



TOWN OF LEDYARD

CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman Kevin J. Dombrowski

MINUTES
LEDARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Dombrowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Dombrowski welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the members of the Town Council and the Public who were participating via video conference that remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town’s Website – Granicus-Legistar Meeting Portal.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- III. ROLL CALL –

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location
Kevin Dombrowski	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Andra Ingalls	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Whit Irwin	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
John Marshall	Town Councilor	Excused	
Mary McGrattan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary Paul	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Timothy Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
William Saums	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Ann Dagele, from the *Brian Dagele Foundation - Brian’s Healing Hearts Foundation* - Family Suicide Prevention, 461 Main Street in Niantic, thanked the Town Council and Mayor Allyn, III, for the inviting her to their meeting this evening. She noted that she was also a member of the *Connecticut Chapter of American Foundation for Suicide Prevention* and that she served as a Tri-Chair of the *Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board*. Ms. Dagele stated she was grateful to be starting this conversation in Ledyard, noting that suicide was a complex and serious public health problem that can have lasting and harmful effects on individuals’ families and communities. She stated there was not one particular reason that causes a person to want to die by suicide. She stated because they were in such emotional and mental pain that the individual could not think of any other way to end their pain; and only think about ending their life. She stated we have all had experienced with physical pain, noting that they would do whatever it took to alleviate that pain. She explained that it was no different for someone who was experiencing mental health pain, noting that they just wanted to end their pain, and could not think of anything else. She stated 90% of people who die by suicide have either a diagnosed or undiagnosed mental illness.

Ms. Dagele went on to state that language mattered when they talk about suicide. She stated the *Suicide Awareness World* have been working to stop using the word “*Committed*”, explaining hundreds of years ago it was a crime to die by suicide, and therefore, it was referred to as “*Committee Suicide*” . She stated when someone dies from an illness such as cancer, heart attack, etc. society says they died by cancer and so on. She stated because suicide was a mental illness it was no different, noting that the individual “*Died by Suicide*” or that they “*Died of a Brain Disease*” or by “*Depression*”. She stated changing the language that was previously used helped to break down the horrific stigma that surrounds the world of mental health and suicide and that they were working toward helping professionals such as doctors, physiologists, journalists and those in the media to change the language.

Ms. Dagel stated mental health was no different than our physical health. She stated our brain was an organ in our body, and was no different from any other organ in our body. However, she stated our brain was the least researched organ in our body, making it the least organ we know about. She stated although we are learning more about our brain that there was still a lot of work to do.

Ms. Dagel presented the following statistical data:

- Suicide was the twelfth leading cause of death in the United States.
- 45,979 Americans die every year from reported suicide.
- Veterans were at a 1.5% higher risk of suicide.
- 1.2 million people attempt suicide a year.
- One-third of the people lost to suicide were white males age 55 and older. This was the highest demographic that die from suicide.
- During the Covid-19 Pandemic there was a slight decrease of suicide deaths.
- Since the Covid-19 Pandemic there had been an increase in the number of people seeking mental health services.
- Connecticut lost 364 people from suicide in 2020, this was about one a day. More than half of those lost to suicide were by gun.
- Connecticut being a small state, provided for quicker access to hospitals and medical care for those who attempt suicide, compared to larger states, where it could take hours to get to a hospital.
- 85% of Connecticut communities do not have enough mental health care providers to service the people in-need.
- 115 people were exposed to one-single death of suicide, with 1 in 5 people reporting that this experience had devastating impact on them.
- The impact of suicide loss has a ripple effect:
 - First Wave - family, friends, co-workers, people in the school and town community.
 - Second Wave – members of the community, faith group, teachers, staff, students, and service providers.

Suicide Data: Connecticut

Suicide is a public health problem and leading cause of death in the United States. Suicide can also be prevented – more investment in suicide prevention, education, and research will prevent the untimely deaths of thousands of Americans each year. Unless otherwise noted, this fact sheet reports 2020 data from the CDC, the most current verified data available at time of publication (March 2022).

15th leading cause of death in Connecticut

- 3rd leading**
cause of death for ages 10-24
- 2nd leading**
cause of death for ages 25-34
- 4th leading**
cause of death for ages 35-44
- 6th leading**
cause of death for ages 45-54
- 9th leading**
cause of death for ages 55-64
- 18th leading**
cause of death for ages 65+

85.07% of communities did not have enough mental health providers to serve residents in 2021, according to federal guidelines.

Almost **five times** as many people died by suicide in 2019 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflected a total of **5,982 years** of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.

50% of firearm deaths were suicides.
30% of all suicides were by firearms.

Suicide Death Rates	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Connecticut	364	9.33	45
Nationally	45,979	13.48	

See full list of citations at afsp.org/statistics.

afsp.org/statistics

Suicide Data: United States

Suicide is a public health problem and leading cause of death in the United States. Suicide can also be prevented – more investment in suicide prevention, education, and research will prevent the untimely deaths of thousands of Americans each year. Unless otherwise noted, this fact sheet reports 2020 data from the CDC, the most current verified data available at time of publication (February 2022).

45,979 Americans died by suicide making it the **12th leading cause of death**.

- 3rd leading cause of death for ages 10-19
- 2nd leading cause of death for ages 20-34
- 4th leading cause of death for ages 35-44
- **Over one third** of people who died by suicide were 55 or older

Men died by suicide **3.9x** more often than females.
Females were **1.8x** more likely to attempt suicide.

54% of firearm deaths were suicides.
53% of all suicides were by firearms.

In 2019, the suicide rate was **1.5x higher** for Veterans than for non-Veteran adults over the age of 18.

90% of those who died by suicide had a diagnosable mental health condition at the time of their death.

44% of Americans ages 18+ living with a mental health condition received treatment in the past year.

72% of communities in the United States did not have enough mental health providers to serve residents in 2021, according to federal guidelines.

10% of adult Americans have thought about suicide.
1.2 million Americans attempted suicide.

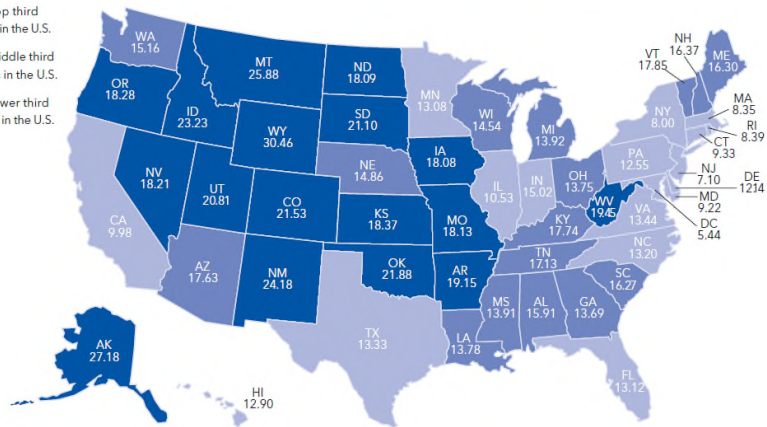
54% of Americans have been affected by suicide in some way.

See full list of citations at afsp.org/statistics.

afsp.org/statistics

Suicide Data: United States

- States in the top third of suicide rates in the U.S.
- States in the middle third of suicide rates in the U.S.
- States in the lower third of suicide rates in the U.S.



See full list of citations at afsp.org/statistics.

afsp.org/statistics



Ms. Dagle noted the following Suicide Awareness and Prevention Goals:

- Save the lives of individuals.
- Reduce the factors that increase the risk of suicide.
- Increase the factors that promote resiliency in people.
- Create healthy and strong families and communities.
- Suicide training takes about 90 minutes and was critical to every human being.
 - Ms. Dagle provides training at schools for teachers and for students.
 - Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training – Was designed to help bystanders work with someone who may be in crisis. (Professionals, Teachers, Law Enforcement, Military, and young people).
- Approach was an “All Hands On”

Ms. Dagle stated that she has been working with the Town of Clinton to present “Clinton Community Conversations” Program. She stated Clinton’s goal was to have everyone in their community trained on suicide prevention.

Ms. Dagle noted the following warning signs and risk factors in suicide and what we can do:

- Educate ourselves and our communities.
- Start with a conversation like this evening and continue the conversation.
- Understand that talking about suicide would bring a sense of relief to someone because it would breakdown the walls by letting the person know that someone was willing to listen; and that they were cared about.

Ms. Dagle noted a few of the risk factors associated with suicide as follows:

- Mental health condition.
- Serious health condition.
- Traumatic brain injury.

- Environmental factors, which would include the Covid-19 Pandemic, access to the internet, etc.
- Prolong stressful events such as family changes, relationship changes, financial issues.
- Transition periods, a time of rejection.
- Family history of suicide attempts.
- Childhood trauma, abuse, life losses.
- Combination of any of the issues listed.

Ms. Dagle reviewed the following warning signs:

- How a person talks – do they say:
 - *I do not have a reason to live.*
 - *You don't have to worry about me, I am not going to be here any more.*
 - *I want to die.*
- A persons behavior- How do they act:
 - Sudden isolation, or are they not going out socially.
 - Suddenly become very social, seem very happy, and seem to not have a care in the world.
 - Are they giving away their personal items.
 - Appearance, do they not care about how they look.
 - Start or increase the use of drugs or alcohol.
- Person's mood
 - Are they anxious or irritable.
 - Depressed, loss of interest.
 - Are they angry and fly off the handle quickly.

Ms. Dagle provided some background, noting the Brian Dagle Foundation was started in 2014 after they lost their son in 2011. She stated Brian was a sophomore in college and living a college life with tons of friends and family who loved him. However, she stated they did not know how much he was struggling. She stated that they had seen some signs, however, she stated in 2011 she did not know the signs, did not know the language to use; and did not know how to have a conversation with Brian about his struggle. She also stated in 2011 that no one was having conversations about mental health, depression and suicide, noting today in 2022 that they now know how to have those conversations, they know the signs, and have the tools to use. She stated at the Brian Dagle Foundation they offer Suicide Prevention Training Programs. She stated she was passionate about saving lives and anytime she has the opportunity to share their story she does so that other parents would not have to go thru what her family went thru.

Ms. Dagle stated that she was currently working with the Ledyard High School Lacrosse Team on the *LAX to Live* Program. She stated Coach Jim Buonocore has been one of their best advocates, noting the athletes wear special *LAX to Live* tee-shirts to school, noting the shirts start a conversation, because other kids and teachers ask what is *LAX to Live*. She stated the Brian Dagle Foundation has a table at the Lacrosse game with information to hand out. She stated the best part was after the game when they talk to players from both the Ledyard Team and the Visitor's Team. She stated they say to the kids: *"That during the game the players have their teammates back on the field; and that they need to have each other's back off the field as well. If they have a friend who was struggling, ask them if they were struggling and help them get the help they need. Also, if you were struggling that you need to get the help you need too, because it was okay not to be okay. We all struggle with our mental health, just like we all struggle with our physical health. If you have something physically wrong while you were on the field you would tell the Coach immediately; or if you had something physical wrong with you off the field you would not be allowed to play; and it was no different with our mental health."* Ms. Dagle stated by normalizing this conversation with the kids, coaches and families it starts that conversation. She stated the Brian Dagle Foundation has received positive feedback from the students and athletes, noting that the Foundation could see that they make a difference just by having this conversation.

Ms. Dagele stated when she started the Brian Dagele Foundation she wanted to help people with grief because of what she experienced, and she did not want other families to have to go thru what she went thru. She stated the Foundation offered Grief Support for suicide loss, any type of death, loss of a spouse, loss of a child, loss of people from addiction, car accident, and many other areas. She stated they have a Grief Counselor on staff and their Grief Support Programs were free of charge for people to get the support they need.

She thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to begin this conversation in Ledyard and that she would be happy to answer questions this evening.

Councilor Rodriguez thanked Ms. Dagele for coming to tonight's meeting. She stated this was the second time the Brian Dagele Foundation has come to Ledyard, noting that they joined the Community Relations Committee in bringing information regarding Mental Health Awareness, Depression and Suicide to residents during the August 31, 2022 Ledyard Farmers Market.

The Town Council and Ms. Dagele discussed in further detail the following:

- College students, recognizing that friends were struggling, and suicides on campus.

Some college campus' offer a program to anonymously report that a student was in crisis, and the staff would work with the student.

Ms. Dagele suggested the student have a trusted adult either a parent or someone at the school that they could talk with to get the help needed for their friend and for themselves, noting that it was a significant burden for the student to carry knowing that their friend was struggling. She stated they need to be persistent with their friend and with the school to see that they get the support and services they need, explaining that it may take some time for the student to accept the help. She stated hopefully the school would have a good program where they talk about mental health and normalize the conversation. She stated she has spoken to schools and colleges, including Yale where she did a Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training and they did a role play on how to start a conversation. She stated students have a fear that if they say that they or a friend was struggling with mental health that they may lose a scholarship, or be sent off campus, etc. Therefore, she stated talking with the school to make sure they were getting this conversation out was very important.

Ms. Dagele noted "*Fresh Check Day*" was signature program of the Jordan Porco Foundation that was an uplifting mental health promotion and suicide prevention event for colleges. The Program included interactive expo booths, peer-to-peer messaging, support of multiple campus departments and groups, food, entertainment, and prizes and giveaways. *Fresh Check Day* aimed to create an approachable and hopeful atmosphere where students were encouraged to engage in dialogue about mental health and help to build a bridge between students and the mental health resources available on campus, in the community, and nationally. She stated at least 200 college campuses throughout the country hold a "*Fresh Check Day*".

- How to open a conversation with at risk white males age 55 and older.

Ms. Dagele suggested if you think someone was struggling, and think they were at-risk that you let your guard down and be vulnerable to the person. She stated it was not an easy conversation to start, however, she stated if you share some of the things that caused you pain and let them know that you were in a dark place or struggling at one time, and that you recognized that they were struggling too; and that you cared about them and wanted to help them. She stated the conversation could begin by saying "*I know there has been a lot of changes in your life or a lot going on in your life, and that is really hard, and I can see that you are struggling. I'm concerned, I care for you, I want to help you, I want to get the help with you, and I will be with you all the way*".

- Senior Citizens Community and Depression

Ms. Dagle stated the Senior Citizen Community was at-risk because they think they were going to be a burden to others, they have no reason to live, they do not feel a sense of connection to anyone, etc. She noted studies have shown that Senior Citizens would visit their physician about one week prior to attempting to take their life. She stated they were going to see their doctor not for their physical health, but for their mental health. However, she stated doctors do not screen for mental health, noting that Senior Citizens most likely have a litany of health issues, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, aches and pains as we get older. She went on to note the studies have indicated that language mattered. She stated if a medical provider asked a Senior Citizen whether they were depressed that the person would respond “No”. However, if the medical provider asked the person if they felt a little down or felt blue the Senior Citizen would respond “Yes, I feel a little blue”. She stated just by changing the words that made a difference in how the person responded.

Councilor Paul thanked Ms. Dagle for joining the Community Relations Committee at the August 31, 2022 Farmers Market to talk about mental health and for attending tonight’s Town Council meeting. He stated he was passionate about mental health, noting that he was severely affected by suicide. He stated this conversation was really needed. He stated the “Clinton Community Conversations” Program Ms. Dagle was doing was amazing. He stated there was a lot involved in operating a town from the financial and fiscal management, having good schools, maintaining roads, fire and public safety, providing infrastructure and services, etc. However, he stated one of the most important things was to have a Healthy Community. He addressed the importance for the leaders in a community such as elected officials, mayors, selectman, clergy to talk about mental health to break the stigma and normalize the conversation. He stated there was a mental health crisis going on and that the best thing they could do was to talk about it and keep it on the forefront. He stated as Ms. Dagle stated mental illness was no different from a physical illness such as diabetes, and that it was okay. He stated he appreciated all that the Brian Dagle Foundation does and that he was happy that Ms. Dagle was able to take a tragedy and turn it into life for other people.

Ms. Dagle stated at the first “Clinton Community Conversations” 110 were in attendance, and that the community wanted to host another “Conversation” which would be held next week. She stated the Town of Clinton would also be starting a Men’s Group.

Ms. Dagle concluded by noting that the new Mental Health Hotline number was 988, stating that people could call or text the Hotline number. She stated they no longer had to use the long 1-800 number explaining that this phone number was not only for a crisis situation noting that it could be used to connect to mental health resources, or to talk with someone every day, if needed, until the person could get to the support services they needed.

Chairman Dombrowski thanked Ms. Dagle for attending tonight’s meeting and for the very informative presentation.

V. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS – None.

IV. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

VI. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Saums thanked Congressman Joe Courtney for issuing the *Congressional Record – from the U.S. House of Representatives Proceedings of the 117th Congress, Honoring the Life of Linda C. Davis*” who passed after a courageous battle with cancer on December 12, 2021. He stated the Congressional Record got him thinking about their community and he noted as he has mentioned many times, that former Mayor Susie Mendenhall used to have a Volunteer Appreciation Day. He suggested the Town have an annual “I Love Ledyard Day” on Linda Davis’ Birthday, because that was how he thinks of Linda. He stated maybe they could have some facebook activities, where people could share a story about Linda or a small event, like the December 4, 2021 naming the Food Pantry in Linda’s honor. Mayor Allyn, III, stated he loved Councilor Saums’ idea, noting that Linda’s birthday was April 4th and so they had some time to plan an event.

Councilor Rodriguez announced the following upcoming events: (1) Trunk or Treat would be held on Friday, October 28, 2022. She stated set-up was from 4:00 p.m. with the event to begin at 4:45 p.m. for sensory children. She stated Parks & Recreation was in need of volunteers to help with the event; and she asked those who were available to telephone (860) 464-9112; (2) Drug Take Back Day was scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the Ledyard Police Department, in Ledyard Center from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2022

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Irwin

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Dombrowski stated a Communications List has been provided and he noted the referrals listed.

X. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Ingalls stated although the Administration Committee has not met since the last Town Council Meeting they have a number of items on tonight's agenda.

Community Relations Committee

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee met on October 19, 2022 and addressed the following: (1) Winter Preparations and Operations – Councilor Paul stated Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin would be attending the Committee's November 16, 2022 meeting to give a presentation on the many services the Public Works Department does. He encouraged residents to attend the meeting in-person at the Town Hall Annex Building or join them on-line via Zoom. He stated this would be an opportunity for residents to ask questions such as: "Why do you plow me in after I shoveled out my driveway" or to obtain information regarding mailboxes, etc. He provided Flyers regarding the Public Works Presentation for Councilors to distribute around town.

Finance Committee

Councilor Saums stated the Finance Committee held their hybrid meeting on October 19, 2022. He stated in addition to the items on tonight's agenda the Committee discussed the following: (1) Annual Audit Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 – Councilor Saums noted that Finance Director Matthew Bonin reported the Annual Audit work was continuing and that it was going well; (2) Interest Earnings – Councilor Saums stated Finance Director Matthew Bonin reported that he had been in communication with Dime Bank about the interest the Town was receiving on its accounts with the bank. He stated Dime Bank has agreed for the town to move some money into higher interest yielding accounts. He stated there was good news on this note, and the Mayor would likely have more to say during his report later this evening; (3) American Rescue Plan Act Funding and Status of ARPA Projects – Councilor Saums stated the Finance Committee, the Mayor, and the Finance Director reviewed the ARPA funds that were approved, what has been spent, and what remained to be initiated. He stated about half of the projects were either underway or complete. He noted that Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated for the ARPA Projects that have been completed to-date, there was an excess of \$31,000 in funds that could be spent elsewhere. Councilor Saums stated for other projects, like the Ag-Science VoAg Pole Barn floor the costs have come in more than expected, so they would continue to monitor the status of all projects. He stated the ARPA Projects List could be found in the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes; (4) Board of Education \$6,725,000 Various Projects Including School Roof Projects – Councilor Saums stated although the State has requested and received more information from the Town that the Finance Committee has not received any more information from the State regarding their requested resolution to set an increased estimated per square foot costs for the school roof project. The Town and the Board of Education would continue to pursue this; (5) Public Works Heavy Equipment Capital Plan – Councilor Saums stated that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin attended their meeting and reported that the town's catch basin cleaner and the sweeper were 20 and 22 years old. He stated although they were in fairly good condition, they would need refurbishment work relatively soon or be replaced. He stated because maintaining these pieces of seasonal use equipment has been expensive, that Public Works has decided to liquidate them through GovDeals while they

still had significant value, and to rent equipment or pay for services when needed rather than replace these seasonal pieces of equipment. He stated in return, the Public Works Department determined that acquiring a rubber-tired excavator that could be used throughout the year for multiple purposes would offer a better return on the town's equipment investment. Councilor Saums stated the Mr. Masalin would reflect the changes in his budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2022/2023 and present them to the Town Council at budget time. Councilor Saums stated that he appreciated the forethought of the Public Works Director relative to not purchasing and maintaining large pieces of equipment for seasonal jobs that could be achieved through other methods.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor Paul stated the LUPPW Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting. He noted the Committee's next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2022.

Water Pollution Control Authority

Councilor Saums stated the WPCA met on October 25, 2022 and addressed the following; (1) Waste Water Treatment Facility Solar Panels – The Solar Panel Operator has only mowed once since the project changed hands. There were a few solar panels that needed to be replaced. Wastewater Supervisor Steve Banks has contacted the Solar Panel Operator to ask them to discuss the Terms of the Agreement; (2) Multi-Model Pathway Project – Councilor Saums stated because Local Transportation Capital Improvement Projects (LOTICIP) Grant Funding was being used to construct the Multi-Model Pathway the State Historic Preservation Office has required an archeological dig along the route of the Ledyard Center Sewer Line Extension. This would involve about 90 - 100 test holes at a cost of an additional \$15,000 for a Phase I Study. He stated if anything significant was found that a Phase II Dig would be required. Also, Groton Utilities provided comments stating that Multi-Model Pathway design plan required a number of changes regarding the location of fire hydrants, and water system infrastructure, as he reported last month. The WPCA has requested the Mayor call a meeting of all parties the week of October 31, 2022 to discuss how the additional costs would be paid, and by whom; (3) Ledyard Center Water Storage Tank Painting – Councilor Saums stated only one bidder provided a proposal in the amount of \$32,500 to paint the roof of the Storage Tank on Route 117. In addition, the bidder provided a \$285,000 quote to paint the entire external structure. Councilor Saums stated although the rest of the Water Storage Tank did not require painting at this time, that painting it would extend the life another ten years. He stated the Water Storage Tank was fifteen years old, noting that they were five years past the time of when they thought it would need to be painted. He stated the WPCA would be requesting a bid waiver in the amount of \$32,500 to paint the top of the Ledyard Center Water Storage Tank. He stated the WPCA has the funding in place for the project and that they planned to start the project in the Spring, 2023.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) Coastal Mudd Works Pottery Studio Ribbon Cutting – Ledyard Center – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the Ribbon Cutting on October 13, 2022. He stated the owner was a Ledyard resident and that she had some amazing heirloom type of pieces; (2) Groton Elks Lodge Police Awards Dinner – October 14, 2022 – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the event at which Ledyard Police Officer Kyle Dugas received “*The Police Officer of the Year Award*”. He stated the Award Dinner included State Police, Local Police from Southeastern Connecticut, and the Prison. He noted the background of the many Police Officers in serving multiple Tours of Duty in Iraq and other places around the world were incredible. He stated we had exceptional Police Officers, noting that Officer Dugas was one of them. He Congratulated Officer Dugas; (3) October 16, 2022 34th Annual Copp Walk – Mayor Allyn stated he spoke at the Annual Event, noting they had a nice turn-out and they have raised a little more than \$500,000 to feed those in need; (4) Gales Ferry District Tax Collection Services – Mayor Allyn stated the Gales Ferry District has asked the Town of Ledyard to provide tax collection services for the District. He stated several years ago the Town had provided these services for them. He noted in more recent years the Gales Ferry District hired a bookkeeper to handle the tax collection services for them, however, the bookkeeper has moved away. He stated he met with Tax Collector Kathy Demicis to discuss the Gales Ferry District's request for tax collection services relative to the town's cost to provide the service. He stated he would keep the Town Council informed as they work thru this process; (5) Building Official Replacement - Mayor Allyn stated he and Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) Executive Director conducted interviews to replace the Building Official. He stated Mr. Tom Weber, who had been serving as a Regional Building Official, took a serious fall and has been at Yale New Haven Hospital for a number of weeks, noting that it was highly improbable that Mr. Weber would be returning. He stated it was a very challenging environment for that position, noting that SCCOG posted the position at a

salary range of \$85,000 - \$105,000. He stated they had three Applicants, noting that one candidate did not show up on the day of the interview, and that they would be looking more closely at the other two Applicants. He went on to state that he was thankful for former Building Official Randy Dalton helping out on a consultant basis. He stated if Building Permits were not reviewed and signed that after 30 days they would automatically be approved; (6) Vacant Positions – Mayor Allyn stated Town Hall currently had nine positions posted, which included the Parks & Recreation Clerical Assistant, Mental Health Clinician, 2 Public Works positions, Zoning Enforcement Official who will be retiring at the end of the calendar year, and a per diem Dispatcher to name a few; (7) Atkinson Family Preserve Ribbon Cutting October 22, 2022 – Mayor Allyn stated he spoke at the event noting the Atkinson Preserve was a 200 acre parcel that abuts Groton Utilities and the Historic Nathan Lester House. He stated Dave Atkinson led a Trail Walk with the attendees, noting that it was a beautiful property. He stated parking was available near the Eversource Transmission Lines on Long Cove Road, noting there was map of the trails. He stated this was a regional opportunity, noting Ledyard, Groton Utilities, Avalonia Land Conservancy and the Atkinson Family came together to make this project happen. He stated the Town Council authorized the use of some Open Space Funding and Avalonia Land Conservancy wrote the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Grants (OSWA); (8) Frontier Communications Fiber Optic Network – Mayor Allyn stated Frontier Communications was moving into Ledyard from Norwich, Mystic, and Preston to install a fiber optic network. He stated the project would cover 100% of Ledyard by December 31, 2022, noting that residents would have the opportunity to have fiber for their telephone, television and internet provider soon. He stated in response to Frontier Communications asking whether there was anything they could do for the town, that he provided photos of the overgrown parcel where the Frontier Station was located on the corner of Stoddards Wharf and Route 117. He stated within a week Frontier Communications took care of the overgrown parcel and he thanked them for their quick response in working to be a good neighbor; (9) Ag-Science Vo-Ag Pole Barn Floor – Mayor Allyn stated the concrete floor was scheduled to be poured next week. He stated the new floor would alleviate the American Disability Act (ADA) accessibility issues, noting that it would be a great benefit for folks with canes, walkers, strollers, wheelchairs etc.; (9) Higher Interest Accounts - Mayor Allyn credited Finance Director Matthew Bonin for yielding higher interest earnings on the \$14 million the town had at Dime Bank for large capital purchases such as fire trucks and heavy equipment. He stated Mr. Bonin met with the Bank Vice-President, who later issued a letter in which he agreed for Ledyard to transfer this cash to the higher interest earning Account (from .02 of 1% interest to 3.4% interest). Mayor Allyn stated based on the level of funding Ledyard had in that particular Account that their interest earnings would increase from \$9,600 annually to about \$270,000 annually, which would essentially be a risk-free investment; (10) Bottle Bill – Mayor Allyn stated Ledyard’s quarterly payment from the surcharge on nip bottles sold in town was up 24% from their first quarterly payment. He noted the town received \$13,027.06, which was for a total of 260,541 nip bottles that were sold during one quarter. He stated in looking at all the numbers in Southeastern Connecticut that it appears that people were drinking more alcohol, which was probably not good. However, he stated that Ledyard would need to begin looking at how they wanted to appropriate the revenue, noting on June 8, 2022 the Town Council adopted a “*Resolution Regarding Revenues Received From Beverage Container Surcharges*”. He stated the funding received from the “Bottle Bill” (Public Act No. 21-58 - An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management”) could only be used for the following purposes: (1) environmental measures intended to reduce the generation of solid waste; and (2) reduce the impact of litter caused by such solid waste, including, but not limited to, the hiring of a recycling coordinator, the installation of storm drain filters designed to block solid waste and beverage container debris or the purchase of a mechanical street sweeper, vacuum or broom that removes litter, including, but not limited to, such beverage containers and other debris from streets, sidewalks and abutting lawn and turf; (11) Election Day Trivia - Mayor Allyn stated election day was held on Tuesday because in the 1800’s the overall population was generally farm centric. He explained because the polling locations were as much as two travel days away, they knew that they would have to get to church on Sunday and after services they could continue to travel with their horse and carriage on Monday to be at the polling location on Tuesday to vote. He stated they would then travel back home to continue to work their farms.

Questions to the Mayor

Councilor Rodriguez addressed the October 22, 2022 Ribbon Cutting for the Atkinson Family Preserve and she requested clarification, questioning whether the event was for the Atkinson-Dirlam Preserve. Mayor Allyn stated the Atkinson-Dirlam Preserve was located at

765 Long Cove Road, Gales Ferry. He stated after the Ribbon Cutting they walked the Atkinson Property which was on the side of the road where the reservoir property was located. He stated they did not walk the 22-acre Dirlam Property, which was on the other side of the road, noting that the Dirlam parcel was acquired at the same time as the Atkinson parcel.

Councilor Ryan stated a constituent mentioned to him that they were having difficulty getting the Building Inspector to come to their house. He stated the resident stated the Building Inspector was not available. Mayor Allyn explained that Mr. Tom Weber, who had been serving as a Regional Building Official, took a serious fall and that he has been at Yale New Haven Hospital for a number of weeks, noting that it was highly improbable that Mr. Weber would be returning. He stated Ledyard's former Building Official Randy Dalton has been helping out with New Construction and that he would also be doing the Permit Plan Reviews and Sign-offs. He stated Ledyard was in an incredible predicament, noting that he has communicated with every town in Southeastern Connecticut, noting that only three towns in New London County had an Assistant Building Official and they did not have excess capacity that would allow them to help Ledyard.

Councilor Ingalls questioned the academic background required for a Building Official. Mayor Allyn noted the qualifications for a Building Official included the following: five years of experience in the building trades (commercial or residential construction) in addition to taking fifteen classes for fifteen different trades and passing all fifteen tests (from foundations and footings to shingling, electrical, plumbing, residential solar array etc.). He stated they had to know a lot and that the pool of people was very thin. He stated they were actively communicating with some retired Building Officials.

Councilor Saums addressed the revenues the town was receiving from the nip bottle surcharge. He suggested Ledyard have competition to see which group brought in the most bags of nip bottles during their Town-Wide Earth Day Clean-Up. Mayor Allyn stated that the nip bottle revenue could be used for roadside clean-up and that perhaps they could use of the revenue to buy the groups safety vests, gloves, bags, etc. Councilor Saums stated Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recycling Authority (SCRRA) purchases those types of supplies. He was suggesting that they use some of the nip bottle revenue as cash prizes to the group that brought in the most bags of nip bottles. Mayor Allyn stated he would have to investigate whether Councilor Saums' suggestion met one of the four specific uses of the funding.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Finance Committee

1. No Action on the Discussion and possible action on the MOTION to authorize the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) to increase the bid amount for the Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School roofing projects to \$50.00 per square foot to account for inflation.

In addition, the Permanent Municipal Building Committee may, with Town Council approval, modify the scope of the "*Various School Improvement Projects*" to include the replacement of the roofs at the Central Office, Gales Ferry School, and Juliet W. Long School; installation of solar equipment at Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School; upgrades to the building management systems at Gales Ferry School; and electrical and HVAC upgrades at Juliet W. Long School) to stay within the authorized amount \$6,725,000, as approved by the townspeople at the February 22, 2022 town-wide referendum.

Also, the Town Council acknowledges that the Town of Ledyard is aware that the State of Connecticut notified the Board of Education that the State would only provide a reimbursement rate of 75% for the cost of the Gales Ferry School roof. This reduction in State grant reimbursement was based the State's record that the school was not accepted until 2006, although the Gales Ferry School project was completed in 1999; therefore, the school did not meet the State's the 20-year criteria for full reimbursement.

The Town Council, by consensus, agreed to remove this item from their Agenda, noting that the Finance Committee could bring it back to the Town Council at a later time.

RESULT: REMOVE FROM AGENDA

XI. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION to amend the Agenda to add a
MOTION to set a Hybrid Public Hearing date for November 9, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. to be held in the Council Chambers, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, in accordance with CGS 07-163e, to receive comments and recommendations regarding the following:

*“Nathan Lester House Lease Between the
Town of Ledyard and
Sharon E and Matthew S. Primett”*

Located at 153 Vinegar Hill Road, Gales Ferry

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
SECONDER Naomi Rodriguez, Town Councilor
AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
EXCUSED: Marshall

Chairman Dombrowski stated this item would be added as Item #8 under “General Items” this evening.

Finance Committee

1. MOTION to grant a bid waiver in the amount of \$34,000 to Yale New Haven Health for firefighter physicals.

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Councilor Saums noted at the Town Council’s September 14, 2022 meeting a Bid Waiver for the same dollar amount was approved for Physicians One to perform the town’s firefighter physicals. He stated at that time Administrator of Emergency Services Steve Holyfield was working with Physicians One on the details of the Memorandum of Understanding. However, he stated on September 29, 2022 Mr. Holyfield received correspondence from Physicians One stating that the vendor would no longer offer appointment style firefighter physicals, as proposed in their own Bid Proposal, and would only be offering clinic style exams. He went on to state in subsequent discussions with Yale New Haven Health, that they were willing and able to provide appointments for the firefighters physical exams at their Pequot Health Center Occupational Health Facility. Therefore, he stated tonight’s action was to change from using Physicians One to Yale New Haven Health.

Administrator of Emergency Services Steve Holyfield stated that Yale New Haven Health (YNHH) pricing was similar to that of Physicians One, ranging from \$350-\$500 per physical depending on the examination components clinically required. He stated the clinic style of exams that Physicians One proposed in their September 29, 2022 email continued to be an undesired arrangement, explaining that it was challenging to try to get 10-12 volunteer firefighters together for the clinic style physical exams and that it did not work well for the recruitment and retention of volunteers. He stated Yale New Haven Health would be able to provide appointments, however, he stated that they do not offer weekend appointments, which was their main drawback.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER: Bill Saums, Town Councilor
SECONDER Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
EXCUSED: Marshall

2. MOTION to approve a proposed “*Authorizing Resolution of the of the Ledyard Town - Council State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security*” as contained in the draft dated October 3, 2022.

DRAFT: 10/3/2022

Res: 006-2022/xxx

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION
OF THE LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL
STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND
PUBLIC PROTECTION, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND
HOMELAND SECURITY

CERTIFICATION:

I, Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk, of the Town of Ledyard, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Town Council at its duly called and held meeting on October 26, 2022 at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Ledyard may enter into with and deliver to the **State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Fred B. Allyn, III as Mayor of the Town of Ledyard is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Ledyard and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Approved by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman

The undersigned further certifies that Fred B. Allyn, III now holds the office of Mayor and that he has held that office since May 1, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this _____ day of _____ 2022.

(SEAL)

Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls
Discussion: Councilor Saums explained that each year the Town was required to approve the “*Authorizing Resolution of the of the Ledyard Town Council - State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency*”

Management and Homeland Security” to be eligible to receive grant funding to purchase emergency management equipment and other grants.

Councilor Saums went on to explain that Ledyard belongs to DEMIS Region 4, which included all of Eastern Connecticut. He stated Region 4 was scheduled to receive \$343,000 in Federal Funding to purchase various equipment for their Region. He stated the Region agreed to purchase a second Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) along with large towable generators, light boards, command tents that have heating and cooling, etc. He stated the assets purchased with the federal funding would be available to all towns in Region 4. He stated the equipment would be housed in towns throughout the Region 4 District and that each town would be responsible to maintain the equipment housed in their town. He stated should a piece of equipment be needed in another area that the town that housed the equipment would be responsible to bring it to the town that was in-need of the equipment, due to an emergency situation.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER: Bill Saums, Town Councilor
SECONDER Andra Ingalls, Town Councilor
AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
EXCUSED: Marshall

Administration Committee

- 3. MOTION to approve a proposed job description for a Clinical Therapist/Outpatient Clinician as contained in draft dated September 19, 2022.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez

Discussion: Councilor Ingalls stated the Clinical Therapist/Outpatient Clinician was a new 28-hour per week position that would work under the supervisor of Director of Youth Services Kate Sikorski-Maynard. She explained during the appropriation of funding received from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) the Finance Committee recommended and the Town Council approved to allocate \$190,000 to hire for a part-time (28 hours) Clinician for a three-year period. She went on to explain that because mental health needs were exasperated by the Covid-19 Pandemic that it was agreed that using some of the ARPA funding to alleviate and remediate the need to provide mental health support was a good and appropriate use of the funds. She concluded by stating the town would not be obligated to keep this Clinician position once the ARPA Funding has been used. She noted Director of Youth Services Kate Sikorski-Maynard worked with Administrator of Human Resources Director to draft the job description.

Councilor McGrattan, Youth & Social Services Liaison, noted the Board approved the Clinical Therapist job description approved the proposed Job Description at their September 20, 2022 meeting

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER: Andra Ingalls, Town Councilor
SECONDER S. Naomi Rodriguez, Town Councilor
AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
EXCUSED: Marshall

- 4. MOTION to appoint Ms. Jessica Buhle, (D) 65 Pheasant Run Drive, Gales Ferry, to the Parks & Recreation Commission to complete a three-year (3) term ending December 29, 2023 filing a vacancy left by Ms. Leandri.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez

Discussion: Councilor Saums thanked Ms. Buhle for her work on the Economic Development Commission.

Councilor Ryan noted that Ms. Buhle did an excellent job in organizing the Regatta Weekend in June.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
 MOVER: Andra Ingalls, Town Councilor
 SECONDER S. Naomi Rodriguez, Town Councilor
 AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
 EXCUSED: Marshall

CONSENT CALENDAR

*5. MOTION to reappoint the following members to the Agricultural Commission for a three-year (3) term ending September 24, 2025:

- Ms. Allison Angelini (U) 193 Iron Street Ledyard (Regular Member)
- Ms. Katie Yuhas (U) 34 Meetinghouse Lane, Ledyard (Regular Member)
- Mr. Steve Martic (R) 59 R-2 Long Pond South, Ledyard (Alternate Member)

*6. MOTION to reappoint the following members to the Library Commission for a two-year (2) term ending November 7, 2024:

- Ms. Carol Ganz (U) 184 Avery Hill Road, Ledyard
- Mr. Ralph Hightower (D) 1-O Lakeside Drive, Ledyard
- Ms. Rebecca Nash (D) 8 Osprey Drive, Gales Ferry

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor Irwin
 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

VOTE:

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
 MOVER: Andra Ingalls, Town Councilor
 SECONDER Whit Irwin, Town Councilor
 AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
 EXCUSED: Marshall

Finance Committee

7. MOTION to approve a proposed “*Authorizing Resolution of the Ledyard Town Council State of Connecticut Department of Energy And Environmental Protection Upgrades to the Whitford Brook Bridge And Bush Pond Dam*” as contained in the draft dated October 3, 2022.

DRAFT: 10/3/2022

Res: 003-2022/XXX

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION
 OF THE LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL
 STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 UPGRADES TO THE WHITFORD BROOK BRIDGE AND BUSH POND DAM

CERTIFICATION:

I, Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk, of the Town of Ledyard, located at 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Town Council at its duly called and held meeting on October 26, 2022 at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Ledyard may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Frederic B. Allyn III, as Mayor of the Town of Ledyard, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Ledyard to enter into a Personal Service Agreement/Grant Contract under the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to receive a \$3,000,000 grant for upgrades to the Whitford Brook Bridge and Bush Pond Dam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Frederic B. Allyn III, Mayor, is hereby authorized to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Frederic B. Allyn III, now holds the office of Mayor and that he has held that office since May 1, 2017 and will continue in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer until December 5, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this _____ day of _____ 2022.

(SEAL)

Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated State Senator Cathy Osten has secured a \$3,000,000 Grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Bond funding to replace the Whitford Brook Bridge and for upgrades to the Bush Pond Dam.

Councilor Saums explained the \$3,000,000 State funding would be for both the Bridge replacement and to replace/reconstruct the Colonel Era Stone Dams on Bush Pond and that there would not be enough State funding to pay for the full cost to replace the Bridge. Therefore, he stated Ledyard and Stonington would each share the remaining \$300,000 cost of the Bridge Replacement (\$150,000 for each town). He stated the new Bridge would have a 100-year service cycle. He stated the Lantern Hill Valley Association would address the earthen dam on Long Pond.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated the Lantern Hill Road Bridge over Whitford Brook, which was on the State Bridge List as being in Stonington, goes between the towns of Stonington and Ledyard. He stated the infrastructure report indicated that the bridge was poorly rated, and the condition of the Bridge has been a concern for some time. He stated the Bush Pond Dams were located in North Stonington, noting that these projects would involve three towns (Ledyard, Stonington and North Stonington).

Councilor Saums went on to state a few years ago, during the process to replace the bridge, that Stonington backed out of the Agreement to share the cost 50/50. However, he stated during the interim the towns (Stonington & Ledyard) made some temporary repairs to the bridge.

Mayor Allyn stated to accept the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection \$3,000,000 Grant Funding the proposed Resolution had to be adopted. He stated that the town also needed to provide a Certificate of Insurance, which has already been provided to the State.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER: Bill Saums, Town Councilor
SECONDER Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
EXCUSED: Marshall

General Items

8. MOTION to set a Hybrid Public Hearing date for November 9, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. to be held in the Council Chambers, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, in accordance with CGS 07-163e, to receive comments and recommendations regarding the following:

*“Nathan Lester House Lease Between the
Town of Ledyard and
Sharon E and Matthew S. Primett”*

Located at 153 Vinegar Hill Road, Gales Ferry

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saums

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
SECONDER Bill Saums, Town Councilor
AYES: Dombrowski, Ingalls, Irwin, McGrattan, Paul, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saums
EXCUSED: Marshall

9. Discuss Work Session Items as time permits. – None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Councilor Rodriguez moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Ingalls
8 – 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Transcribed by Roxanne M. Maher
Administrative Assistant to the Town Council

I, Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council,
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and
correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Town Council
Meeting held on October 26, 2022.

Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman