



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Ed Lynch

Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

6:30 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PROCEDURE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Lynch read the legal notice that was posted on May 15, 2026, in regard to the water rate increase. Chairman Lynch will make a rate increase justification presentation. The floor will be opened for Public Comment with a three-minute limit.

IV. CALL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Lynch opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.

V. PRESENTATION

1. Proposed Water Rate Structure Change

Chairman Lynch explained that there are multiple cost pressures, stating that when Ledyard inherited the water system, customers were getting 3333 gallons of free water per month at a base rate and then there was a conservation rate in which the per gallon rate would increase the more water you used. Ledyard purchases its water from Groton Utilities and is charged a fixed rate even if water is not used. In the last 18 months Groton Utilities has raised the water rates three times by 4%, 10% and 5%.

Chairman Lynch stated that in addition to the increase in water rates Ledyard has had to make major repairs on the aging system. On Thompson Road alone eight repairs were made in a year, costing \$138,000.00. There was also a lightning strike at a tower destroying all of the electronics, motors at a pressure pump creating additional repair costs. Chairman Lynch continued, stating that there is a Federal and State mandated lead and galvanized pump survey. Ledyard has records that show that the town does not have any lead or galvanized pipes in our system, but the federal and state government won't take our word for it, the town must prove it, which means digging up and checking the pipes, which is very expensive. Chairman Lynch stated, Ledyard does not have a town employee designated to the WPCA Committee and without that many things fall through the cracks, so it is important to hire a part time employee. Later in the presentation Chairman Lynch stated that the fire hydrants will also need to be replaced at

about \$5,000.00 each.

Chairman Lynch explained that the water rate increase is necessary because cash reserves have been declining over the past five years, and by charter the WPCA should not be losing money. The WPCA is not raising enough money to pay for the operations and maintenance of the system. The cash balances help to fund repairs and projects as needed. It avoids the WPCA from having to go to the taxpayers asking for additional funds.

Chairman Lynch explained the new water rate structure stating that there is base rate for both residential and commercial customers based on the meter size. Most residential customers have 5/8" meters and will pay a base rate of \$20.00. In addition to the base rate residential customers will be 1.15 cents per gallon of water used and commercial customers will pay 1.40 cents per gallon of water used.

Chairman Lynch finished the presentation stating that Groton Utilities has increased the water rates that the town pays and the cost of operational maintenance requirements have also increased. The new rate structure is commonly used across the country. The new rate structure does not create a profit as by charter that is not allowed, but it does bring down the losses and begins to replenish the cash reserve.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lynch adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:46 p.m.

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