

During Aug. '23, I reached out for professional river bank help and scheduled on-site river bank inspections:

FEMA – William Roy

NRCS – Michel Lapointe

USGS – making their rounds, marked high water mark

FSA – Caledonia Conservation District

VT DOT -- Jonathan Griffin

During Oct. '23, Vermont DOT Engineer John Griffin offered to place 4' riprap to protect 200' of exposed riverbank behind two barns. This offer is part of the rail trail bridge restoration work-scope.

DOT's riverbank work at 609 is complete and proved its merit during the Dec 18 flood. The four foot riprap remained stable withstanding ongoing erosion.

There remains only 100 feet of 10' high unprotected riverbank and 150' of 3' high unprotected riverbank. The current NRCS work scope has been reduced by 70%.

NRCS Engineer Michel Lapointe told me they will revise their original cost projection of \$297,813 to meet current as-built site conditions. A possible \$200,000 reduction.

I request you to vote in favor for NRCS participation primarily to place a solid barrier to protect Rte 15 from future erosion on the stretch east of last summer's restoration.

Sincerely,



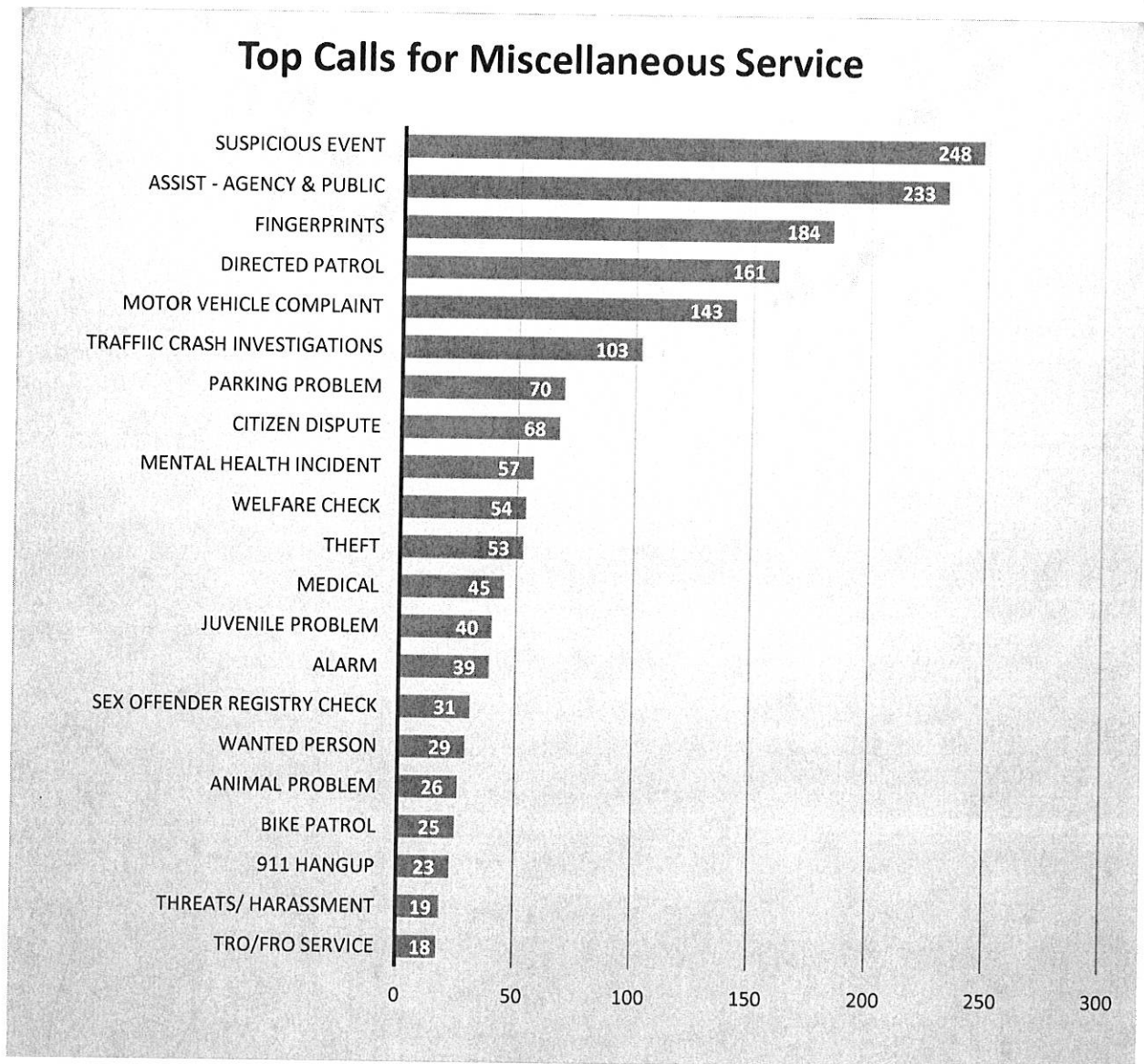
Bill Chidsey

609 VT Rte 15e, Hardwick VT 05843

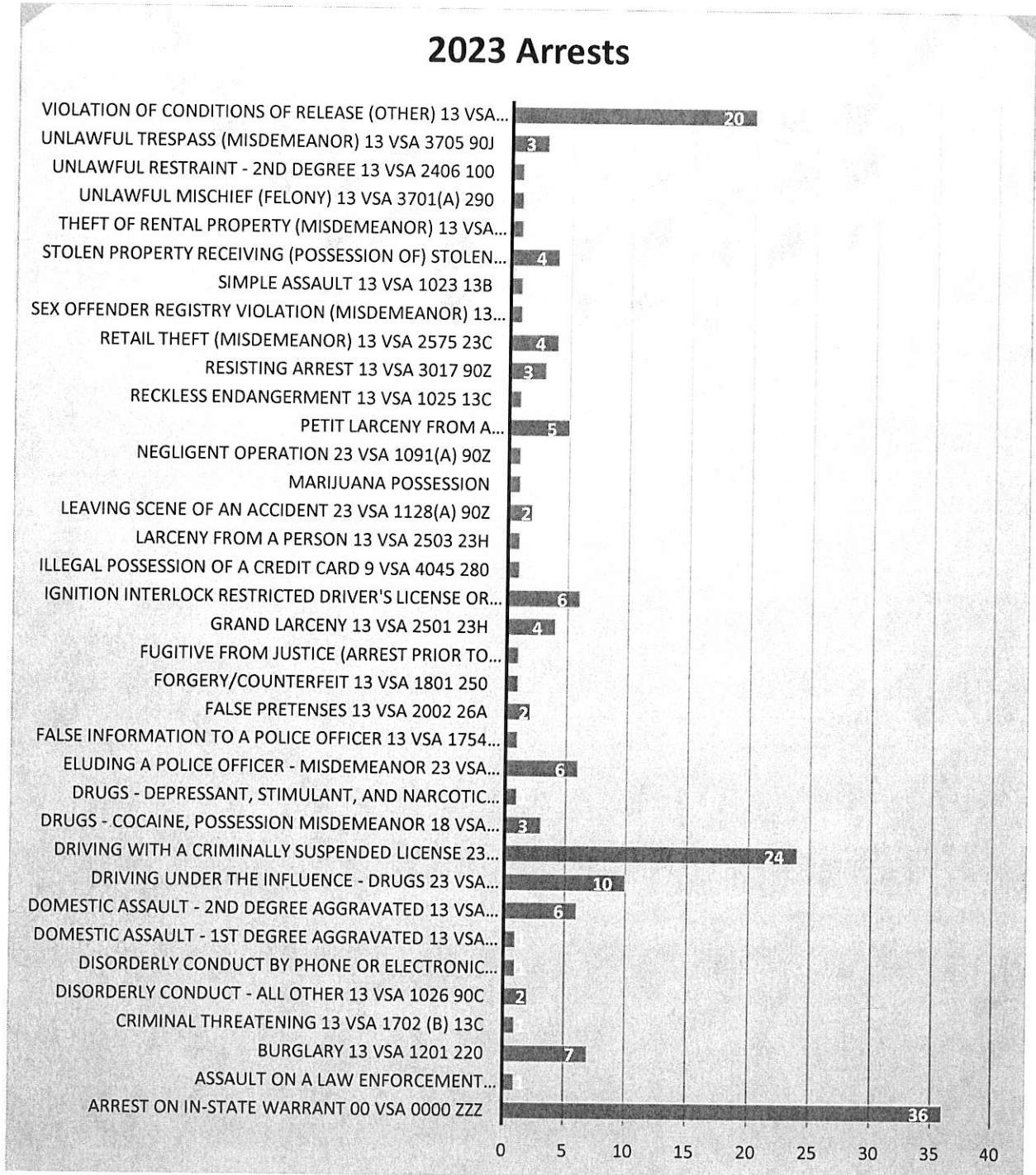
802-249-6004

2023 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Hardwick Police Department responded to 2513 calls for service in 2023. Calls for mental health incidents increased 52% from 2022. In December, we were able to get an embedded mental health crisis worker from Northeast Kingdom Human Services for direct local assistance with mental health crisis calls. This is a huge asset to the town. Below is a breakdown of the top twenty types of calls during that year:



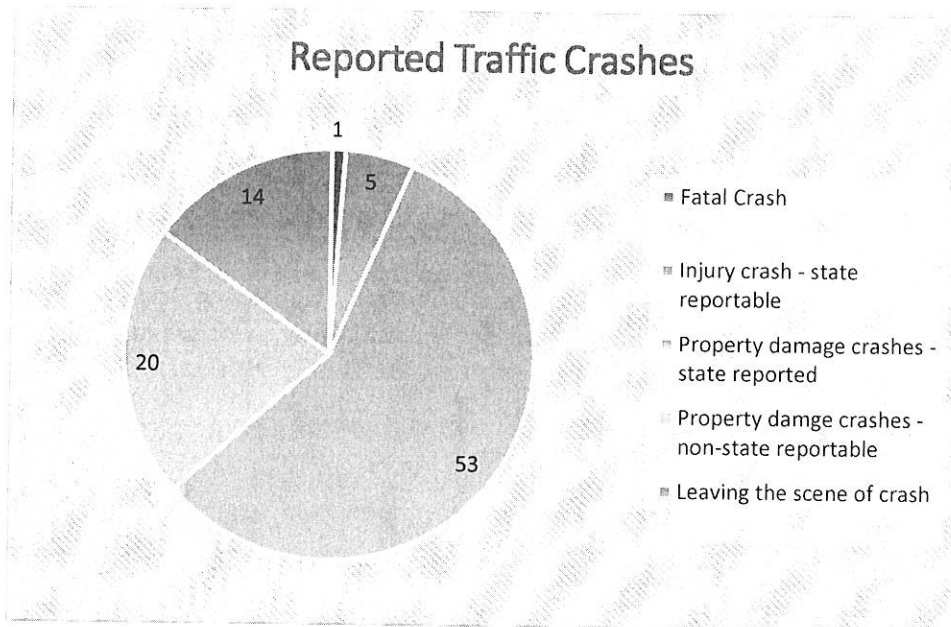
Criminal investigations take priority, and the investigations take up a great amount of the officer's time. The Hardwick Police Department made 165 arrests during the 2023 calendar year. This was a 60% increase from the previous year. Some of the arrested individuals were referred to the Community Restorative Justice Program rather than the criminal court system. The arrests are broken down into the following categories:



Drug use and abuse continues to surge in our area. Although there were quite a few overdoses this year, the Hardwick Police Department did not investigate any fatal drug overdose deaths in 2023. Members of the community raised safety concerns with the drug traffic in their neighborhoods. The Hardwick Police Department responded with increased patrols, search warrants and regular contact with known drug distribution houses.

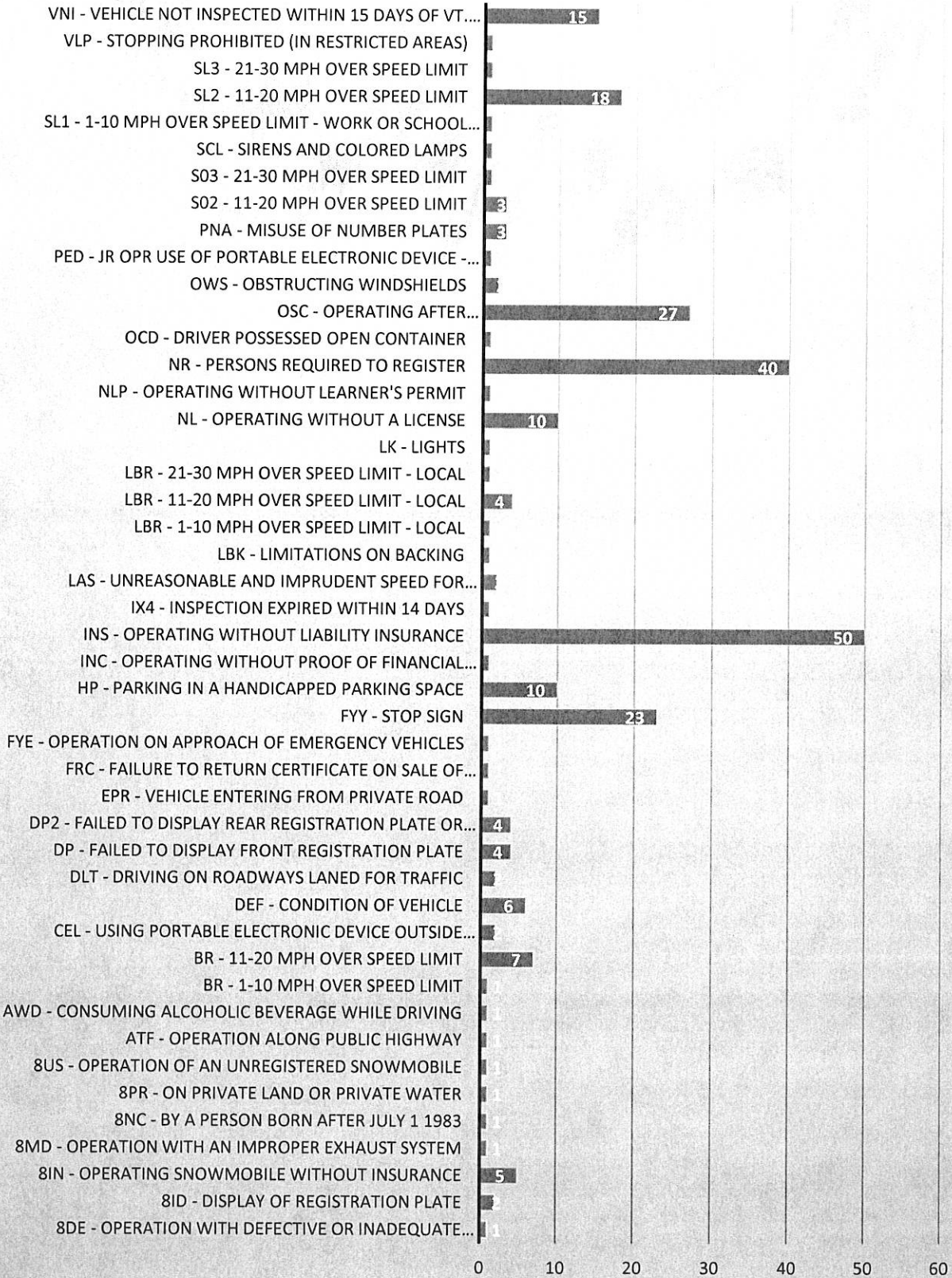
Traffic crashes:

The Hardwick Police Department responded to a total of 103 reported traffic crashes, which is an 18% reduction from 2022. The majority of these crashes (73) were property damage without injuries. There were 5 injury crashes and 1 fatal crash, which is almost half as many as last year. In addition, there were 14 crashes in which the operator left the scene of the crash. This is less than half from the previous year. Below is a chart of the reported traffic crashes:



One of the top complaints the police department receives is regarding traffic. There were 143 motor vehicle complaints this year in addition to quite a few residents requesting speed enforcement in their neighborhoods, which are not captured in our statistics. Officers randomly select problem areas for enforcement through directed patrols. The high visibility reduces crashes. The Hardwick Police Department's proactive motor vehicle enforcement resulted in 264 traffic tickets being issued and 484 written warnings. Below is a breakdown of the tickets issued for 2023:

Traffic Tickets Issued



The Hardwick Police Department has a great working relationship with the schools. We try to have high visibility at the schools during drop off and pick up times to promote safety awareness. We also try to build positive relationships with students and staff.

Staffing continues to be an issue for the Hardwick Police Department. We started the year strong with four full-time officers, four part-time officers and an Interim Chief. In May part-time Officer Joe Rossi had to retire due to health issues. In August we lost full-time Officer Paul Barnard who moved out of state. In October, part-time Officer Bill Morley decided 40 years of law enforcement was enough. At the end of December, full-time Officer Andrew Force accepted a position with US Customs.

In September we were fortunate to hire Daniel Brunell as a full-time law enforcement officer. Brunell has over 25 years of law enforcement experience. He retired from South Burlington Police Department in 2022 as a patrol sergeant and had an excellent reputation as a professional throughout his career. Dan enjoys being a police officer in Vermont and felt he still had a great deal to offer the profession.

The Hardwick Police Department works in partnership with the community to preserve and improve the quality of life and make it safer for all. We are fortunate to have all our local agencies and businesses working well together. This was especially evident during the July flood. We are very appreciative of the continued support received from the community throughout the year.

In closing, I would like to commend the dedicated employees of the Hardwick Police Department for their continued commitment to the community, professionalism, and continued effort to keep our community safe. The officers ensure that coverage is always provided 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Respectfully,

Michael Henry
Interim Police Chief

MEMO: Hardwick Select Board, David Upson & Mike Henry

FROM: Tonia Chase

Date: January 18, 2024

Subject: Liquor, Tobacco & Tobacco Substitute Endorsement License Request

Hello Everyone:

Tonight you have the following permits for consideration.

First Class license for:

The Cork & Fork LLC
Hardwick Post No. 7 American Legion Inc.

Second Class Licenses for:

Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC

Third Class Licenses for:

The Cork & Fork LLC
Hardwick Post No. 7 American Legion Inc.

Outside Consumption Permit for:

Hardwick Post No. 7 American Legion Inc.

Tobacco License:

Hardwick Convenience & Deli, LLC

Tobacco Substitute Endorsement:

All applications are renewals and have no infractions.

**WARNING TOWN OF HARDWICK
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 05, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Hardwick Elementary School in said Town of Hardwick on Tuesday, March 05, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business:

(Election of Town Select Board and Union School District No. 26 Directors shall be voted on by Australian ballot. The polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.). If special accommodations are necessary because of physical disabilities, please contact the Town Clerk's Office (472-5971).

Article 1. To elect a Moderator to govern said Town Meeting and for the year ensuing.

Article 2. Shall the Town accept the Town Report, year ending June 30, 2023?

Article 3. To elect all Town Officers and School District No. 26 Directors as required by the public laws of Vermont and the Town Charter. (Select Board and Union School District No. 26 Directors, to be voted by Australian Ballot).

| | |
|--|-------------|
| First Constable | 1-year term |
| Second Constable | 1-year term |
| Town Agent | 1-year term |
| Surveyor of Wood, Bark and Lumber | 1-year term |
| Tree Warden | 1-year term |
| Cemetery Trustees Main Street, Maple Street, Fairview, Sanborn, Hardwick Street, West Hill, Hardwick Center | 1-year term |
| Fire Dept. Officers (can be voted as one vote) | 1-year term |
| One Library Trustee | 3-year term |
| One Library Trustee | 3-year term |
| Grand Juror | 1-year term |

Article 4. Shall the Town have its current taxes collected by the Town Treasurer?

Article 5. Shall the Town vote a budget of four million eighteen thousand eighty three dollars (\$4,018,083) to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Select Board to set a new tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

Article 6. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of Greensboro Nursing Home?

Article 7. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of AWARE.?

Article 8. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Lamoille Family Center?

Article 9. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Area Food Pantry?

Article 10. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand six hundred dollars (\$2,600.00) for the support of Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice?

Article 11. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of Hardwick Community Television?

Article 12. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400.00) for the support of Rural Community Transportation, Inc.?

Article 13. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?

Article 14. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100.00) for the support of North Country Animal League?

Article 15. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the support of Craftsbury Community Care Center?

Article 16. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for the support of Justice For Dogs?

Article 17. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Arts Council, Inc. (NEKarts)?

Article 18. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for the support of Center for an Agricultural Economy?

Article 19. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the support of Salvation Farms, Inc.?

Article 20. Shall the Town appropriate a sum of money not to exceed two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$2,800.00) for the support of Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Inc.?

Article 21. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with new industrial and commercial owners, lessees, bailees, of real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees or operators who construct, acquire or renovate industrial and/or commercial real property, including additions to existing property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to the provision of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Article 22. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board, for the period of one year, to enter into contracts with operators of agricultural real property, or with existing or new owners, lessees, bailees, or operators who construct acquire or renovate, or who intend to construct, acquire or renovate agricultural real property for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the valuation of such real property in the Grand List for the purpose of fixing and maintaining the municipal rate applicable to such real property or for the purpose of fixing the amount in money which shall be paid as an annual municipal tax upon such real property pursuant to provisions of Title 24, VSA, Section 2741?

Article 23. To transact any other nonbinding business proper to be brought before said meeting.

The legal voters of the Town of Hardwick are further notified that voter qualifications, registration, and absentee voting relative to said Annual Town Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Hardwick, Vermont this 18th day of January, A.D. 2024.

Eric Remick, Chair

Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Vice Chair

Shari Cornish

Elizabeth Dow

Danny Hale

Hardwick Town Clerk's Office. Received for record this 19th day of January, A.D. 2024 at 7 O'clock 30 minutes a.m., the instrument of which the foregoing is a true copy.

Attest: Tonia L. Chase, Town Clerk: _____

Impact of Appropriations on Tax Rate

Article 6. Greensboro Nursing Home, \$5,000.00

Article 7. AWARE, \$3,500.00

Article 8. Lamoille Family Center, \$2,500.00

Article 9. Hardwick Area Food Pantry \$5,000.00

Article 10. Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice, \$2,600.00

Article 11. Hardwick Community Television, \$3,000.00

Article 12. Rural Community Transportation, Inc. \$3,400.00

Article 13. Northeastern Kingdom Council on Aging, \$4,500.00

Article 14. North Country Animal League, \$2,100.00

Article 15. Craftsbury Community Care Center, \$2,500.00

Article 16. Justice For Dogs \$1,000.00

Article 17. Northeast Kingdom Arts Council, Inc. (NEKarts) \$3,500.00

Article 18. Center for an Agricultural Economy \$4,000.00

Article 19. Salvation Farms, Inc. \$1,500.00

Article 20. Hardwick Downtown Partnership, Inc. \$2,800.00

The total requested appropriations are \$ 46,900.00. If all the requested appropriations are approved, we would need a tax rate of approximately \$.0236 cents. This means that you will be paying \$23.61 on your 2024-2025 tax bill for every \$100,000 of Grand List Value.

District 6, 7, 9
 Certcode 0305-0

**CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE
 YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

Fill out form, make and file a copy with the Town Clerk, and submit the Mileage Certificate on or before February 20, 2024 to: Vermont Agency of Transportation, Division of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Mapping Section via email to: aot.mileagecertificates@vermont.gov or if necessary via mail to: VTrans PPAID - Mapping Section, 219 North Main Street, Barre VT 05641.

We, the members of the legislative body of **HARDWICK** in **CALEDONIA** County on an oath state that the mileage of highways, according to Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 19, Section 305, added 1985, is as follows:

PART I - CHANGES TOTALS - Please fill in and calculate totals.

| Town Highways | Previous Mileage | Added Mileage | Subtracted Mileage | Total | Scenic Highways |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Class 1 | 1.500 | | | | 0.000 |
| Class 2 | 11.345 | | | | 0.000 |
| Class 3 | 52.48 | | | | 0.000 |
| State Highway | 16.146 | | | | 0.000 |
| Total | 81.471 | | | | 0.000 |
| * Class 1 Lane | 0.000 | | | | |
| * Class 4 | 5.72 | | | | 0.000 |
| * Legal Trail | 1.62 | | | | |

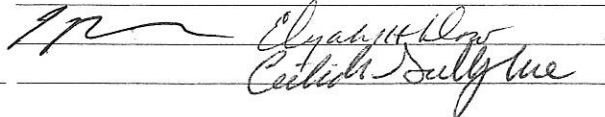
* Mileage for Class 1 Lane, Class 4, and Legal Trail classifications are NOT included in total.


PART II - INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES SHOWN ABOVE.

- NEW HIGHWAYS:** Please attach Selectmen's "Certificate of Completion and Opening".
- DISCONTINUED:** Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).
- RECLASSIFIED/REMEASURED:** Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).
- SCENIC HIGHWAYS:** Please attach a copy of order designating/discontinuing Scenic Highways.

IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN MILEAGE: Place an X in the box and sign below.

PART III - SIGNATURES - PLEASE SIGN.

Signatures of Selectmen/ Aldermen/ Trustees: 

Signature of T/C/V Clerk:  Date Filed: 01/18/2024

Please sign ORIGINAL and return it for Transportation signature.

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL: Signed copy will be returned to T/C/V Clerk.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
 Representative, Agency of Transportation

AUSTIN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

1149 Main Street
Concord, VT 05824
802-695-2961 Phone
802-695-4618 Fax

November 9, 2023

Town of Hardwick
PO Box 523
Hardwick, VT 05843

RE: East Main Street Bridge Demo

Dear Ms. Rowell,

The following is our proposal for the above, referenced project to consist of the following:

Demo and Removal of Deck and Failed NE Abutment and placing RipRap on the NE Stream Bank. Work to be completed by the end of 2023.

LUMP SUM \$195,000.00

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (802)695-2961.

Respectfully Submitted,



George S. Austin, Vice President

The above prices specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified.

Payment due within 30 days of invoice

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Print Name: _____ Company: _____

Proposal

From: Winterset, Inc.
PO Box 968
128 Winterset Drive
Lyndonville, VT 05851 USA
Phone: 802-626-9330
Fax: 802-626-8933
Email: glenn.lavoie@wintersetinc.com

Project: HARDWICK 12-8-23
Description: REMOVE DAMAGED BRIDGE AND
STONE LINE BACKS

| ITEM / DESCRIPTION | BID QTY U/M | UNIT BID | AMOUNT |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 MOBILIZATION | 1.000 LS | \$20,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |
| 2 SIGNAGE | 1.000 LS | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| 3 REMOVE BRIDGE DECK PAVEMENT | 1.000 LS | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| 4 DEMO BRIDGE AND PARAPET RAILS | 1.000 LS | \$40,000.00 | \$40,000.00 |
| 5 DEMO ABUTMENTS | 1.000 LS | \$30,000.00 | \$30,000.00 |
| 6 CHANNEL EXCAVATION | 1.000 LS | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| 7 STONE LINE BANKS | 1.000 LS | \$20,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |

Proposal

| ITEM / DESCRIPTION | BID QTY U/M | UNIT BID | AMOUNT |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 9 DEMO RUBBLE AND HAUL OFF | 1.000 LS | \$20,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |

TOTAL BID: \$145,000.00

Signature: _____