



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Town Council

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339-1551
(860) 464-3203
council@ledyardct.org

Chairman S. Naomi
Rodriguez

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

7:00 PM

Town Hall Council Chambers

In-Person: Council Chambers Town Hall Annex

Remote: Information noted below:

Join Zoom Meeting from your Computer, Smart Phone or Tablet:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87116976676?pwd=c8ux9RmUtAysJ5RQV0cxuadLmsEVg7.1>

Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 871 1697 6676; Passcode: 771293

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Rodriguez welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She stated for the members of the Town Council and the Public who were participating via video conference that the 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

Present: Councilor William Barnes
Councilor Jessica Buhle
Councilor Kevin Dombrowski
Chairperson S. Naomi Rodriguez
Councilor Tim Ryan
Councilor Tony Saccone
Councilor Gary St. Vil
Excused: Councilor April Brunelle
Councilor Carmen Garcia-Irizarry

IV. PRESENTATIONS

V. RESIDENT & PROPERTY OWNERS (COMMENTS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES

Mr. Eric Treaster, 10 Huntington Way, Ledyard, appealed to the Town Council to fill the vacancies on the Board of Assessment Appeals, noting that the Board was comprised of three Regular Members and one Alternate Member. However, he stated that currently the Board only had two Regular Members; noting that the third Regular Member and the Alternate Member positions were vacant. He stated in accordance with the Town Charter that during a Revaluation Year that the Board of Assessment Appeals can have a total of three Alternate Members. He noted that during Revaluation Years they receive a huge number of appeals. He stated that having a full Board would be helpful.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Mr. Treaster for his comments.

VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Barnes stated that he wanted to mention that the Town's Annual Budget Referendum would be held next week. He encouraged residents to get out to the polls and vote, whether they were in-favor or opposed to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. He stated that the Town Council did their very best to put forward a product that was a fair assessment for all residents to cast their opinion, noting although some might have wished the proposed budget was higher and some might have wished the budget was lower. However, he stated that the Town Council would only know how residents felt about the budget based on those who go out to the polls and vote to make their opinions known.

Councilor Ryan stated that he would echo Councilor Barnes' comments regarding the May 20, 2025 Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Referendum. He noted the best tool the town had was educated voters. Therefore, he stated that he would encourage anybody who does go out to vote to also educate themselves on the facts of the budgets; both the Town Budget and the Board of Education Budget. He also suggested residents look at where the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget stands relative to previous years; and that they also look at the budget through a lens of what the Town will be facing the following year (fy 26/27). He noted the 2025 Revaluation and potential State Legislative decisions could greatly impact Ledyard's revenues. Therefore, he asked for residents to get out and vote; that they educate themselves on the options; and to ask questions, noting they could reach out to any members of the Town Council.

Councilor Buhle stated that she was going to also join her fellow Councilors and ask that residents get out and vote on May 20, 2025, noting that the polls would be open on Tuesday from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. She stated that Absentee Ballots were available at the Town Clerk's Office. She continued by suggesting for anyone who was interested in learning more about the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget that they could watch any of the videos or read the minutes from all of the Budget Work Sessions that the Finance Committee held on March 6, 10, & 18, 2025 and also watch the Work Sessions that the Board of Education Finance Committee held.

Councilor Buhle continued by noting that they all have opinions about the budget; and that she would encourage all of those in town who disagree with each other to continue to remain nice, especially on social media. She stated that she has seen this budget preparation become contentious, noting that they all really love the town they live in, and there was no reason to be mean to each other over disagreements on the internet.

Chairman Rodriguez announced the following upcoming events:

- **Memorial Day Parade** has been scheduled for Sunday, May 25, 2025. She stated unfortunately, she would not be able to attend the parade this year because she would be attending her son's College Graduation. She stated that she has been waiting for this moment for a long time. She stated that eleven relatives would be joining her family for the Graduation and that they would like to see New York.

Mayor Allyn, III, noted that the Memorial Day Parade would assemble at 12:30 at the War Memorial in front of the Bill Library with some brief comments; and that the Parade would kick off at 1:00 p.m.

- **Yale-Harvard Regatta** - Saturday, June 7, 2025

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the following Town Council Minutes:

- Special Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2025
- Public Hearing Minutes of April 21, 2025
- Regular Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2025

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications List - May 14, 2025

Chairman Rodriguez stated a Communications List has been provided on the meeting portal for tonight's meeting, and she noted referrals were listed.

X. REFERALS

XI. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

1. Administration Committee

Councilor Buhle stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening with the objective to focus on working on the draft “*Ordinance Establishing an Ethics Commission for*

the Town of Ledyard”. She stated that she and Councilor Dombrowski both independently reviewed the proposal that Councilor Garcia-Irizarry initially drafted. She stated that she and Councilor Dombrowski reviewed each of their suggestions noting that they had a very positive exchange and productive meeting. She stated that their proposed changes to the draft Ordinance would be incorporated into one document for review at their June 11, 2025 meeting.

RESULT: .

2. Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
No Report.

RESULT: .

3. Finance Committee

Councilor Saccone stated the Finance Committee held their Regular Meeting on May 7, 2025 and he noted the Committee had a number of items on tonight’s agenda which he would discuss later this evening.

RESULT: .

4. Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor St. Vil stated the LUPPW Committee met on May 5, 2025 and continued to discuss the Historic Designation of the Spicer Homestead Ruins Property. He stated that the Historic District Commission has a Plan to move forward with the initiative with some support from Planning Director Elizabeth Burdick. He also noted that the Historic District Commission Members discussed potentially meeting with Mayor Allyn, III, to talk about the boundaries of the proposed Spicer Homestead Ruins.

RESULT: .

5. Conservation Commission

Councilor Barnes stated the Conservation Commission received a sign from Ledge Light Health District regarding “*Care for Ticks*”. He stated that the Conservation Commission felt that the ticks were going to be a serious issue this year; and therefore, they were going to try to get more signs with the intent to place them at public locations to remind people about Tick Safety. He stated the Commission would also be looking to put out flyers, noting that they discussed options to store the flyers in a weather protected place.

6. Ledyard Center Fire Department

Councilor Saccone reported that unfortunately there was a fire yesterday on Lambtown Road, noting that it was a total loss. He stated because there were no fire hydrants that water had to be brought in. He noted the Mutual Aide support they received from neighboring Fire Companies which included Montville, Stonington, and others. He stated all the Fire Departments, and their members did an excellent job, noting that there were no injuries. He thanked all of the Emergency Responders for their work.

7. Ledyard Farmers' Committee

Chairman Rodriguez stated that the Farmers Market would kick-off their 2025 Season on June 4, 2025. She stated the Committee has been working hard to have everything ready. She noted that Mayor Allyn, III, would *Ring the Opening Bell* and she encouraged residents to come out and support the Farmers Market this summer.

8. Retirement Board

Chairman Rodriguez stated the Retirement Board would be meeting on May 20, 2025.

9. Inland Wetland and Water Courses Commission

Councilor St. Vil noted the IWWC met on May 6, 2025 and have continued the Public Hearing regarding the Application for 1920 & 1939 Military Highway, formerly Sweet Hill Farm, to May 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

XIII REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) Road Resurfacing & Paving - Mayor Allyn stated the following work has been done: (a) Spot repairs on Christy Hill Road from Oakwood Drive to Norman Drive; (b) Large patch job on Colonel Ledyard Highway from Blonders Boluvard to Gallup Hill Road; (c) Milling and paving on Christy Hill Road from Long Cove Road to Parkwood Drive; (d) Paving work at Thomas Road (Route 117 end) and Thompson Street; (e) Crack Sealing was scheduled to resume on Shewville Road from Gallup Hill Road to Route 214; Colonel Ledyard Highway from Gallup Hill Road to Fairway Drive; and Christy Hill Road from Oakwood Drive to Route 12. Mayor Allyn asked that residents keep this road work in mind when traveling around town; (2) Ribbon Cutting - Saturday, April 26, 2025 - Mayor Allyn stated that a Ribbon Cutting at FRAG's Retro Zone LLC was held at 10:00 a.m. at 12 Military Highway, Gales Ferry. Mayor Allyn thanked the Economic Development Commission and Councilor Buhle for attending the event. He stated although the weather was rainy that FRAG's set up a tent outside the business for the event. He stated that *FRAG* was the *Federation of Retro and Arcade Gaming*, noting that they had a standup model of Miss Pacman; Centipede, and other games. They would also have games that you could buy and take home; (3) Connecticut Main Street Report Assessment - Mayor Allyn stated the Reports were provided at the April 29, 2025 meeting. However, he stated in reviewing Ledyard's Report that he found a number of errors and some critical missing information. Therefore, he stated after the meeting he met with the Group that prepared the

Reports, and he noted that Ledyard's Report was being revised. He stated once he received the final Report that he would share it with the Town Council and the Economic Development Commission; (4) Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Legislative Meeting May 6, 2025 - Mayor Allyn reported on the following: (a) Fair Housing Bill, which they call the *Fair Share Bill*, if approved would have a profound effect on Municipalities and Zoning, because it would essentially override many Zoning Regulations if Municipalities do not have what the State perceived to be *Fair Share for Affordable Housing*; (b) Public Act 24-46 "*An Act Establishing a Property Tax Exemption for Veterans Who Have a Service-Connected Permanent and Total Disability Rating*" (Veterans Tax Exemption Bill) - Mayor Allyn noted that the State Legislature passed the Bill and that they were expanding it so that in addition to the dwelling that it would also include two-acres of the primary property. He stated that Tax Assessor Adrianna Hedwall has reviewed 93 Veteran's Tax Exemption Applications, noting that only two or three of those property owners owned more than two-acres. However, he stated that the Veterans Tax Exemption would have a huge impact, noting the last report indicated that Ledyard would lose over \$500,000 in tax revenues; (c) (Summer) Camp Bill - Mayor Allyn stated the State Legislature heard the Camp Bill yesterday that would require all the Camps to be licensed by the State and that each camp would be required to have an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) on site. He stated for a municipality such as Hartford that had 16 different campsites that they would need to hire 16 APRNs for the 6 to 8 weeks of Summer Camp, noting that the Bill did not only apply to Summer Camps Bill that it would also apply to Parks & Recreation Programs such as Tennis Lessons, etc. He noted that the State House was packed with people who were opposed to the Camp Bill stating that the proposed Bill would change the affordability for families; especially when they were experiencing what they were calling a *Childcare Desert* in our area. He stated that Summer Camp Programs have been an affordable option for many middle-income families; (d) 1,400+ State Unfunded Mandates - Mayor Allyn noted Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) April 17, 2025 letter that he forwarded to the Town Council. He stated that eight SCCOG Town Leaders would be meeting with some House and Senate Minority and Majority Leaders on May 15, 2025 to discuss their concerns. He stated that he finds it fascinating that the State of Connecticut has either the highest or the second highest surplus in State history; and yet they continue to pat themselves on the back while they continue to pass more Unfunded Mandates onto Municipalities; (5) Housing Needs Assessment - Mayor Allyn stated the Housing Needs Assessment was presented to the Southeastern Connecticut of Council of Government (SCCOG). He noted the Housing Needs Assessment indicated that there was a housing unit shortage of 9,128 among the 20 SCCOG Member Towns, citing that this was primarily due to the underproduction of housing in our area. He stated the increase in hiring at Electric Boat-General Dynamics was a huge driver for the housing needs; and that they need to house these people so they did not have to drive an hour each way to and from work; (6) Solid Waste Management - Mayor Allyn stated that he was Chairing the Southeastern Connecticut of Council of Government (SCCOG) Solid Waste Committee and he noted that they had Bus Tour to visit the following facilities: (a) Lisbon Wheelabrator Waste To Energy Plant which was a 15MW biopower facility. He stated the Claw Machine pulls up 2.5 tons of garbage with each grab, and dumps it into the incinerator, noting that it was an amazing operation; (b) Willimantic Municipal Recycling Facility where they collect and sort material to repurpose waste that used to be buried in landfills; (c) Ledyard Blue Earth Organics Compost

Bins - Mayor Allyn stated that they visited Ledyard's Transfer Station and discussed their composting operations. He stated that he was sorry Councilor Garcia-Irizarry was not here tonight; (7) 2025 Revaluation - Mayor Allyn stated that Vision Appraisal has been continuing their work in town. He stated the preliminary data was showing that residential values were up dramatically; and that commercial and industrial values were flat; which would further impact their residential property taxes; (8) Small Town Economic Assistant Program (STEAP) \$1 Million Grant for the *Ledyard Playscape Improvement Projects* for the following Town Parks: Town Green, Aljen Heights, Blonders Park, East Drive - Mayor Allyn stated the State was supposed to announce the Grant Awards in early April, however, he stated on April 3, 2025 he received an email stating that because of the overwhelming response that the State would make announcements toward the end of April. However, he stated they were midway through May, and he still has not heard from the State about Ledyard's \$1 million Grant Application; (9) Linda C. Davis Food Pantry- Beef Donation - Mayor Allyn thanked the Ledyard Rotary and the High School Agri-Science Program for once again raising 2 steer calves, that produced 829 pounds of beef for the Food Pantry. He stated the beef was butchered and wrapped in one-pound packages. He stated that they greatly appreciated their generosity and work, noting that the Food Pantry just ran out of the beef they received last year from the Rotary and the Agri-Science Program, noting that the beef would provide a great benefit to their community.

Chairman Rodriguez stated the Ledyard Prevention Coalition held a Drug Take Back Day on April 26, 2025. She stated because it was pouring rain that day they moved into the Police Department Lobby. She stated despite the bad weather that a lot of people came out and they collected 70 pounds of unused prescription drugs, stating that it was good to get those drugs off the streets and keep them out of their waterways.

Questions to the Mayor

Councilor Ryan noted the proposed Camp Bill #2025-06 and he questioned who was supporting the Bill; and whether the Mayor or their Parks & Recreation Director was able to attend the Hearing in Hartford yesterday. Mayor Allyn, III, stated that neither he or Parks & Recreation & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., were able to attend the Hearing. However, he stated that Mr. Johnson's counterpart from Preston was able to attend the Hearing and that he was vocal. Mayor Allyn stated in speaking to New London, New Haven and Preston they all recognize that the Licensing and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) requirements were going to be a very big burden, especially at a time when they had serious shortage of nurses in general. He noted that he was just reading through the 38-pages regarding the Licensing Requirements.

Mayor Allyn continued by addressing Councilor Ryan's question about who was pushing the Camp Bill noting that he did not know. However, he stated in looking through the State Legislature's Votes that they were party-line; with the exception of Senator Cathy Osten. He stated that he thanked Senator Osten for her vote against the Bill, noting that because the Senator was from Eastern Connecticut she recognized that the Camp Bill would be a huge cost for small towns.

Councilor Buhle addressed Bill #2025-06 Camp Bill stating that she found it interesting that they were requiring the Camps to have an APRN on site, especially when their School Nurses were not APRNs. She noted that the School Nurses would probably be the ones to take the Summer Camp positions; however, she stated that they would not be qualified. She stated between the cost for Licensing and the APRN's that it would eliminate affordable Summer Camp options for many families. She stated that the proposed Camp Bill would also make the more expensive camps or overnight camps unaffordable. She stated instead of an overnight camp costing \$700 it could now cost \$1,200. She stated that she would agree with Councilor Ryan in asking who wanted the Camp Bill; and she questioned if something happened that cause them to proposed the Bill.

Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., explained that there was an incident in Bethany where children were being sexually assaulted. However, he stated the Camp Bill Licensing and APRN Requirements would not have changed that situation at all; explaining that the Bethany Board of Education had done a background check and the individual was fingerprinted. He stated when initial complaints were brought to the town that the Police Chief and First Selectman essentially looked the other way; and allowed the individual to work and continue to essentially sexually assault the children.

Councilor Dombrowski asked how having APRNs at the Camp Sites would have changed the incident that happened in Bethany. Mr. Johnson stated that the background check, licensing and APRN requirements that the Camp Bill would implement would not have made a difference. He went on to explain that currently Summer Camps were License Exempt; explaining that the proposed Camp Bill was trying to make the Summer Camps have the same requirements as a Daycare facility; which would involve having a certain number of toilet seats for the campers, a certain number of hand washing stations to toilets based on some sort of ratio; water testing, and other things. He stated if the Summer Camp Programs did not meet the requirements that they would not be allowed to serve the community with the Summer Day Camps.

Councilor Barnes questioned whether the Public Act 24-46 "*An Act Establishing a Property Tax Exemption for Veterans Who Have a Service-Connected Permanent and Total Disability Rating*" (Veteran Disability Tax Exemption Bill) was approved. Mayor Allyn stated that the State Legislature approved the Bill and that the Tax Assessor has recalculated the impact on the town's tax revenues. He also stated that the Veterans Tax Exemption Bill was made retroactive to last October, 2024, noting that it would now impact the previous fiscal year.

RESULT:

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Barnes addressed the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Advisory Questions. He stated he asked Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher to send him a copy of the Questions that would appear on the May 20, 2025 Referendum. He stated the Advisory Questions on Sample Ballot that was posted on the town website had been changed. Therefore, he stated that he was curious if anyone had any insight into what prompted the change. He noted for reference the Advisory Questions were submitted by himself, Councilor

Dombrowski, Board of Education Member Earl (Ty) Lamb and Mayor Allyn. He stated to ensure that they were in compliance with the Town Charter that the Mayor had asked the Town Attorney to review the Questions.

Chairman Rodriguez stated that the Advisory Questions were not in-par with the Town Charter, so the Town Attorney took a look at the Questions and that he spoke to the Town Clerk and that they made some changes. She stated the only one who could make changes to the Advisory Questions was the Town Clerk. She stated that the Town Clerk's email was sent to everybody stating that this was how the Advisory Questions were going to look.

Councilor Dombrowski and Councilor Barnes stated they did not receive the Town Clerk's email. Chairman Rodriguez stated that she thought the email was sent to everyone.

Councilor Dombrowski stated a properly noticed Advisory Question was submitted by the Mayor and it was supported by three other Elected Officials, noting that the language of the Advisory Questions had already been approved by the Town Attorney prior to the submission to the Town Clerk. Therefore, he questioned Why and How the Advisory Questions would change from the time it was submitted to the Town Clerk to what was presented on the Sample Ballot. He also questioned what avenue in the Town Charter or State Statute allowed for a change to a valid question, that was properly submitted.

Chairman Rodriguez stated according to the Town Attorney, he said that he did not see the Advisory Questions.

Councilor Buhle stated in searching her current email inbox that she had the following emails that were sent to the Town Council Group email:

March 27, 2025

“Submission of Advisory Questions” from Town Clerk, Patricia Riley that stated: “ *Dear Town Council,*

I am writing to provide four letters that have been submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office in accordance with Chapter 7, Section 7 of the Town Charter. These letters, written by elected town officers, propose advisory questions to be included on the ballot for the upcoming budget referendum scheduled for May 20, 2025. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Sincerely, Patricia Riley”

April 1, 2025

“Submission of Advisory Questions: Hi, Roxanne, Please see the below legal opinion from our town attorney regarding placing advisory questions on budget referendums. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, Patty

Patty - per our conversation and in line with past practice, the Town Council should formally acknowledge any letters or petitions that were submitted to the Town Clerk requesting an advisory question in accordance with Chapter 7, Section 7 of the Town Charter. However, the Town Council does not need to vote to place these questions on the

ballot.

However, if there are subsequent budget referendums, only the Town Council may place advisory questions on the ballot. Thanks, Matt Ritter, Shipman & Goodwin LLP Partner.”

April 4, 2025

“Subject: Submission of Amended Advisory Questions for May 2025 Budget Referendum: Dear Roxanne, I am writing to provide the attached amended advisory questions to be included on the ballot for the upcoming budget referendum scheduled for May 20, 2025. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Sincerely, Patricia Riley”.

Councilor Dombrowski questioned whether the Town Clerk on her own accord changed the Advisory Questions without discussing it with anyone. Chairman Rodriguez stated in accordance with the Town Charter that the only one who could change the Advisory Questions was the Town Clerk. Mayor Allyn stated who asked the Town Attorney to review the Advisory Questions. Chairman Rodriguez stated that she talked with the Town Attorney to see if he saw the Advisory Questions; and that he said that he did not.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that the question was *“Who asked the Town Clerk to investigate changing the Advisory Questions”*. Chairman Rodriguez stated that it must have been the Town Attorney because she did not ask the Town Clerk to change the questions. Councilor Dombrowski stated that he would like to see that correspondence.

Mayor Allyn stated that he would provide the 12:45 p.m. February 12, 2025 email from Attorney Matt Ritter to him in which he talked about the *Advisory Questions* that he had proposed. He noted that Attorney Ritter said that he would not suggest using the language provided in Section 7-344 of the Connecticut General Statutes. He stated in his email Attorney Ritter questioned whether he (the Mayor) was comfortable with saying *“Too High or Too Low?”* and that he responded *“Yes, I think we can accomplish that goal with these questions, as provided”*, and that he would provide the changes to the Town Clerk for her review to move them ahead. Therefore, he stated that after the *Advisory Questions* had been reviewed by the Town Attorney and the Town Clerk, that he also did not understand why the wording of the Advisory Questions was changed again.

Chairman Rodriguez stated they would move on to New Business.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee

1. MOTION to approve appropriations from the receipt of sales of vehicles and equipment through GovDeals in the total amount of \$27,225 as follows:
 - \$22,200 to the Public Works Heavy Equipment CNR Account 21040101-57311;

- \$2,525 to the Public Works Pooled Vehicle CNR Account 21040101-57315;
- \$1,300 to the Gales Ferry Fire Company CNR Account 21020551-57300; and
- \$1,200 to the Nathan Lester House Donations Account 20810201-54203-24203.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, stated the town held another GovDeals on-line auction noting that the following items were sold:

- Large Roadside Mower \$8,000 - Mayor Allyn stated that the mower had a lot of hours on it. He stated the \$8,000 also included some other surplus equipment.
- Honda Civic \$2,525 that was in the Town's Pooled Vehicles - Mayor Allyn stated that the vehicle had some transmission issues.
- Gales Ferry Fire Department \$1,300 for surplus equipment.
- Nathan Lester House - \$1,200 Lawn Tractor

Mayor Allyn explained the funding from the sale of the surplus equipment would go back to their respective accounts to be used to purchase equipment in the future.

Councilor Saccone provided some additional information regarding the sale of the Gales Ferry Fire Department's surplus equipment. He explained that the Fire Department had an operating budget provided in the town's budget. He stated when surplus equipment was sold that because it was town property the funds would not go back to the Fire Department's operating budget.

VOTE 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Buhle

SECONDER: Tim Ryan

AYE: 7 Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 2 Brunelle, and Garcia-Irizarry

2. MOTION to authorize a bid waiver for Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc. (Casella) for Bid No. 2025-08 (Oversized Bulky Waste Removal) due to lack of three bids, in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "An Ordinance for Purchasing".

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Mayor Allyn explained that the Town solicits Bids for Bulky Waste Removal Services at the Transfer Station every two (2) years. He stated again this time the town only received two bids, noting that the last several times they went out to bid for Bulky Waste Services they did not receive the required three bids. He stated that Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc. (formerly Casella) was the low bidder versus CWPM over the 2-year contract period.

Mayor Allyn went on to note that the Bids were as follows: Willimantic Waste \$166,680; and CWPM \$168,000, noting that with this Bid that they had the reverse of what happened with Curbside Collection Contract.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Tim Ryan

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle

AYE: 7 Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 2 Brunelle, and Garcia-Irizarry

3. MOTION to approve a water rate increase of 4% to become effective on July 1, 2025 as recommended by the WPCA and contained in the water and sewer rate table presented at the WPCA April 22, 2025 Public Hearing; in accordance with Ordinance #400-001 "An Ordinance Creating a Water Pollution Control Authority for the Town of Ledyard".

Discussion: Councilor Saccone noted that Water Pollution Control Authority Chairman Ed Lynch attended the Town Council's April 9, 2025 meeting to provide an overview of the Water Operations proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget, which included the need for the 4% water rate increase. He stated the WPCA held a Public Hearing on April 22, 2025 to present the increase to their ratepayers.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Tony Saccone

SECONDER: Kevin Dombrowski

AYE: 7 Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 2 Brunelle, and Garcia-Irizarry

4. MOTION to grant a Bid Waiver to Land Care & Design, LLC., of Ledyard, Connecticut, due to receiving fewer than the required three bids in response to Bid #2025-06 (Routine Maintenance for Parks & Recreation Facilities), in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "An Ordinance for Purchasing"

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., stated in response to Bid #2025-06 (Routine Maintenance for Parks & Recreation Facilities), the town only received one bid. He stated that Landcare & Design, LLC., was their current contractor, noting that he has been providing services to Ledyard for about forty-years, and that he does a good job. He stated that the contract did increase, noting that since their last bid from six-years ago, that the cost of goods have increased. He stated the term of the contract was four-years with 2 one-year option years.

Councilor Ryan questioned whether the bid came in under budget. Mr. Johnson stated for these services the budget was correct. However, he noted the Grass Cutting Bid was scheduled to close on Monday, May 19, 2025 and that they would see how those bids come in.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Buhle

SECONDER: Tim Ryan

AYE: 7 Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 2 Brunelle, and Garcia-Irizarry

5. MOTION to grant a Bid Waiver to M&M Hydroseeding, LLC, of Griswold, Connecticut, due to receiving fewer than the required three bids in response to Bid #2025-07 (Turf Management for Parks & Recreation Facilities), in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "An Ordinance for Purchasing."

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., explained in response to Bid #2025-07 (Turf Management for Parks & Recreation Facilities) the town did not receive the required three bids. Therefore, he stated that a bid waiver has been requested. He stated in reviewing proposal received and comparing it to the previous year's contract that the cost did not significantly increase; especially with the addition of providing loam and the top dressing, noting that the cost of seed and other materials were also going up.

Mr. Johnson went on to explain that because this work was a specialty area, they felt that they would not receive any additional bids if they went out to bid a second time, therefore, he stated the bid waiver has been requested. He stated this work was not like lawn cutting where they would receive a number of bids. He stated the term of the contract was four-years with 2 one-year option years.

VOTE: 7-0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Tim Ryan

SECONDER: Tony Saccone

AYE: 7 Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 2 Brunelle, and Garcia-Irizarry

6. MOTION to grant a Bid Waiver to Colliers Project Leaders not to exceed \$110,000 due to receiving fewer than the required three bids in response to Bid #24-8 (Juliet Long HVAC Installation Owner's Representative Services), in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "An Ordinance for Purchasing".

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Mr. Joe Gush, 57 Town Farm Road, Ledyard, Chairman, Permanent Municipal Building Committee, stated that the Juliet W. Long School Heating Ventilation Air Condition System (HVAC) Project has been in the works for quite some time. He stated in response to Bid #24-8 (Juliet Long HVAC Installation Owner's Representative Services) that the town only received two bids. He stated although the PMBC interviewed both of the Bidders that after learning that one of Bidders was involved in bribery scheme on a full construction project; the Permanent Municipal Building Committee rejected the bid, which left them with only one bid remaining.

Mr. Gush went on to explain that Colliers Project Leaders had done work for the town in the past and that they were pleased with their work. He stated at their May 5, 2025 meeting the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) selected Colliers Project Leaders. He stated

because three bids were not received that the PMBC has requested a bid waiver in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "An Ordinance for Purchasing".

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Tony Saccone

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle

AYE: 7 Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 2 Brunelle, and Garcia-Irizarry

7. MOTION to transfer tax accounts in the amount of \$88,887.98 listed in the report dated April 22, 2025, to the “Suspense File”

In addition, authorize the transfer of non-refundable over payments in the amount of \$120.92 to the general fund listed in the report dated April 23, 2025.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski

Discussion: Councilor Saccone explained as part of the town’s year-end housekeeping the Tax Collector presents a list of accounts classified as “*Uncollectable*” to be transferred to the “*Suspense List*”. He stated that this action would remove the taxes from an active status to a non-active status. However, he stated that the accounts that were being transferred would remain on the tax roll and would be flagged as a “*Suspense Item*”. He stated that except for bankruptcy or deceased, the remaining tax bills would be sent to a Collection Agency and would remain on the tax rolls for fifteen years from their due date. He stated that this year’s “*Suspense File*” was \$20,139.44 higher than last year (FY 23/24) noting the Suspense File was in the amount of \$68,748.54.

Councilor Saccone went on to note that about two-weeks ago the Tax Collector’s Office received a \$17,000 check from the Collection Agency, for taxes were due in 2010. He went on to state that the town does not pay for the Collection Agency’s service, noting that the Collection Agency would receive its payment for services from the person that owed the taxes.

Councilor Saccone continued by addressing the transfer of Overpayments, explaining that per State Statute section 12-129 and Town of Ledyard Ordinance #200-002 that “*over payments under \$5.00 shall be transferred to the general fund*” He stated for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 the over payment amount that would be transferred to the General Fund was in the amount of \$120.92. He stated as the Town Council was aware, that all other over payments were reimbursed to the property owner or lender, based on who made the over payment.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Jessica Buhle

SECONDER: Kevin Dombrowski

AYE: 7 Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, and St. Vil

EXCUSED: 2 Brunelle, and Garcia-Irizarry

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski.

~~VO~~Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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

I, S. Naomi Rodriguez, 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 May 14, 2025.

S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

DISCLAIMER:

Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.

The Town Council's Official Agenda and final Minutes will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.