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From: LYNN WILKINSON <lynnwilkinson57@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2024 9:19 AM
To: Town Council Group; Fred Allyn, III
Subject: Town Council meeting 11/13/2024 Ethics Commission

11/18/2024
Lynn Wilkinson
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Ledyard Town Council
Mayor Fred Allyn

Dear Town Council and Mr. Allyn,
I have just finished watching the video from the last council meeting, and I have several comments and concerns.

Of the 169 towns in Connecticut, we are in the minority with no ethic commission, or code of ethics for elected officials. I fail to see how correcting this lack is "a solution looking for a problem". The example given of successfully addressing embezzlement is all well and good, but many ethical issues are not nearly so clear cut. Financial gain is not the only measure of ethics violation, and I am disappointed to see an elected official ignore that in his statements.

Furthermore, although I understand a commission to investigate wrongdoing can be called, an *independent* commission would do more for the public trust. This is the very reason so many asked for independent studies to supplement application to P&Z recently. Essentially asking a body to investigate itself (should the need ever arise) would do little to assuage resident's concerns about potential improprieties.

Ledyard is in a period of rapid change, and there are many impactful projects on the table, with presumably more to come. There is a lot of fear and uncertainty, which is not unusual in these circumstances. Adopting a code of ethics and an Ethics Commission, which seems to be fairly standard practice in Connecticut towns, is hardly following your friends off the proverbial bridge; it would improve voter confidence in our elected official's decisions, and lay many concerns about transparency to rest.

I hope that going forward, the council will be open to considering the taxpayer's requests, rather than relying on the old standard of "this is how we've always done it".

Respectfully,
Lynn Wilkinson