning. We also are evaluating and planning to develop a permanent outdoor learning space and phase 1 of this project should kick off in the spring of 2024. BUHS continues to be a sustainability role model for other schools across New England and we continue to enjoy our Energy Star Status.

Our teachers remain among the very best in the area and New England. Each of our departments is reviewing its course offerings and curricula to ensure it is relevant to the development of a BUHS graduate. In addition, we are looking at edits to our schedule to offer more course choices. Our departments are examining ways to help our students become informed citizens regarding issues such as equity, diversity, and climate change. We offer 39 Advanced Placement courses and dual credit courses. This allows students the opportunity to receive college credit prior to meeting graduation requirements. Our Mentoring and Dimensions of Social Change courses are designed to allow our students opportunities to work with local elementary students as group facilitators and one-on-one mentors. Finally, our three personalized academies (STEM, Visual and Performing Arts, and International Studies) give selected students a focused four-year program that combines rigorous coursework with apprenticeships with local professionals. Our greatest strength as a school lies with our teachers, and they continually improve their instruction and connections with students.

This year BUHS partnered with VSAC (Vermont Student Assistance Corporation) in their Aspirations Program to help support BUHS students and their future plans. The Aspirations program is a four-year partnership to create opportunities for reflecting on current school needs to support every BUHS student to graduate with a plan for post-high school.

We are a lucky community with dedicated staff that support the social, emotional, and academic growth of our students. As a staff, we reflect on best practices and engagement to ensure every student is accessing the best BUHS has to offer. We are fortunate to offer each student a high school experience that meets their personal needs and learning goals. Please visit our website for more information <http://buhs.wsesdvt.org>.

Hannah Parker, Interim Principal
Cassie Damkoehler, Assistant Principal
Traci Lane, Interim Assistant Principal
Christopher Brewer, Interim Dean of Students

WINDHAM REGIONAL CAREER CENTER

To the Citizens of the Windham Southeast School District,

As the director of the Windham Regional Career Center, it has been my pleasure to get to know many of your children. Career and technical education enrollment has exploded following the pandemic and WRCC is no different. It has been a great joy to offer an increasing number of students the benefits of career and technical education.

The region has a wonderful technical center that is currently offering over 200 students, in grades 10 -12, an in-depth, experiential learning opportunity in the areas of:

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY
AVIATION
BUSINESS
CONSTRUCTION/ARCHITECTURE
CULINARY ARTS
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY (ELECTRICIANS)
ENGINEERING AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
FORESTRY/NATURAL RESOURCES
HEALTH CAREERS
PROTECTIVE SERVICES

As well as offering students classes and services in:

TECHNICAL ENGLISH
TECHNICAL MATHEMATICS
CAREER EXPLORATION
ACADEMIC SUPPORT
DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES (High School and College Credit)
WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS
CAREER AND TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (CTSO'S)

Students who attend a Career Center Program spend at least two hours a day learning the skills they will need to establish a career in the study area. We partner with local employers to offer students Work work-based learning experiences and to reinforce the skills they'll need to be successful working adults. We are thrilled to have so many local employers who are willing to add to the experiences that so many of our students benefit from. We cannot thank them enough for the opportunity.

If you have a child, grandchild, or young person who might be interested in starting to build the pathway to their future career while they are still in high school, career and technical education has many opportunities to offer. Our goal is to support students in learning the skills necessary to successfully enter the region's workforce with a higher level of employment than the typical high school graduate.

We thank you for your ongoing support.
Nancy Weise, Director

**TOWN OF DUMMERSTON
TOWN MEETING Minutes
MARCH 7, 2023**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there was no in-person meeting. All voting was conducted by Australian Ballot at the Dummerston Town Office at 1523 Middle Road in Dummerston, Vermont. The polls were open from 8:00AM to 7:00PM.

- ARTICLE 1: Elected all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year: Town Moderator (Cindy Jerome) for one year term; Town Clerk (Laurie Frechette) for one year term; Town Treasurer (Charlotte Neer Annis) for one year term; Selectboard (Alex Wilson) for two year term; Selectboard (Maria Glabach) for three year term; Auditor (Ray Harris) for three year term; Trustee of Cemetery Funds (Selectboard) for one year term; Library Trustee (Lyle Holiday) for five year term.
- ARTICLE 2: Voted to accept the Auditors' report of the Town Accounts.
- ARTICLE 3: Voted to authorize the Selectboard to appoint a receiver of delinquent taxes.
- ARTICLE 4: Voted to authorize raising the sum of \$25,000.00 through taxes and appropriate said amount to the Capital Fund for future capital needs.
- ARTICLE 5: Voted to authorize the following capital expenditure: the purchase of a fire truck at a price not to exceed \$500,000.00 and to authorize the financing of said fire truck through promissory notes not to exceed a term of five years and to authorize payment of debt service from the Capital Fund commencing in Fiscal Year 2025/2026.
- ARTICLE 6: Voted to approve total General Fund expenditures of \$536,120.00, of which \$374,431.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$161,689.00 by non-tax revenues for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- ARTICLE 7: Voted to approve total Highway Fund expenditures of \$661,693.00, of which \$427,150.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$234,543.00 by non-tax revenues for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- ARTICLE 8: Voted to authorize raising the sum of \$125,000.00 through taxes and appropriate said amount to the Highway Structures Fund for future structures projects.
- ARTICLE 9: Voted to authorize raising the sum of \$26,659.00 through taxes and appropriate said amount to the Highway Blasting & Ledge Crushing Reserve Fund for future blasting and crushing.
- ARTICLE 10: Voted to grant tax exempt status to the Evening Star Grange for a period of one year pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3840.
- ARTICLE 11: Voted to grant tax exempt status to Green Mountain Camp for a period of one year pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3840.
- ARTICLE 12: Voted to grant tax exempt status to the West Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department for a period of five years pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3840.

The following Advisory Non-Binding Resolution was approved by the voters:

Whereas, Dummerston Cares supports equity in social engagement and in governance, its Board Of Trustees calls for the voters of Dummerston to adopt a Declaration of Inclusion.

Therefore,

We resolve that the people of Dummerston welcome all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, differing ability, economic status, and education.

We commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community.

We value respectful civic engagement in all forms.

Respectfully submitted,
ss/ Laurie Frechette, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF DUMMERSTON
WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024**

THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE Town of Dummerston are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Dummerston School at 52 Schoolhouse Road in said Town on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:00AM to transact the following business of the Town. The polls will be open from 8:00AM to 7:00PM.

ARTICLE 1: To elect all necessary Town Officers for the following positions required by law to be elected by Australian Ballot.

Moderator	1 year term
Town Clerk	1 year term
Town Treasurer	1 year term
Selectperson	2 year term
Selectperson	3 year term
Selectperson	remaining 1 year of 3 year term
Lister	3 year term
Lister	remaining 2 years of 3 year term
Auditor	3 year term
Trustee of Cemetery Funds	1 year term
Library Trustee	5 year term

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters accept the auditors' report of the Town Accounts.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a receiver of delinquent taxes.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters authorize raising the sum of \$110,000.00 through taxes and appropriate said amount to the Capital Fund for future capital needs.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a Kubota Tractor at a price not to exceed \$85,000.00 and to pay for said purchase from the Capital Fund.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters approve total General Fund expenditures of \$585,419.00 of which \$449,984.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$135,435.00 by non-tax revenues for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters approve total Highway Fund expenditures of \$711,450.00 of which \$574,950.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$136,500.00 by non-tax revenues for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters authorize raising the sum of \$27,459.00 through taxes and appropriate said amount to the Highway Blasting & Ledge Crushing Reserve Fund for future blasting and crushing.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters grant tax exempt status to the Evening Star Grange for a period of one year, pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3840.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters grant tax exempt status to Green Mountain Camp for a period of one year, pursuant to the provisions of Title 32, Section 3840.

ARTICLE 11: To transact any other business that may legally come before said Town Meeting.

Dated at Dummerston, this 24th day of January, 2024.

Ezekiel Goodband, Chair
Lewis White, Vice Chair
Maria Glabach, Clerk
Alex Wilson
Todd Davidson

**TOWN OF DUMMERSTON
1523 MIDDLE ROAD
DUMMERSTON, VT 05346**

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