

Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:30 PM
Public Forum
Crime & Public Safety
Dalton Select Board and Crime & Public Safety Committee

Call to order at 6:32 pm by Jo Beth Dudley. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Thomas Dubreuil and Carol Sheltry were present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking. Crime & Public Safety Committee members Scott Kleinschrodt, Donald Mooney, Nancy Mooney, Pamela Kathan and Thomas Dubreuil present. Missing committee member: Diane Lyon.

Public attendees: as noted on sign-in sheet.

The Forum was opened by Jo Beth Dudley who introduced members of the Select Board and the Committee and delivered the rules of procedure. A review of 2023 Town Warrant Article 15 was completed followed by recent history of policing in Dalton, including the status on current policing. The 2020 warrant article that implemented the current status of using approximately four hours per week of contracted patrol time by the NHSP, to supplement the 24/7 coverage, was also read.

NH State Police (NHSP) hours and call types were reviewed and discussed with members of the audience. Emergency coverage (24/7) is included in the dispatch hours and is provided to the town without additional charge.

Current community problems and 'public perception' were reviewed including but not limited to graffiti at the St. John's River Bridge as well as alleged drug use, burglary, etc.

State Police officers (past and present) who are also Dalton residents spoke to provide clarification to misleading data presented in regards to dispatched incidents and local incidents. The data was not clear according to members of the audience who have hands-on experience with the town's situations and calls. Scott confirmed he had limited access to data and could only present what he was able to gather. He confirmed his only data source was Town Reports.

Comparisons including crime/resident ratios were provided with surrounding communities showing town populations and incident/call volumes. Detailed data from the NHSP as to the types of dispatch calls for Dalton , since 2020, were shared with the audience.

Challenges to and considerations of the data were discussed in detail with the committee, the Board, and the resident audience.

Financial information for approximate cost of a new force for the first year were shared by an audience member. Estimated tax impacts of the cost of a new force were shown.

Many residents from the audience spoke up about how much better the town has been lately and how satisfied they are with the town's policing situation. Residents do not believe we have issues that other towns do not and that adding more police would not necessarily solve the issues.

One resident provided information on the North Country Community Safety Project that has completed research on crime, policing, rehabilitation of repeat offenders, etc. Information was made available to the public in the entry vestibule.

The conclusion to the presentation was that there is no need for increased patrols or a separate police force at this time. If additional policing were needed or a dedicated force was to be added to the town, then the data

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Public Forum

Crime & Public Safety

Dalton Select Board and Crime & Public Safety Committee

would have to reflect the need for those additional services. The Select Board will formally review the results of this Public Forum at their next regular meeting, and make a decision regarding any possible future action.

Applause was given to the State Police for their hard work and dedication to Dalton.

Meeting adjourned.

Notes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon and include a printed copy of the PowerPoint file and sign-in sheet for resident attendees.

Addendum: At their regular meeting on October 30, 2023, the Select Board voted to accept the overwhelming opinions expressed at the Public Forum, that the current police coverage by the NHSP is sufficient. The Select Board deemed the requirements of the warrant article fulfilled and completed, with no further action necessary.



Town of DALTON, NH

Crime & Public Safety
Public Forum
October 19, 2023



DALTON Public Forum, 2023

SELECT BOARD:

Jo Beth Dudley, Chair
Carol Sheltry
Tom Dubreuil

Crime & Public Safety
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Scott Kleinschrodt
Diane Lyon
Donald Mooney
Nancy Mooney
Pamela Kathan
Tom Dubreuil



DALTON Public Forum

Crime and Public Safety Committee

- Met 2-3 times per month all summer
- Compiled local crime statistics
- Interviewed law enforcement personnel

THANK YOU !!

Dalton Public Forum Rules of Procedure

All input will be heard, valued and respected

Guidelines:

- Keep your comments to the topic
- Be respectful
- Limit comments to 3 minutes
- Avoid repetitive comments

March 2023 Town Meeting – Warrant Article 15
 BY PETITION – Public Hearing re: Crime and Public Safety

PETITION WARRANT ARTICLE: To see if the town of Dalton will vote “To request the selectboard to hold a series of open, public meetings to gather community input into crime and public safety in Dalton and to explore potential alternatives for law enforcement, including a dedicated Dalton town police officer or officers”.

Recent History of Policing in Dalton

- **Through 2013:** Police Chief and part-time officers
- **2014 – 2019:** Police Administrator (part-time), no officers
- **2020 Warrant Article:** “To see if the Town will support contracting with the NH State Police to do regular patrols and non-emergency calls. This coverage to be in addition to the emergency coverage now provided to the Town of Dalton and to be paid for with the \$15,000 in the operating Budget for the Police Department. If this article does not pass we will retain our current police coverage.” Article Passed (47 to 10).
- **2020 – Present:** NH State Police regular patrols (~4 hours/week)
 - In addition to Emergency Coverage

Current Status of Policing in Dalton

NH State Police

- Emergency Coverage
- Contract for regular patrols (4 hours/week)
 - Recently fewer patrols due to staffing
- Budget: \$15,000 per year for NHSP regular patrols
 - Equivalent to ~\$0.104 tax impact/\$1,000
 - (Approximate tax impact for \$200,000 house: \$21)*

NH State Police Hours for Dalton 2023

1/9/23	4	Patrol, 4 traffic stops, patrol
1/19/23	4	Patrol, security check town property, 3 traffic stops, patrol
2/18/23	6.5	Patrol, security check town property, patrol, welfare check on individual
2/23/23	4	Patrol, security check town property, patrol, 2 traffic stops, patrol
3/5/23	4	Assist citizen for stuck plow, patrol, 5 traffic stops, remove dead turkey from road, patrol
3/23/23	4	Patrol, security check on town property, 2 traffic stops, patrol
3/29/23	4	Patrol, security check on town property, loose farm animals on road - contacted owner to get contained in yard, 1 traffic stop, patrol
4/5/23	4	Motor vehicle accident, patrol, security check town property, patrol
4/13/23	4	Patrol, security check town property, 4 traffic stops, warn juveniles on train bridge at 135/142, check unattended vehicle at Cushman
4/20/23	4	Patrol, 4 traffic stops
5/4/23	4	Patrol, 11 traffic stops, marijuana citation, security check town properties
5/8/23	4	Patrol, 12 traffic stops, tree down on Faraway Rd, lost/stray dogs on Ridge/Simonds, Patrol
5/29/23	4	Patrol, Arrest for suspended license/registration, patrol, security check town property, patrol
6/14/23	4	Patrol, 4 traffic stops, pedestrian contact, warrant arrest

58.5 total YTD

Public Perception

- Problems noted:

- Graffiti
- Drug Use / Paraphernalia
- Burglary
- Littering

- Would increasing police presence address these issues?
- Are there other ways to address these issues, and the root cause of crime?

- Increasing crime in Dalton

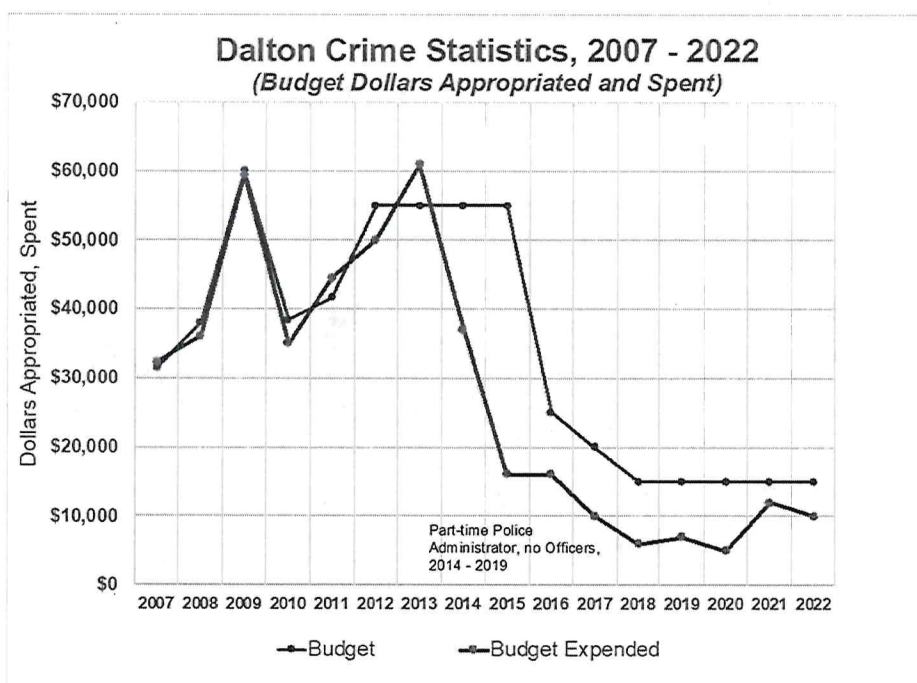
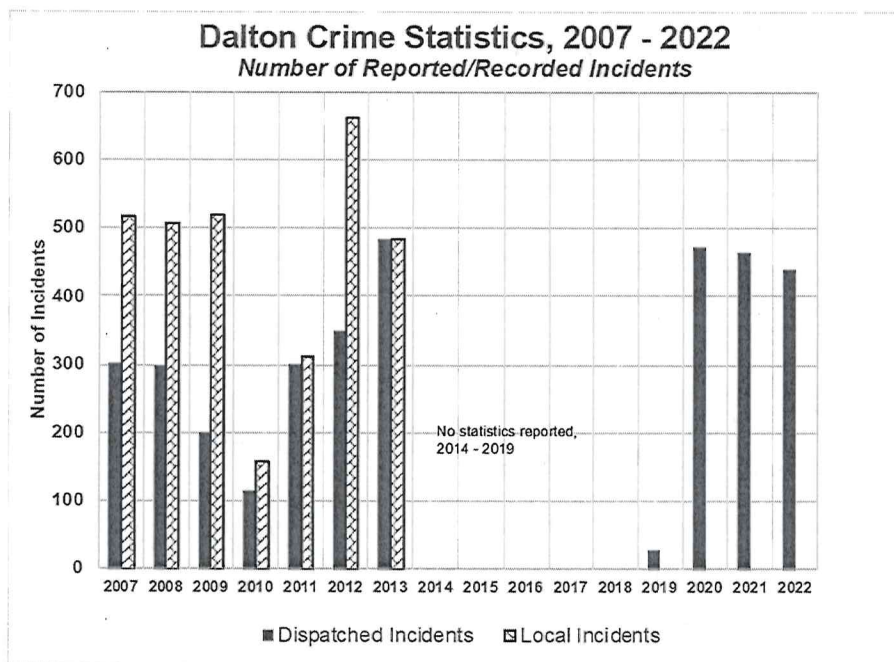
- Does data support this?

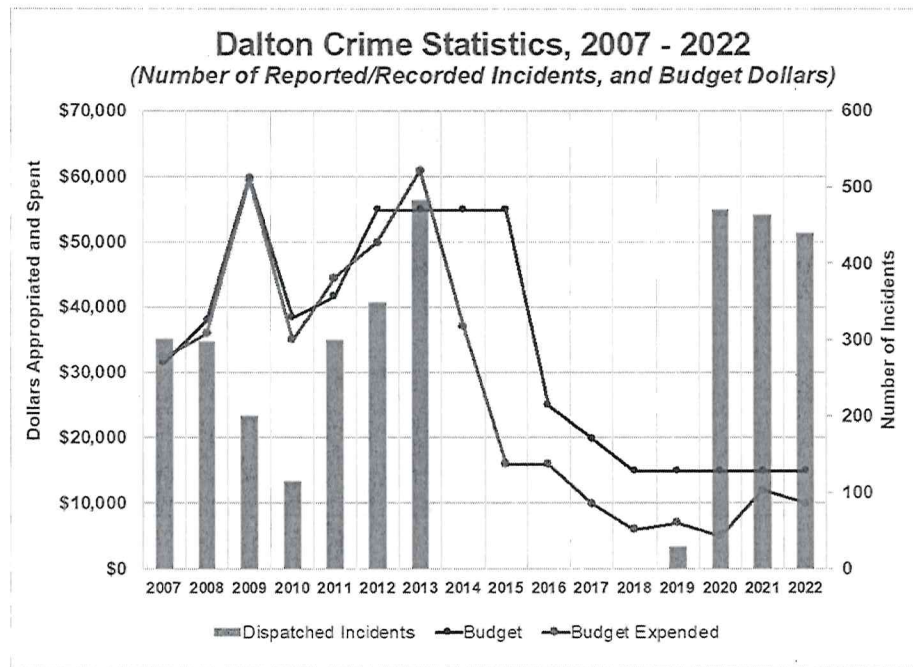
- Incident rates for Dalton:

- 2020 472
- 2021 464
- 2022 440

Recent Graffiti in Dalton







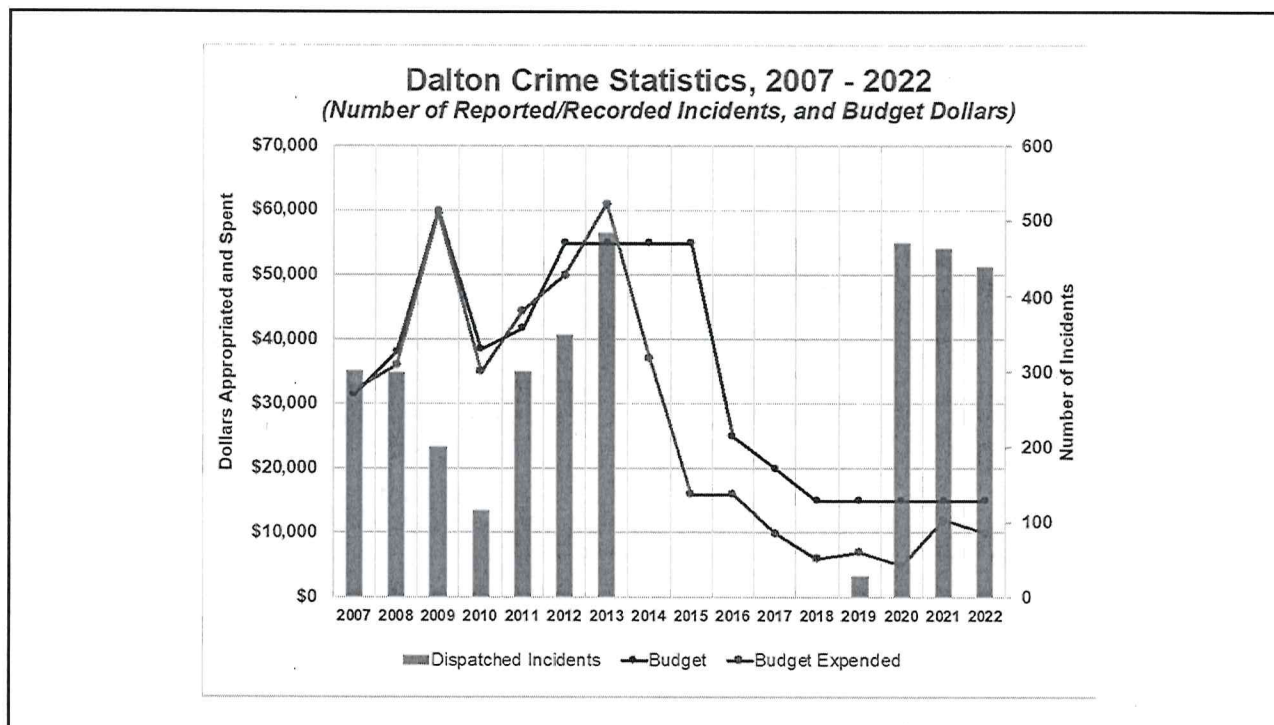
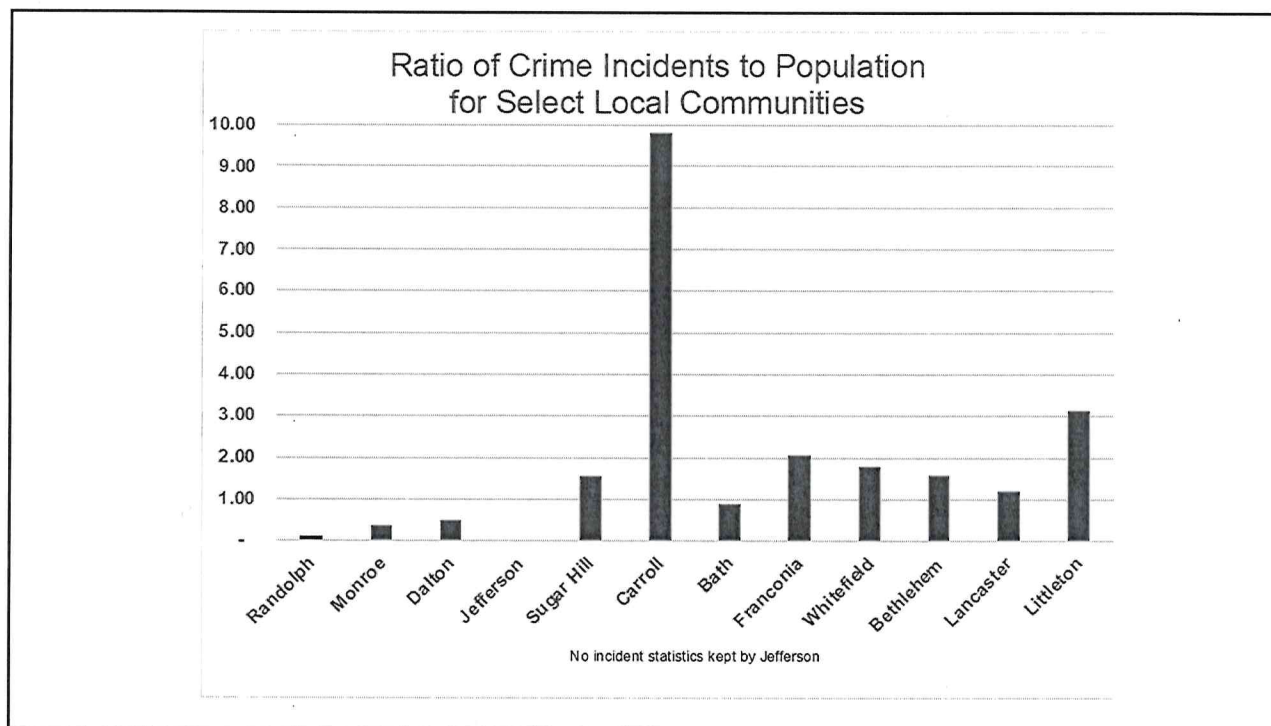
Surrounding Communities

Dedicated Police Force

<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>
• Littleton	(4600)
• Lancaster	(3500)
• Bethlehem	(2565)
• Whitefield	(2200)
• Franconia	(1100)
• Bath – 1.5 FTE	(1000)
• Carroll	(763)
• Sugar Hill – 1.5 FTE	(647)

No Dedicated Police Force

<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>
• Jefferson	(1020)
• Dalton	(907)
• Monroe	(864)
• Randolph	(310)



Challenges

- Communities disbanding police forces
 - regionally and nationally
- Recruitment and retention of Police Officers
- Increasing costs of employment (salary and benefits)
- Pressure to keep property taxes low

Considerations

Does Dalton have an increasing Crime Problem?

- If so, would increasing Police presence solve it?
- If so, what are other strategies to reduce it?

For example:

- Encourage identification of possessions
- Encourage installation of video surveillance
- Install traffic monitoring devices
- Other??

- Does Dalton need a dedicated Police Force?
 - What are the costs (direct and indirect)?

Next Steps

- Further conversations?
- Maintain the Status Quo?
- Consider expanded Police Coverage?
 - Expand State Police Details
 - Eliminate State Police Details (only emergency coverage)
 - Dedicated Dalton Police Force
 - Contract with another Town
 - Regionalization
 - Other options?
- Further conversations?



Town of DALTON, NH
Crime and Public Safety
Public Forum
October 19, 2023

Adjournment

Thank you for
participating!

appropriation	~tax impact per \$1,000 value	~tax impact per home value of:	
		\$200,000	\$300,000
\$15,000	\$0.104	\$21	\$31
\$30,000	\$0.209	\$42	\$63
\$45,000	\$0.313	\$63	\$94
\$100,000	\$0.696	\$139	\$209
\$300,000	\$2.089	\$418	\$627
\$500,000	\$3.482	\$696	\$1,045
\$1,000,000	\$6.964	\$1,393	\$2,089

Estimated Tax Impact of Budget Appropriations

appropriation	~tax impact per \$1,000 value	~tax impact per home value	
		\$200,000	\$300,000
\$15,000	\$0.104	\$21	\$31
\$30,000	\$0.209	\$42	\$63
\$45,000	\$0.313	\$63	\$94
\$100,000	\$0.696	\$139	\$209
\$300,000	\$2.089	\$418	\$627
\$400,000	\$2.786	\$557	\$836
\$500,000	\$3.482	\$696	\$1,045
\$1,000,000	\$6.964	\$1,393	\$2,089

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Year	Incidents		Budget	Budget Expended
	Dispatched Incidents	Local Incidents		
2007	302	517	\$31,500	\$32,300
2008	299	508	\$38,000	\$36,000
2009	201	519	\$60,000	\$59,500
2010	114	158	\$38,400	\$35,000
2011	301	311	\$41,700	\$44,500
2012	349	661	\$55,000	\$50,000
2013	484	484	\$55,000	\$61,000
2014			\$55,000	\$37,000
2015			\$55,000	\$16,000
2016			\$25,000	\$16,000
2017			\$20,000	\$10,000
2018			\$15,000	\$6,000
2019	29		\$15,000	\$7,000
2020	472		\$15,000	\$5,000
2021	464		\$15,000	\$12,000
2022	440		\$15,000	\$10,000

Police Incidents Statistics
Sorted by Population:

Town	Population	Incidents	Ratio
Randolph	310	34	0.11
Sugar Hill	647	1009	1.56
Carroll	763	7487	9.81
Monroe	864	309	0.36
Dalton	907	440	0.49
Bath	1000	892	0.89
Jefferson	1020		
Franconia	1100	2283	2.08
Whitefield	2200	3968	1.80
Bethlehem	2565	4066	1.59
Lancaster	3500	4227	1.21
Littleton	4600	14519	3.16

NH STATE POLICE – Detail, Dalton Incidents

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	2020	2021	2022		2020	2021	2022
911 Hangup / Welfare Check	9	9	2	Bomb squad activity			1
Abandoned vehicle	4	4	4	Building Check			22
Administrative relay	1			Burglar alarm	19	40	23
Ambulance needed	5	6		Burglary in progress	1	1	2
Animal complaint	37	24	15	Burglary Past Tense	2	5	
Barking dog / Animal noise			1	Check-up			23
Aggressive Domestic Animal			1	Civil Matter			23
Animal Bites			1	Civil request	38	9	
Lost / Found / Stray Animals			3	Civil standby	13	5	
Aggravated Assault Hands & Feet			1	Collision Analysis & Reconstruction Unit		1	
Assault past tense	4	5		Community Policing			1
Assault / Simple			2	Confidential tip	1		
Assist Citizen			4	Criminal mischief	13	10	5
Assist DCYF	5	1	2	Criminal Treating	8	6	
Assist other Police Agency			4	Department assist	6	8	
Assist motorist	6	5		Disorderly Conduct			2
Attempted suicide/Completed suicide		3	1	Disturbance			1
ATV / MC Complaint			1	Domestic in Progress	6	8	
BOLO - Other Agency Non NHSP			1	Domestic Past Tense	6	3	
				Downed wires / poles / trees / limbs			1
				DWI Alcohol under the influence			3

NH STATE POLICE – Detail, Dalton Incidents

(Page 2 of 3)

	2020	2021	2022		2020	2021	2022
Extra patrols presence requested			1	Motor vehicle theft			3
Drug case	4			Motorist Assist			4
Drunk	1			Noise complaint	6	6	2
Emotionally disturbed person		6		Other non-criminal police investigation			1
Fatal traffic accident	1			Pedestrian		1	1
Family Offenses - Domestic Violence			9	Police shootings	1		
Fire	1			Property check			4
Fire Dept. needed	1			Property damage non-criminal			1
Fish & Game Ofc. Notified	7	2		Public Intoxication / drunkenness			2
Found property	2		1	Pursuit		2	
Fraud all others			3	Police information			4
Harassment		2	3	Rape by force			1
Hazardous operator	24	9	8	Repossessed vehicle		1	
HIN Inspection MP640	3		1	Request for service	8	5	
Jumping from bridge MP420B	1			Restraining order service	17	8	17
Juvenile complaints		3		Road obstruction	9	5	
Line of duty injury	2			Security check	18	27	
Lock out			1	Sex offender registration	31	17	11
Marijuana decriminalization summons	1	2		Sexual assault		1	
Medical Assistance			2	Shots Fired	6	1	2
Missing Person	4	6	7	SPOTS request	8	5	7
Motor vehicle accident	19	28		Stolen vehicle	1	1	
MV Crash no injuries			6	Subpoena service	3	6	12
MV Crash with injury			3	Suicidal subject	2		
Motor Vehicle Fatality	1			Suspicious Activity Report	3	1	4
Hit and run	1		4	Suspicious person	15	18	2

NH STATE POLICE – Detail, Dalton Incidents

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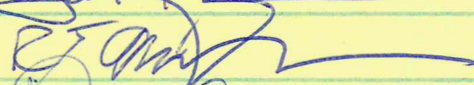
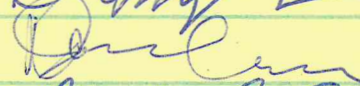
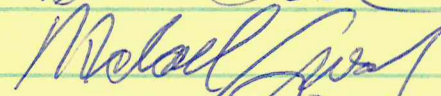

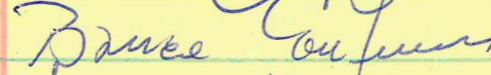
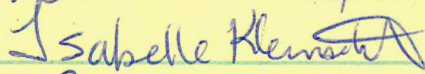
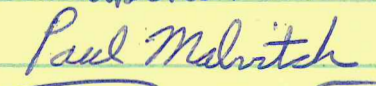

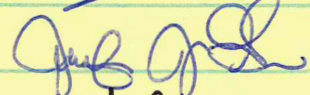

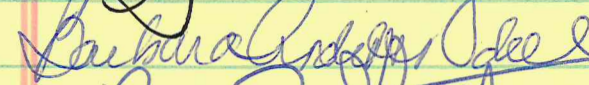
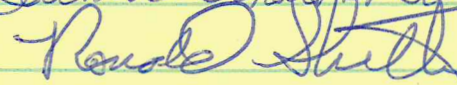

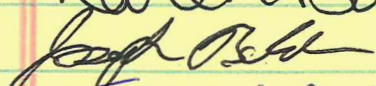
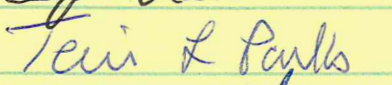
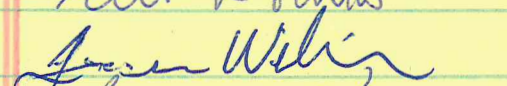
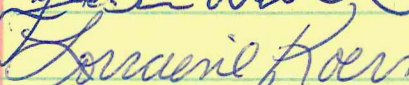
	2020	2021	2022
Suspicious vehicle	21	13	5
Theft	13	17	13
Threats			2
Traffic check (scales/radar)	4		
Traffic stop	6	86	105
Traffic hazard			4
Training			3
Trespassing			4
Unattended/Unnatural/Suspicious deaths	1	1	1
Untimely Death	2		
Vehicle off the Road	3	3	1
Violation of Court order	3	6	
Violation of Restraining Oder			6
VIN verification	7	8	3
Wanted Person	1	3	
Welfare check	26	11	16
Totals	472	464	440

Crim & Public Safety Forum #1

10-19-23

Attendees

Signature

Printed name

SCOTT KUEHNSCHRODT
Tony Arrison
Nancy Crosby
Michael Crosby
TIM CARRIGER
Isabelle Kleinschrodt
Paul Malvitch
Michael Winston
JENNIFER GREEN
MEREDITH FAWCETT
Barbara Andrews Cole
Ronald Sheltz
Brian Parks
M. Fawcett
Terri L. Parks
Jessica Williams
Lorraine Koerner
Dave Koerner

Michael Trudea
Don & Ann

Select Board

JoBeth Dudley
Carol Shetty
Thomas Dismail

Crim & Public Safety Committee

Scott Klunnschatt
Pamela Kathan
Don Mooney
Nancy Mooney

Handed out to attendees

NH STATE POLICE – Detail, Dalton Incidents

(Page 1 of 3)

	2020	2021	2022
911 Hangup / Welfare Check	9	9	2
Abandoned vehicle	4	4	4
Administrative relay	1		
Ambulance needed	5	6	
Animal complaint	37	24	15
Barking dog / Animal noise			1
Aggressive Domestic Animal			1
Animal Bites			1
Lost / Found / Stray Animals			3
Aggravated Assault Hands & Feet			1
Assault past tense	4	5	
Assault / Simple			2
Assist Citizen			4
Assist DCYF	5	1	2
Assist other Police Agency			4
Assist motorist	6	5	
Attempted suicide/Completed suicide		3	1
ATV / MC Complaint			1
BOLO – Other Agency Non NHSP			1

	2020	2021	2022
Bomb squad activity			1
Building Check			22
Burglar alarm	19	40	23
Burglary in progress	1	1	2
Burglary Past Tense	2	5	
Check-up			23
Civil Matter			23
Civil request	38	9	
Civil standby	13	5	
Collision Analysis & Reconstruction Unit		1	
Community Policing			1
Confidential tip	1		
Criminal mischief	13	10	5
Criminal Treating	8	6	
Department assist	6	8	
Disorderly Conduct			2
Disturbance			1
Domestic in Progress	6	8	
Domestic Past Tense	6	3	
Downed wires / poles / trees / limbs			1
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NH STATE POLICE – Detail, Dalton Incidents

(Page 2 of 3)

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Fatal traffic accident	1		
Family Offenses - Domestic Violence			9
Fire	1		
Fire Dept. needed	1		
Fish & Game Ofc. Notified	7	2	
Found property	2		1
Fraud all others			3
Harassment		2	
Hazardous operator	24	9	8
HIN inspection MP640	3		1
Jumping from bridge-MP420B	1		
Juvenile complaints		3	
Line of duty injury	2		
Lock out			1
Marijuana decriminalization summons	1	2	
Medical Assistance			2
Missing Person	4	6	7
Motor vehicle accident	19	28	
MV Crash no injuries			6
MV Crash with injury			3
Motor Vehicle Fatality	1		
Hit and run	1		4

	2020	2021	2022
Motor vehicle theft			3
Motorist Assist			4
Noise complaint	6	6	2
Other non-criminal police investigation			1
Pedestrian		1	1
Police shootings	1		
Property check			4
Property damage non-criminal			1
Public Intoxication / drunkenness			2
Pursuit		2	
Police information			4
Rape by force			1
Repossessed vehicle		1	
Request for service	8	5	
Restraining order service	17	8	17
Road obstruction	9	5	
Security check	18	27	
Sex offender registration	31	17	11
Sexual assault		1	
Shots Fired	6	1	2
SPOTS request	8	5	7
Stolen vehicle	1	1	
Subpoena service	3	6	12
Suicidal subject	2		
Suspicious Activity Report	3	1	4
Suspicious person	15	18	2

NH STATE POLICE – Detail, Dalton Incidents

(Page 3 of 3)

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