



Chairman Gary A. St. Vil

TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

DRAFT

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

Chairman St. Vil 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 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 –

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location
William Barnes	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Excused	
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Ty (Earl) Lamb	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Adrienne Parad	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
James Thompson	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS – None.

- V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS (COMMENTS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES) – None.

- VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

- VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted on June 9, 2026 there was a S.W.A.T (Special Weapons and Tactics) Incident at the Middle School. She stated everyone at the school was evacuated to the Juliet W. Long School until the Police Department could clear the Middle School and determine that it was a false alarm. She thanked the Police Department for their professionalism, noting that one of her kids was at the Middle School. She stated this was the second S.W.A.T. Incident in recent months noting on March 26, 2026 they had a similar call at the High School.

Councilor Parad commented on following: (1) Middle School June 9, 2026 S.W.A.T (Special Weapons and Tactics) Incident – Councilor Parad stated her son attends the Middle School and that he felt comfortable and confident, noting that School Principal Mr. Early knew what to do, and the Police took care of everything including getting the kids on the buses, and the communication was great. She stated although the incident itself was horrible to go through, it was orderly, noting that they have been practicing for these types of situations. She stated that if they had a situation that was real that she felt that Ledyard had a good group of people managing the situation; (2) Baby Wipes Recall- June 5, 2026 – Councilor Parad noted that Target was recalling select *Up & Up Fragrance Free and Fresh Cucumber Scented baby wipes* due to potential contamination with *Burkholderia cepacia* and *B. gladioli bacteria*, which can cause severe infections. She stated that people should immediately stop using these products and return them to any Target store for a full refund.

Councilor Barnes stated the Farmers Market has kicked-off their 2026 Season, noting that he has been visiting the Market and has picked up some great meals.

Councilor Brunelle announced that the Pride Pizza Picnic in the Park would be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Town Green. She stated it was a free event and that all were welcome to attend. She noted they would have a D.J., Balloons, Face Painting, Goodies, and of course Pizza.

Councilor Thompson stated while visiting his daughter in Texas this past week he had the opportunity to attend his first Pride Event. He stated to all those in the LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual/Aromantic/Agender) community, that he wanted to let them know that he welcomed and accepted everyone.

Councilor Ryan commented on the following: (1) Farmers Market – Councilor Ryan stated that he wanted to echo Councilor Barnes’ comments regarding the Farmers Market. He stated they had an excellent selections of food trucks noting that he thought that they had more vendors at each of the weekly Markets than they had in past years. He encouraged residents to visit the Market if they have not done so in the past, noting it was a great event; and he was glad that Ledyard could host it; (2) Road Safety – Councilor Ryan noted earlier this evening he received a News Alert that Life Star was called for a motorcycle accident in Griswold. He stated that he also rides motorcycles and he reminded motorists to keep their eyes out for those on two wheels and that motorcyclists always look a mile ahead. He stated they did not need to give the Police and Emergency Responders more work than they already had.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2026

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

VOTE: 7 – 0 – 1 Approved and so declared (St. Vil abstained)

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman St. Vil noted that a Communications List has been provided on the meeting portal for tonight’s meeting, and he noted there were referrals listed.

X. FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET UPDATE

Chairman St. Vil stated with the townspeople’s approval of the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget at the May 19, 2026 Referendum, that tonight they would conclude the Annual Budget Process, with setting the Mill Rate later this evening. He stated that this item would be removed from the Agenda going forward.

X. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening and they had a couple of items on tonight’s Agenda.

Community Relations Committee for Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Councilor Brunelle reported on the following: (1) Pride Pizza Picnic in the Park has been scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; and (2) Linda C. Daivs Woman of the Year Award would be presented at the Town Council’s July 8, 2026 meeting.

Finance Committee

Councilor Ryan stated the Finance Committee’s June 3, 2026 meeting was cancelled.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor Thompson stated the LUPPW Committee’s June 1, 2026 meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

Liaison Reports

Permanent Municipal Building Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the PMBC met on June 8, 2026 and addressed the following: (1) Gales Ferry School Roof Project – The Bond Company would provide a list of Contractors to finish the installation of the solar panels and the roof. The town would be reimbursed for some of the additional expenses that were caused by the delay of the project; and Board of Education Director of Buildings and Grounds Wayne Donaldson has contacted the State to inquire about the Grant Funding relative to the project delays The Town would be meeting with the Bonding Company on June 17, 2026; (2) Juliet W. Long School Roof Project - The Town was working to submit the Solar Energy Rebate Application with Eversource, at which time the solar power would be turned on; (3) Board of Education Central Office Roof Project has been completed, and the Board of Education has done their final approvals; (4) Juliet W. Long School Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Installation – This project was ahead of schedule and about \$493,000 under budget.

Conservation Commission

Councilor Lamb noted the Conservation Commission met on June 9, 2026 and discussed the following: (1) Trout Unlimited Presentation - The Non-Profit Organization’s work included habitat restoration, plant trees, best management practices, conducts research; environmental DNA, and river health. Trout Unlimited work would dovetail with the work that the Lantern Hill Valley Alliance and the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed has been doing; (2) Trail Work and Maintaining their assigned properties continues; and (3) 2026 Aquarion Environmental Champion Award was given to Maggie Favretti, Co-founder of the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed for her work in uniting six watershed communities. In addition, Ms. Favretti was cited for obtaining a \$115,000 Grant for their Organization and for conducting action summits which included 180 kids, community leaders, and tribal experts.

XI. MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III was not present.

XII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administration Committee

1. MOTION to set a Public Hearing (Hybrid Format - Video Conference and In-Person) Public Hearing date on July 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. to be held in Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, Connecticut, to receive comments and recommendations regarding a proposed “*An Ordinance Establishing a Town of Ledyard Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission*”.

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Lamb

Background: In accordance with the Town Charter; Chapter III; Section 5; a Public Hearing shall be held by the Town Council before any ordinance can be passed. This would be the fourth Public Hearing the Town Council would hold regarding the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Ty Lamb, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

2. MOTION to appoint Councilor Carmen Garcia-Irizarry (D) 58 Eagle Ridge Drive, Gales Ferry, to the “*Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Separation of the Planning Commission & Zoning Commission*” a for six-month term in accordance with Res#002-2026/Mar 25.

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Barnes

Discussion: The structure of this Ad Hoc Committee called for one representative from the Town Council. Councilor Brunelle stated that Councilor Garcia-Irizarry was a perfect fit.

VOTE: 7 – 0 - 1 Approved and so declared (Garcia-Irizarry Abstained)

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 – 0 - 1
MOVER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Bill Barnes. Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, , Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
ABSTAINED:	Garcia-Irizarry
EXCUSED:	Buhle

General Items

Chairman St. Vil stated before they addressed the next item on tonight’s agenda, that he wanted to ask Chief Rich whether there was anything being planned to recognize his retirement. Chief Rich stated that there were ideas in the works for an event in August. He stated more information would be forth coming.

Chief Rich continued by thanking the Town Council for the tremendous support he has received during his 10+ tenure in Ledyard serving as their Chief of Police; and the support the Police Department receives on a daily basis from the Town Council and from the community. He stated that he was grateful over the years to this body both past and present for being receptive to the initiatives the Police Department has undertaken to keep the community safe.

Chairman St. Vil stated that he appreciated the work and leadership of Chief Rich.

3. MOTION to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Captain Kenneth R. Creutz to Police Chief, effective as of the date of Chief Rich’s retirement of June 30, 2026; in accordance with Chapter VI; Section 7B of the Town Charter.
Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Lamb
Discussion: Chief Rich thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to address them this evening regarding the appointment of Kenneth Creutz to serve as his successor as the Chief of the Ledyard Police Department.

Chief Rich continued by providing some background regarding Captain Kenneth R. Creutz noting that he has been with the Ledyard Police Department for 28 years, and came up through the ranks, gaining valuable experience in each assignment. He noted that Mr. Creutz was appointed to patrol in 1998, promoted to Sergeant in 2007, to Lieutenant in 2015, and Captain in 2022. He has set a great example in his long tenure by his work ethic, and he has earned the respect of the officers who work in the Department. Captain Creutz has earned his advancement the right way—by hard work and merit, and that goes a long way in the world of police leadership.

Chief Rich noted that Captain Creutz has many personal attributes that translate into strong leadership. He is morally and ethically upright, decisive, compassionate, and he is an excellent communicator. He cares about Ledyard’s Officers and Staff, and he cares about the community. Chief Rich stated that he could provide countless examples over the past ten years where he has taken note of Captain Creutz care and concern for the people who call Ledyard home.

Chief Rich stated he realized upon his appointment in 2016 that his responsibility was to prepare Captain Creutz to act in his role when necessary; and to serve as the department head in his absence. To that end, he has delegated and assigned Captain Creutz critical tasks and major projects, including the management of Ledyard’s Police Department’s State Accreditation in Tiers 1, 2, and 3, which they achieved under his leadership in 2025; and about eighteen months ahead of the statutory schedule.

Chief Rich went on to note over the past several years Captain Creutz has completed many demanding training classes that would serve him well in the role of the Chief. These include the six-week Command Training Executive Development seminar at Roger Williams University, the Southern Police Institute’s two semester Command Officers Development Course from the University of Louisville, the FBI’s New England Regional Command College, and additional training in Budgeting for Law Enforcement Agencies, Grant Writing for Public Safety Leaders, Internal Affairs Procedures, and Management of a Small Police Agency.

Chief Rich stated that Captain Creutz holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from Ohio State University, and he has furthered his formal education by earning advanced certificates in Public Sector Leadership from Cornell University, and Organizational Management from the University of Louisville. His qualifications meet and exceed the requirements for the Chief of Police position.

Chief Rich stated that he strongly endorsed Ken Creutz as his successor based on all he has observed that made him more impressed with Captain Creutz with each passing year. His ability to adapt to change and thoughtfully address problems, including the present recruitment and retention challenges in law enforcement, his commitment to his family while serving in a very demanding position, and his impeccable integrity make Captain Creutz the best choice to lead the Ledyard Police Department into the future.

Councilor Parad thanked Chief Rich for going over all the details regarding Captain Creutz’s career, noting that it showed how he has been progressing along and all of the things he has done to be prepared to step into the role of Police Chief. She also thanked Chief Rich for the work he has done to already have Captain Creutz in the role of Police Chief in during his absence.

Councilor Ryan stated that Captain Creutz was the natural selection for Police Chief, noting that over the last five budget cycles that he has been involved in, that Captain Creutz has attended along side Chief Rich and answered all the detailed questions the Finance Committee had regarding the Police Department’s operations and budget. He stated that it was going to be hard to replace Chief Rich, however, he could not think of a better person to succeed him. He thanked Chief Rich for his work to prepare Captain Creutz for his new role as Chief.

Councilor Barnes thanked Chief Rich for all the work he has done for Ledyard. He noted at a recent event he attended someone shared the following quote from President Theodore Roosevelt “*The greatest gift life has to offer was the opportunity to work hard; at work worth doing*”. He stated that he thought this quote was appropriate for Chief Rich at this point in his life. He stated that he knew that Chief Rich’s successor continue to work hard; at work that was worth doing.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry thanked Chief Rich for all the work he has done for Ledyard, noting that he would be missed. She stated over the past few months she has had the opportunity to see the culture he has created within the Police Department. She stated that she also had the opportunity to work with Chief Creutz and had a good impression of him, noting that she appreciated the background Chief Rich provided this evening regarding Captain Creutz. She stated Chief Rich would be leaving the Police Department in good hands because of the work he has done.

Chairman St. Vil stated one of this Town Council’s goals was to be forward looking, noting that Chief Rich explained that in his description of the preparation of Captain Creutz. He stated having a succession plan for all organizations big and small was critical, noting that many just wait for the day when a key employee leaves to try to figure it out. He stated Chief Rich did something that was five-fold better than that, noting that he knew when it came time for him to retire, that he wanted this individual to be as prepared as possible and for the Town to have the best suiter. He stated that this was good for everyone involved especially for their taxpayers. He stated that he echoed the sentiment of his fellow Councilors this evening; and he thanked Chief Rich for being who he was. He stated the culture Chief Rich created within the Police Department would remain. He stated there has been numerous members of the Town Council, as well as Police Chiefs in adjacent towns that have interacted with Chief Rich and Captain Creutz, and have spoken extremely highly of both of them. He thanked Chief Rich for his service to the Town; and he looked forward to tonight’s vote.

Chief Rich thanked the Town Council for their kind words, noting that it was his honor to serve the Town of Ledyard.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Ty Lamb, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

4. MOTION to approve a new water rate structure effective July 1, 2026, as recommended and contained in the WPCA letter dated May 28, 2026; in accordance with Ordinance #400-001 “*An Ordinance Creating a Water Pollution Control Authority for the Town of Ledyard*”.
- Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Thompson
- Discussion: Councilor Barnes noted as a WPCA water customer that he recalled the current Fee Scheule was tiered based on water consumption. However, he stated in the Fee Schedule presented this evening that it was a flat rate, with customers being charged per gallon consumed. He stated the new Fee Structure did not encourage customers to conserve water, explaining that based on the former Fee Schedule that for the first 1,000 gallons it was one rate, and for the second 1,000 the rate increased. Therefore, he stated based on the former Fee Schedule he did not run his sprinkler as often as he would have liked to. He questioned the reason the WPCA did not have a tiered Fee Schedule going forward.

Councilor Ryan stated although he could not directly answer Councilor Barnes’ question that the Public Hearing Legal Notice, which was attached to the Agenda on the meeting portal, stated the Rate Structure was being changed to a flat rate for the water service; and for the consumption rate it was per gallon.

Councilor Ryan went on to explain that the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) purchases their water from Groton Utilities, noting that Groton Utilities has continually raised their water rates. He stated as Councilor Barnes’ mentioned the WPCA’s previous water rate schedule was tiered, and that per gallon over the tired rate was a progressive rate, noting as a customer used more water they were charged more. He stated the proposed Water Rate Schedule beginning July 1, 2026 was a flat rate, which was based on what other municipal water authorities around the state and around the country were using. He noted the WPCA’s minutes stated that the new flat rate would not produce any profit, because the WPCA has to operate as a non-profit, noting that they cannot make money, and they cannot lose money.

Councilor Barnes noted that he agreed with Councilor Ryan’s explanation of the WPCA’s proposed Water Rate Schedule for July 1, 2026. However, he stated in their charging method the WPCA decides how much the average consumer was going to pay; how much the lowest consumer was going to pay; and how much the highest consumer was going to pay. However, he stated with the flat rate schedule that they would be allowing those who chose to be water hogs to do so at a discount, relative to what they could be paying under the tiered fee schedule. He stated that they should use their fees to incentivize the behaviors they want, noting they do it for pollution, they do it to some extent for garbage, but they have chosen to have no economic method to encourage people to use water conservatively. He stated under the previous water rate tiered schedule they encouraged people to conserve water; however with the new flat water rate they took that incentive away. He stated with the new flat water rate they have effectively raised the water rate for low water consumers such as the elderly, and have given people who consumed more water a cheaper alternative.

Chairman St. Vil thanked Councilor Ryan for the briefing, and he thanked Councilor Barnes for explaining his vote.

VOTE: 7 – 1 Approved and so declared (Barnes not in favor)

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 –1
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	James Thompson, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
NAYES:	Barnes
EXCUSED:	Buhle

5. MOTION to set a 25.78 Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. .
- Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
- Discussion: Councilor Ryan stated the proposed 25.78 Mill Rate was in response to the additional State Revenues the Town would be receiving. He noted the Town Council extensively discussed how the additional State Revenues would be applied in the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget at their May 13, 2026 meeting. He provided a recap noting at their May 6, 2026 Finance Committee meeting they discussed using the additional State Revenue to try to reduce the projected Mill Rate down to the *Net Neutral Mill Rate* to what it would have been

if the town did not have any changes what so ever to the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget. He proceed to note the following:

- Supplemental Education Aid: \$481,304
- Supplemental Pequot-Mohegan \$1,703,834.
- Total: \$2,185,138
- **Mill Rate Stabilization Fund** – Councilor Ryan explained the purpose of the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund was to help keep the Mill Rate from skyrocketing from one year to the next. He noted essentially it was used to smooth or keep the Mill Rate even in terms of its increase or trend. He went on to explain that if they continued to use the \$1.8 million (\$1.8 million was the value of one mill for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027; which was much more than the value of one-Mill for the current year) from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund it would quickly become depleted. He noted the current balance in this Account was about \$3 million. Therefore, he stated if they used \$1.8 million from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget that they would be using more than half of the funding in that Fund. He stated for these reasons the Finance Committee agreed the best approach was to reduce the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund usage by \$765,000; noting that they would still be using about \$1 million from the Fund; which was about one-third of the funding in that Account. He stated this would leave funding to be used next year (fy 27/28). He stated the reason this was important was because the \$2,185,138 Supplemental State Revenue was not guaranteed for the following year.
- **Supplemental State Revenues** - Councilor Ryan stated the balance of the supplemental \$2,185,138 State Revenue was applied to the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget to reduce the projected Mill Rate to 25.78; and would match the prior year's equalized mill rate.
- **Mohegan-Pequot Fund** – Councilor Ryan stated town received some additional funding in their Mohegan-Pequot Fund, which should be helpful for the following year (fy 27/28). He stated that Legislation was being considered; and if approved the additional funding would help all municipalities.

Councilor Lamb stated that he wanted everyone to understand by using the \$2,185,138 Supplemental State Revenue, as Councilor Ryan described, that they were artificially dropping the mill rate. Therefore, he stated for the following year (fy 27/28) that even if they do not increase the budget, that they were going to see the mill rate go up, because they were not going to have this additional state revenue.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she was going to remain hopeful that the State would decide to make the \$2,185,138 supplemental revenue permanent. However, she stated as Councilor Lamb mentioned, if the State does not provide the additional funding that the Town would start the Fiscal Year 2027/2028 Budget process with \$2,185,138 less in revenue.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry continued by addressing the Motor Vehicle Tax; explaining in 2023 the State implemented a Motor Vehicle Tax Cap of 32.46. Therefore, she stated for Municipalities such as Ledyard, whose previous year's mill rate was higher than 32.46 Tax Cap the State would provide the town with the difference in the taxes the town would have collected. However, she stated with the 2025 Property Revaluation that Ledyard's equalized/adjusted Mill Rate of 25.78 was now below the State's Motor Vehicle Tax Cap of 32.46; therefore, she stated that Ledyard would see a \$740,000 reduction in their motor vehicle tax revenue. She stated with the \$740,000 reduction in their motor vehicle tax revenue combined with the loss of the State's \$2,185,138 supplemental revenue the town would be starting the Fiscal Year 2027/2028 Budget process with a \$2,925,138 revenue deficit.

Councilor Barnes noted that he agreed that the future was always uncertain with regard to the town's revenue sources; and what that might bring for their taxpayers. Therefore, he stated it was important that they consider the cost of living in Ledyard with every action the Town Council takes. He stated the reason he voted "No" on Item # 4 regarding the Water Rate Fee Schedule (see above) was because they had the opportunity to do something. He stated because they established a flat water rate, the highest water consumers would now benefit from what they were paying in past years. He stated a few moments ago (Item #4) the Town

Council had the opportunity to lighten the debt for their lower income families; noting that they failed to do that this evening.

Chairman St. Vil stated for the reasons Councilor Ryan and Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated this evening that he was aligned with the proposed 25.78 mill rate for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027. He noted the future revenue/budget dilemma was concerning; however, he stated he did not understand what the Town Council was going to do to mitigate the impact for the following year (fy 27/28). Therefore, he questioned whether the Finance Committee had any initiatives that were tackling this known revenue deficit in developing a mitigation plan.

Councilor Ryan responded to Chairman St. Vil's question by explaining because of the known revenue deficit for the following year (fy 27/28) the Finance Committee reduced the amount of revenue coming from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027. He stated that the Finance Committee was also hoping that certain Legislation such as the Raised House Bill #5407, "*An Act Concerning State Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost Due to the Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with a One Hundred Percent Permanent and Total Disability Rating*" which the Legislation did not act on this year, would come to fruition in the upcoming year because it would reimburse the town by about \$700,000 for the loss of those tax revenues. He stated because of the anticipated revenue deficit for the Fiscal Year 2027/2028 the Finance Committee did not believe it was responsible to put the full \$2,185,138 Supplemental State Revenues toward reducing the mill rate as much as they possibly could for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget. He noted that they received some public comment that advocated for using all of the \$2,185,138 Supplemental State Revenues to reduce the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Mill Rate as much as they could; however, he stated in light of what was going to happen to the revenues for the following 2027/2028 fiscal year, that it was not a responsible thing to do. He stated even with a Net Neutral Mill Rate that many taxpayers were going to see a tax increase because of the 2025 Property Revaluation, noting that he was one that would be seeing a tax increase. He stated there would be some property owners that were going to see a tax increase; while others would see a tax decrease, regardless of what the Town Council does. He stated that the thought was that if they could bring the mill rate to a Net Neutral at least on the average they would have made some tax bills stagnant. However, he stated because of the disparity in how the 2025 Property Revaluation was done where the commercial properties reassessments were flat; that the burden of those stagnant reassessments would fall the residential properties, which was the reason they were seeing inflated values and inflated tax bills. He stated the Finance Committee knows the challenges that were coming for the 2027/2028 fiscal year, noting that they would have to have some difficult discussions, should the additional state revenues not become permanent; or if certain Legislation does not get approved.

Chairman St. Vil suggested the Town Council use this opportunity to develop a substantiation for one option versus another option to take into account the projected revenue deficits as well as all of the natural increases that were going to happen from the budget perspective. Councilor Ryan stated he agreed that developing options was a responsible approach. He noted over the last two budget cycles he has been warning everybody about what was going to happen with the 2025 Property Revaluation. He stated during the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget process they sent two a huge budget increases to two Referendums; of which both failed. He stated the reason he voted against those budgets was specifically because of the challenges they were discussing this evening. However, he stated the Town Council pushed the budget increase through. He stated although they could look at options, that there were options that were no longer on the table because of actions they took in the past. He noted as an example that per state statute they cannot reduce the Board of Education budget from one year to the next. He stated because they increased the Board of Education's budget over the last two budget cycles they have created a new minimum budget level. Therefore, he explained they have eliminated an option, noting that they should have been looking at these options two-years ago. He stated Ledyard was lucky this year because the State provided the town with an additional \$2,185,138 in supplemental revenue. He stated because they could not depend on the State providing supplemental revenue again next year that separating and diversifying how the additional fiscal year 2026/2027 state revenue was used was the most responsible approach based on what they had in front of them. He stated every budget process he has been a part of they have budgeted using revenue from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund; however, they have not had to use it because of a variety of reasons. However, he stated past performance was not a guarantee for a future performance. Therefore, he stated that the Finance Committee was hoping that again this year the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund would

not be touched; or would be minimally touched. He stated by minimizing the use of the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund they were not artificially taxing the residents, noting that they do not want to tax the residents any more than they need to.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she thought the Finance Committee should include an Agenda item to develop a substantiation for one option versus another option to take into account the projected revenue deficits as well as all of the natural increases that were going to happen from the budget perspective. Councilor Ryan stated that he believed this called for a Joint Finance Committee meeting between the Town Council and Board of Education, noting that the Board of Education was two-thirds of the total Annual Budget.

Councilor Lamb stated that he has been calling for Joint Finance Committee Meetings since he served on the Board of Education. He addressed the timing noting that the Board of Education begins their budget process in October.

Chairman St. Vil stated that he was trying to be forward looking, noting that he understands the sentiment of missed opportunities. He stated they need to focus on the opportunities they have right now to work together to impact the mill rate for the following year (fy 27/28). He stated he would like to hear thoughts and ideas before they set the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Mill Rate this evening.

Councilor Brunelle stated all the budget decisions the Town Council has made in the past were made strategically, logically, and with passion. She stated the budgets were well thought out and approved by both parties and everybody. She stated that they did not just want to tax everybody. She stated that she did not believe they made mistakes in preparing past budgets, noting that they did what they thought was the best for the town at that time; and that they did the same with preparing the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget. She stated moving forward that it was not helpful to say what they should have done, noting that the best route was for the Finance Committees of the Town Council and the Board of Education to come together to develop four scenarios, stating that nothing was given because it was the future.

Councilor Parad stated she believed that *Healthcare for All* would be an area to focus on to try to reduce costs for the town. However, she stated without access what the town was spending for healthcare she could not help. She noted the data she would need to conduct an analysis was what they were spending on emergency room visits, primary care visits, etc., explaining that they could save money by reducing their emergency room visits. Councilor Ryan stated although he did not know if the town had the data breakdown Councilor Parad was looking for, that he would suggest she contact Finance Director Matthew Bonin, noting that if he did not have the data breakdown that perhaps he could direct Councilor Parad to the person who could assist with her request. Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated in accordance with the labor contracts that the town had to provide the employees with the same level of healthcare they were currently receiving. Councilor Ryan stated he would help in any way he could if Councilor Parad thought this was an area to research. Councilor Parad stated she recently attended a Primary Care Conference and she explained that there was a subscription service where the town could pay for full access to Primary Care for all the people in their plan; noting by using primary care that it reduced the need for going to the emergency room; or to urgent care; thereby reducing costs.

Councilor Ryan stated that he agreed with Councilor Brunelle's comment about being forward thinking. However, he stated those who ignore history were doomed to repeat it. He stated if they do not understand how they got to where they were today, they would get there again. He stated that they have to understand the options they have taken off the table by the actions they have taken in the past; not to criticize themselves; and not to be punitive, but to make sure the decisions they make going forward do not make it even worse. He stated decisions in the past have rippling effects going into the future. He stated in order to be forward thinking in a constructive and value added way they still needed to recognize the decision that were made in the past and the effect they have had on the decisions that they would be able to make going forward.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated during the three years she has served on the Town Council that she would stand by all of the votes she has made. She stated both the Town and Board of Education's budgets were very lean, noting in working on the Fiscal Year

2026/2027 Budget that they were thoughtful and they looked at everything. However, she stated they could continue to look for more revenues, and more grants, noting that a few months ago a resident suggested a way to reduce expenses. She stated that maybe the Finance Committee could talk about the resident's suggestion. She stated it would be valuable to have a discussion about what they could do to improve their finances, noting that it should always be done whether they had a lot of money or very little money. She noted that she agreed with the statement Councilor Buhle always says: *"Our Town does not have a spending problem, our Town has a revenue problem"*. Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the town could continue to cut expenses, however, eventually there was not going to be anything left to cut; and they were still going to have to pay bills; therefore, she stated that they have to figure out how to get more money to pay their bills. She stated that she looked forward to the Finance Committee discussing what they could do about the town's finances. She concluded her comments by stating that everyone's motor vehicle taxes were going to go down because in 2023 the State implemented a Motor Vehicle Tax Cap of 32.46. She stated with the 2025 Property Revaluation that Ledyard's equalized/adjusted Mill Rate was now 25.78; therefore, she stated that residents would see a decrease in their motor vehicle taxes; because they were not being taxed at 32.46. She stated although the reduction in their motor vehicle taxes would not compensate residents for the increase they may see in their property taxes, that she wanted residents to be aware of these changes.

Councilor Ryan noted Councilor Garcia-Irizarry's comments regarding residents seeing their motor vehicle taxes coming down. He stated the lower mill rate combined with the way motor vehicles were now being assessed in accordance with state statute; that certain vehicles such as trucks would see their taxes come down.

Chairman St. Vil questioned whether anyone disagreed with including a standing item on the Town Council's Agenda for the Finance Committee to provide a brief on these initiatives to be included in the Budget Letter of Directive for Fiscal Year 2027/2028.

Councilor Lamb stated during Subcommittee Reports that they already had a mechanism for the Finance Committee to provide briefings.

Chairman St. Vil explained the reason he suggested having a Standing Agenda Item was to ensure they consciously make the effort to either address the their work regarding the preparation for the development of the Fiscal Year 2027/2028 Budget to include: (1) Consider options to mitigate if the State does not provide the additional funding that was received for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget; and (2) Consider options to address the reduction in other revenues such as Motor Vehicle, etc. He stated although Councilor Buhle was not present this evening that he believed that she would advocate for these discussions, noting that both Finance Committee Members Councilor Garcia-Irizarry and Councilor Ryan have agreed to the initiative. He stated including the Standing Agenda Item would: (1) Have an awareness of what was going on; (2) Have the opportunity to discuss whether or not they thought they were on-pace for developing mitigating actions or not. Therefore, he stated by having these discussions that no one on this Town Council would be able to say: *"Why are we in this position; and why did they not do something different?"*.

Councilor Ryan requested clarification, noting at the end of the day the Annual Budget was the Town Council's Budget. Therefore, he stated that the discussion Chairman St. Vil was advocating for was a Town Council level discussion that was facilitated by input from the Finance Committee. Chairman St. Vil stated the reason he was advocating for the Town Council to have a Standing Agenda Item was to ensure the Town Council gets feedback from the Finance Committee.

Councilor Lamb noted the Board of Education started their Annual Budget Preparation in October. Therefore, he commented on the importance to provide input or guidance earlier rather than later in the schedule, noting when the Budget Letter of Directive is received in December, that many of the Board of Education budget decisions have already been made.

Councilor Ryan noted for the reasons Councilor Lamb mentioned; that he has been advocating for Joint Finance Committee meetings between the Town Council and the Board of Education, prior to the budget development cycle.

Councilor Barnes noted that he generally would not agree to add an item to the Agenda, noting that they could have a lot of priorities. However, he stated there was no greater priority than the Annual Budget noting that impacted every property owner in town. He stated for no other reason, it was an opportunity for the Town Council to ask themselves the question whether they were making progress or not. Therefore, he stated that he supported Chairman St. Vil’s recommendation.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

6. MOTION to authorize overspending Account #10110101-53610 (Legal Fee) thru June 30, 2026.
Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
Discussion: Councilor Ryan stated he thought the Mayor was going to provide a breakout of the legal fees.

Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher explained that this Legal Fee Account was under the Town Council’s budget; and was specifically to pay for legal support from Perkins Coie, the town’s Washington D.C. Attorneys regarding Land-in-Trust, Annexation and Taxation Matters pertaining to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MPTN). She noted that a spreadsheet listing all the invoices was attached to the Agenda Packet on the meeting portal. She noted they were currently about \$5,000 short with one month of billing remaining for this fiscal year.

Councilor Ryan requested clarification noting that this Legal Fee Account was not used to pay for legal support pertaining to the drafting of ordinances, or other general government matters. Ms. Maher stated Councilor Ryan’s understanding was correct.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated Goodwin & Shipman was the Law Firm the town used for the drafting of ordinances, and other general government matters, noting they were located in Hartford. She stated Perkins Coie was the law firm that the town has been using for many years regarding Tribal Matters.

Councilor Lamb noted as he has stated in the past, that the Motion should identify the Account where the funds would be coming from to cover the over expenditure. Ms. Maher explained as the town was nearing the end of the fiscal year that Finance Director Matthew Bonin would transfer funds from underspent accounts to cover the Town Council approved overspent accounts. Councilor Lamb suggested at the end of the fiscal year the Finance Committee review the underspent and overspent accounts to develop a spending profile to better predict the budget each year. Councilor Ryan stated during the budget preparation process the Finance Committee does review the history of each budget line and they also ask the Department Heads to explain the reason an account may be overspent or underspent; and why they were requesting a certain amount for the coming year. He stated the Finance Committee takes that information into account when they propose the annual budget.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that she replied to an email Councilor Lamb sent some time ago asking the same question. She stated in her response to Councilor Lamb she explained during the budget preparation process that she looked at the previous year’s original budget and whether the Department was overspent or underspent. She noted in some cases a Department budget may have been overspent or underspent by \$1,000; while other Departments were more significant, and some were on target. She stated that she did the same process in reviewing the revenues.

Councilor Ryan questioned whether the town was expecting any more Perkins Coie Invoices for this fiscal year; and what the dollar amount might be. Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher stated that she expected the town would receive one more invoice for June, and she did not know what the dollar amount would be, noting that some months the invoices could be \$2,000 and some months they could be \$12,000 depending on the amount of work Perkins Coie has done. She stated when she paid the May invoice there was a balance of about \$6,000 in the account and that she was hoping that May and June invoices would be low. However, the May invoice was about \$12,000, which was the reason a request to overspend was submitted.

Chairman St. Vil suggested they engage the Mayor to get a sense of the work that was being done to see if they were going to be on the higher end or the lower end.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman St. Vil stated the Town Council would not meet again during the month of June, noting that their next meeting was scheduled for July 8, 2026.

Chairman St. Vil announced the rescheduled Memorial Day Parade would be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026 with a rain date of Sunday, June 28, 2026. He stated the parade theme would focus on ***Celebrate America 250***; and he stated that he hoped all of the Town Councilors would be available to participate in the parade. He also noted ***Celebrate America 250 Festivities*** would be held on Saturday, July 4, 2026 at the Nathan Lester House from 10:00 am. – 2:00 p.m.

Chairman St. Vil asked that Ms. Maher help to get the Town Council together before June 30, 2026 to celebrate the Retirement of Police Chief John Rich.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Thompson
8 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

VOTE:

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

I, Gary A. St. Vil, 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 June 10, 2026.

Gary A. St. Vil, Chairman