



TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

MINUTES
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

DRAFT

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 –

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Kevin Dombrowski	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary Paul	Town Councilor	Remote	In-Person
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Excused	
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Excused	

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Rodriguez welcomed *Community Speaks Out Organization* Members Mr. Joe de la Cruz, Ms. Tammy de la Cruz, and Mr. Mike Doyle, noting that they were present this evening to give a Presentation regarding the programs and services they provide to Southeastern Connecticut.

Mr. Joe de la Cruz thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to speak to them this evening. He stated *Community Speaks Out* was a grass roots non-profit Organization that he and his wife Tammy started because their son had gotten addicted to opioids. He stated he would not tell the whole story this evening of how they got to where they were today, however, he noted that through their work during the past 10-12 years they have figured out what our communities need.

Mr. de la Cruz went on to state that *Community Speaks Out* was planning to acquire a building in Groton as a Recovery Hub & Zone. He stated their Organization has been reaching out to all surrounding towns, noting that they have visited Madison, East Lyme, and Preston, explaining that they were trying to collectively heal their communities. He stated last year 107,000 people lost their lives to overdose; and that this was happening year after year.

Mr. de la Cruz addressed the National Opioid Settlement Payments that towns were receiving, and he explained the amount of money a town received was based on the number of opioid prescriptions that were sold in that town. He noted as an example Groton received \$150,000; Preston received \$15,000; and Ledyard received \$41,000. He went on to state that the Town of Groton has conveyed all the funding they received to-date from the National Opioid Settlement to *Community Speaks Out*.

Mr. de la Cruz introduced Mr. Mike Doyle, who was currently their Recovery Coach, noting that their Organization was working to build a coalition of Recovery Coaches. He deferred to Mr. Doyle to provide an overview of the Recovery Coach Program.

Mr. Mike Doyle provided some background stating that he has been sober for 25+-years. He stated during the last eight years he worked for Reliance Health running their Recovery Support Services. He stated in July, 2024 he decided to go out on his own as a free agent because he could see that the Recovery Community needed help; and that he could be more effective as a free agent.

Mr. Doyle explained that *Community Speaks Out* was working to bring the communities together as a Regional Unit, which was different than a bunch of communities pooling their resources and having a Regional Recovery Coach for the area.

Mr. Doyle continued by providing an overview of a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Recovery Coach Program noting the following four components were critical:

- Recovery
- Harm Reduction
- Prevention
- Treatment

Mr. Doyle continued by explaining that a Recovery Coach was someone who could draw from their own personal lived experiences in recovery and who also had specialized training, noting that he had these credentials and that he was also a Recovery Coach Instructor. He stated that he has been running a Recovery Coach Program in Norwich; and that he had a good network of people that were ready to work, noting that they know the area.

Mr. Doyle stated that *Community Speaks Out* would have Boots on the Ground in serving the community relative to recovery, noting that once organizations and other people know that they were in-town that they have received a lot of referrals. He stated that they have been doing Overdose Follow-ups in Norwich, with their Community Policing Unit noting that it was amazing the types of conversations they were able to have. He went on to note that they were going to start working with Groton's First Responders to conduct Overdose Follow-ups, and they were going to start to respond to the scene.

Mr. Doyle reviewed some statistical data noting that last year Norwich First Responders responded to 146 overdoses; of which 60 of those individuals had Narcan administered before the First Responders arrived; and 59 of those survived the overdose.

Councilor Saccone questioned the percentage of people who stay in the Recovery Coach Program and the percentage of people who do not stay in the Program. Mr. Doyle stated in 2023 they worked with 228 people in Norwich, noting at the end of the year that 168 people were continuing in the Program. He stated unfortunately people do not stay sober as much as they would like to see, explaining that relapse was part of recovery; and that they look for progress over perfection. However, he stated during the past six years as a Recovery Coach that he has seen people get their jobs back and he has seen people come through the program and then decide to work in the field. He stated recovery was a frustrating job, but that it was also rewarding when they see someone who has improved the quality of their life.

Chairman Rodriguez stated many people have not heard about *Community Speaks Out*; therefore, she questioned how their Organization would get their foot in the door and start the process to engage with those who were in need of services, noting that Ledyard-Gales Ferry has had overdoses and that some were fatal. Mr. Doyle stated *Community Speaks Out* collaborates with local first responders, hospitals, detox centers, human services, etc., to conduct a follow-up visit with individuals who had an overdose, during which time they get a conversation started; he also noted that people will provide referrals to their Organization, and that a good way for people to know about the services they provide was by getting the word out in the community. Mr. de la Cruz noted that *Community Speaks Out* was listed on 2-1-1.

Councilor Saccone noted over the next three weeks the State would begin to distribute pallets of Narcan to cities, towns, and municipalities for no cost. He questioned whether *Community Speaks Out* was on the State's distribution list. Mr. Doyle stated their Organization was on the States's distribution list. He stated that he would be willing to provide a Narcan Training to

the Town Council. Chairman Rodriguez stated that Ledyard Prevention Coalition provided a Narcan Training to the Town Council at their April 24, 2024 meeting. She stated that she and many other Town Councilors carry Narcan in their cars, because as Town Officials they were all over town and never know what they may encounter.

Councilor Dombrowski stated until this evening that he was not aware of *Community Speaks Out* and that he would like to see them do more awareness campaigns in Ledyard.

Ms. Tammy de la Cruz addressed Councilor Dombrowski's comment regarding awareness noting that *Community Speaks Out* has a Sober House in Ledyard and that she has clients in Ledyard, noting that she has also referred some Ledyard residents to other programs out of state because they had private insurance that would pay for services. She went on to state that *Community Speaks Out* is a non-profit organization that is supported by volunteers, and therefore, their services were free noting that they would not impact municipal budgets. She stated that she has been working to get into Middle Schools to talk with students; however, she stated the schools have been apprehensive about offering these types of programs to the kids. She stated *Community Speaks Out* has been contacted by Ellis Technical High School in Danielson, and Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon, noting that she was scheduled to talk with the kids at Lyman Memorial High School tomorrow. She stated *Community Speaks Out* primarily provides services in Southeastern Connecticut, noting that she previously spoke with the former Police Chief and that more recently she left flyers, and business cards at the Police Department, noting that they do have tentacles in Ledyard.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned the types of programs *Community Speaks Out* does with the Middle School students. She stated that students receive the Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) program in fifth grade; however, she stated that there were no follow-up programs in the Middle School or High School. Ms. de la Cruz stated in speaking at a High School and at a Middle School that she touches upon topics such as bullying and explains that you do not know what other kids were going through at home. She stated the reactions she received from the students was amazing, noting that she received an email from a High School student saying they had concerns about their sister who was in Middle School. She stated their Organization tailors their program to address the problems and the issues that they were having at each school, and they talk about being the "*Difference Makers; and not to be the Person who was making someone else's day not so well. When a student comes into a room that they should smile and say Hello, noting that it took more energy to be mean than to be nice.*" She stated things such as bullying was part of trauma for young people; and at some point, a student could begin to self-medicate, which was the prevention component of their program. She stated at age 12 – 14 a lot of kids were already experimenting and trying more than marijuana and alcohol. She stated that these were the types of things that need to be taught, because there may be kids who have an addictive parent. She stated *Community Speaks Out* was careful to protect the kids young minds, however, she stated that they were exposed to a lot, noting that it was important for the kids to hear that their first time could be their last time, noting that kids do not think it would happen. She stated when she asks the kids if they knew anyone who died from an overdose that a lot of hands go up; however, she stated when she asks the kids if they knew anyone who died in a war that she does not usually get one hand up. She then explains to the kids that drugs are the war that they were fighting, noting that young people were dying every day. She stated *Community Speaks Out* was here for Ledyard and would continue to be here for their community. She stated in holding Recovery Events that a 60-year-old woman said to her that "*She did not know that recovery could be so much fun*". She stated that they cannot just have people go to a detox program; or have them go to a treatment facility and come out. She stated that they need for people in recovery to have *Wrap Around Services*, meaning that these folks need to be able to continue to be connected to their Organization, or some other Agency, or with a Recovery Coach, noting that the more work the better results they see. She stated that *Community Speaks Out* does not want to be a burden on Ledyard's Schools; and therefore, they do not charge for their services/programs, noting that there were a lot of things they could bring to the table.

Chairman Rodriguez stated that Ms. de la Cruz was on point with the Middle School students, noting that she and Mayor Allyn, III, attend the Ledyard Prevention Coalition Meetings, noting that the Middle School Principal has stated that they needed to start with the Middle School students.

Ms. de la Cruz thanked the Town Council for their time and for having them this evening.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated that he knew Mr. Joe de la Cruz from his previous life as their Legislator to Ledyard's south. He stated that he appreciated the work that they are doing through *Community Speaks Out* and that he was certain that their son Joey was smiling down on them every day for the work that they were doing. He stated that Ledyard has National Opioid Settlement Funding; and that the Town Council has the authority to disperse the funds. He stated *Community Speaks Out* may be one of the Organizations that becomes a recipient of those funds. He again thanked *Community Speaks Out* for the work they do in the community.

Mr. de la Cruz provided flyers regarding a Parents and Family Support Group that meets the third Wednesday of each month. He stated this coming month would be the ninth year they have been offering the Support Group, noting that they meet at the Groton Public Library at 6:00 p.m. He stated their Office is across the street from Paul's Pasta on Thames Street, in Groton; and he encouraged people to stop by their Office.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Mr. and Mrs. de la Cruz and Mr. Doyle for their presentation this evening.

V. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Mr. Steve Munger, 12 Nutmeg Drive, Gales Ferry, stated that he wanted to begin his comments this evening by Remembering the Victims of the 9/11 noting that it was a sad day in history when terrorist planes hit the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and crashed in Shanksville, Western Pennsylvania, noting that it was the worst day he had ever lived. He stated the good thing that came from 9/11 was 9/12 noting that was the closet he had seen our country come together. However, he stated the sad part was that today was the worst division he has seen in our country. He stated that they needed to look at ways to get rid of our differences, noting although they would always have some differences, that it was important that they were civil to each other and not let their disagreements come between friendships.

Mr. Munger continued by stating that he attended the Town Council's June 12, 2024 meeting at which he addressed the idea to fly third party flags on town property. He stated during the meeting he stated "*Fly One – Fly All*"; however, he wanted to provide clarification stating that the point he was trying to make was that he disagreed with any flag being put up other than the American Flag. He stated the majority of Americans love and respect the American Flag. He questioned the reason they would take something that everyone respected and start putting things out there that would start to divide people. Right-Wrong-or Indifferent, they would be starting something where there was not a problem. Therefore, he stated that he hoped this Town Council would discuss the idea in detail and decide to leave the Flag alone. He stated he served his country, served the American Flag, and everyone in this country for 24.5-years; and that he would have to accept their decision. He stated the American Flag should stand by itself, noting that it was the one structure that brings us all together. He stated if they start flying other flags that they would start to have issues, although he hoped that would not happen in Ledyard.

Mr. Munger went on to note after he made his comments at the June 12, 2024 Town Council that he stayed and listened the other comments, noting that Councilor Paul stated, "*It's always been like that*". He stated although he would not say that Councilor Paul was attacked, that several members of the Town Council went after Councilor Paul stating, "*Just because it has always been done that way does not make it right.*" Mr. Munger stated when something has always been done a certain way for a long time it was probably because it was right. He stated after that meeting, he thought of an example that was right and should have been left alone that he wanted to share with the Town Council this evening. He stated during President Obama's term the Democrats had both the House and Senate, as well as the Presidency, and he noted that Senator Harry Reid invoked the Nuclear Option on November 21, 2013, to reduce the 60 votes to a simple majority for nominations to the Supreme Court and other Courts. He stated at that time people from both sides were more friendly and everyone was happy. However, he stated in 2016 the Republicans took power, which was the reason they had three more conservative Judges on the Supreme Court, all because someone did not leave something alone. He stated that this was a strong example of why there were some things that they should not touch.

Mr. Munger concluded his comments by asking the Town Council to think long and hard about creating a division within their community. He stated Democrats want unity, and therefore, he said let's have unity and leave the Flag alone.

Ms. Sharon Pealer, 48 Highland Drive, Ledyard, stated that this Town Council has indicated that it desires to conduct an Ethics Investigation into the firing of a former town employee. She stated although she would not go into detail, as a member of a Committee that worked with the employee, that she did not question the Mayor's decision. She stated the definition of Ethics was: "*Moral principles that govern a person's behavior, or the conducting of an activity. A simple definition: Ethics refers to well founded standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do. Usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness or specific virtues.*" Ms. Pealer stated that it has come to her attention that this Town Council would be better served and be better representatives of the Town of Ledyard if they investigated their own behavior toward one of their own Town Councilors. She stated that bullying was an inherent behavior, and a mean act toward one member of the Town Council over the flag issue, was a clear violation of any Code of Ethics.

IV. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

VI. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Chairman Rodriguez stated that she would like to take a moment to highlight that today is the 23rd Anniversary of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. For many of us it feels like yesterday and the horror is still a vivid memory. For those who lost loved ones on that day, or in the conflicts since, this day will never be easy. She stated that she wanted those people to know that we see you and they were in our thoughts tonight.

Chairman Rodriguez went on to state that those of us who were old enough to recall that day remember where we were when we learned of the attacks, remember the shocked gatherings around the nearest TV, and the strange days immediately after when there were no planes in the sky. She stated that we also remember the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, and President Obama's announcement that the attack's mastermind had been brought to justice.

Chairman Rodriguez stated while the shock and anger over the attacks was easy to remember, let us also remember how we responded. She stated we united behind a shared love for our country and a desire for justice. She noted in the challenging moments such as the aftermath of 9/11, and throughout the year, we should continue to try to emulate the sense of community that was present then.

Chairman Rodriguez stated let us remember the victims of the attack, let us remember the casualties of the Global War on Terror, let us remember their loved ones, and let us work each day to reinforce that shared love of community, country, and justice.

Chairman Rodriguez asked that all stand for a Moment of Silence. Thank you.

Councilor Brunelle commented on an incident that occurred in Mystic on Saturday, September 7, 2024 involving a person who was wearing a white robe and a pointed hat. She stated because she was in Norwich that she did not personally see the incident, however, she has seen reports on news outlets and social media. She stated that she did not know exactly what happened, or who was behind the incident, or who was wearing the costume. She stated that that type of hate speech does not belong in Ledyard, or Connecticut, or anywhere in the United States. She stated that she opposed this behavior, noting that she acknowledged that the incident happened, and that it made her sad that it was so close to home.

Chairman Rodriguez noted Councilor Brunelle's comments regarding the person who was wearing the white robe and pointed hat in Mystic. She stated the newspaper reported that the person was a troll who targeted all political parties, noting that the individual had a go-pro camera and was filming for content for their YouTube Channel. Chairman Rodriguez stated in reading the article that she thought what kind of sick person would do things like that.

Councilor Saccone noted the State has been trimming the trees along Route 214, stating that this work was well overdue. He stated large tractor trailers traveling along Route 214 to and from the Casino take down large branches that create hazards and damage to the town's fire trucks.

Councilor Buhle stated as this was her first term in serving on the Town Council that her favorite part of the meetings was the Public Comment. She stated that she loved hearing from their residents, noting their enthusiasm. She stated although she may not agree with the comments that she loved hearing residents' viewpoints, noting that she would rather hear opposing viewpoints. She commented on the importance to have a venue where their residents were allowed to share their opinions and voices.

Councilor Buhle continued by addressing Mr. Munger's comments in which he referred to a member of the Town Council stating, "*Just because it has always been done that way does not make it right.*" during their June 12, 2024 Town Council Meeting. She stated that she was the Councilor who made that comment, noting that she was quoting Admiral Grace Hopper, stating the quote was on the wall in the Mayor's Office. She noted in discussing divisions and having different opinions that she and Councilor Paul talk all the time, and that she would consider him a friend and colleague, even if they had different opinions on a lot of things. She stated although all the members of this Town Council do not always see eye to eye, that they did not have any animosity among them, noting that they were respectful of their differing views and that she was proud to be a part of it.

Councilor Buhle went on to comment on the Farmers Market, noting that she has spent more money with the Market's Kid Vendors than with any other vendors. She noted that she purchased a beautiful bracelet today, and that she has also purchased finger claws from Councilor Ryan's kids. She stated this year her favorite part was the Kid Vendors, noting that the Farmers' Market Committee did a great job making sure that each week they had an amazing kid vendor. She stated that she was grateful to the Farmers' Market Committee for creating a wonderful event for their Town.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that he echoed Chairman Rodriguez's comments regarding the Remembrance of 9/11. He stated that he spent part of his day today talking with some of their newer employees at work, who were either not alive when 9/11 happened or were less than one-year old. He stated he recalled he and his wife sitting outside and recognizing that there were no airplanes in the sky after the event. He stated in talking with the younger people he explained that the security at the Airports was totally different today. He stated prior to 9/11 you could walk all the way down to gate with your family member to see them get on the plane; and you could meet them at the gate when they were returning from a trip. You did not have to take your shoes off or have your personals scanned prior to getting on the plane, etc. He stated there was a perceived innocents that something like 9/11 would not happen on American soil, because those types of things happened thousands of miles away, and therefore, we did not have to worry about it. However, he stated the procedures we now have at Airports was something the next generation has been used to their entire life, versus what it was before the tragic attack.

Councilor Dombrowski continued by noting that annually he addresses Stop Signs. He stated Stop Signs do not say *Slow Down*. He stated because of his travel route that there were a few locations where he sees a lot of offenders of Stop Signs noting two locations were in front of schools. He noted no one stops at the following locations: Town Farm Road to the Gallup Hill School; Gallup Hill Road coming onto Colonel Ledyard Highway, and on Gallup Hill Road coming toward Spicer Hill Road. He stated these locations had the worst offenders, noting that nobody stops at these locations. He stated that he was not the Traffic Police, however, there were also a lot of people who do not stop before turning Right on Red; and now he was seeing people turn Left on Red. He stated the reason he mentions these observations was because he had concerns for the safety of pedestrians and other motorists, noting that motorists were in a 4,000-pound machine that they cannot stop on a preverbal dime.

Mayor Allyn, III, noted Councilor Dombrowski's comments about people disregarding Stop Signs. He reported that the State has installed cameras on all the state roads, which would take a picture of the license plate of vehicles that were either speeding or going through a Red Light. He stated that tickets would be mailed to the owner of the vehicle. He stated that one camera was located at the intersection of Colonel Ledyard Highway and Route 184.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted Councilor Dombrowski's comments regarding motorists; stating that her son was learning to drive. She stated that her son was driving the speed limit with his father in the car and there was a truck tailgating them and blowing their horn for about a half mile, because her son was not going fast enough. She stated because her son was getting nervous and anxious with the truck behind him that when he took a righthand turn that he took it too wide, and his father had to grab the steering wheel so that they would not hit the car that was looking to pull out of the street. She stated all this was because the truck driver behind her son could not wait. She stated that they were not learning from experiences, noting the number of accidents they see in their town and on other roadways.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry continued by remembering 9/11 stating when the tragic event happened in 2001, she was a college student. She stated she was in her car listening to the radio as she was getting ready to go to one of her classes. She stated that she had some friends whose birthday was on September 11th noting that they feel like they cannot celebrate their birthday on such a sad day.

Councilor Paul, attending remotely, thanked Chairman Rodriguez and others for their comments regarding 9/11. He stated during that tragic day America lost 13 Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedics, 60 Police Officers, 343 Firefighters, 2,997 civilians; and the many others that lost their lives in the aftermath due to 9/11 illness, noting that we will never forget that day.

Councilor Paul stated September was Suicide Prevention Month and he encouraged people to call the Suicide Prevention Line at 988 if you or you know someone who was struggling. He stated Veterans were a high risk for suicide.

Councilor Paul went on to note that Ledyard resident Keith Parkinson passed away on September 2, 2024 at the age of 85. He stated Mr. Parkinson played a major role in the design and construction of the Tri-Town Trail that runs from Bluff Point to the Preston Plains Park. He stated he wanted to honor Mr. Parkinson this evening.

Councilor Paul wished Councilor Ryan Happy Birthday!

Chairman Rodriguez stated in remembrance of 9-11 that she has a tradition where she visits the 9/11 Site and picks out a couple of names of those who passed that day and then she reads their biography. She stated that she does that to honor those who passed away so that they were not forgotten. She encouraged others to also look up a name, read about the person, and not forget them.

Chairman Rodriguez stated Public Act 24-46 "*An Act Establishing a Property Tax Exemption for Veterans Who Have a Service-Connected Permanent and Total Disability Rating*" was approved by the State Legislation; and was scheduled to become effective on October 1, 2024. She stated this unfunded mandate would provide a loss of \$375,000 in tax revenues based on the 300 known eligible accounts. She stated that she would be working with the Mayor to send a letter to State Senator Cathy Osten and other Legislators in Southeastern Connecticut to request that the State develop a program to reimburse municipalities for the loss of revenue attributed to Public Act 24-46.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the following:

Special Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2024

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2024

Special Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

COMMUNICATIONS

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

COMMUNICATIONS LISTING FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Permanent Municipal Building Cmt ltr dated 8/21//2024 re: PMBC Actions Mtg 8/12/2024
2. Ms. Ribe email dated 8/19/2024 re: Meeting with New London re: Governance Training Program
3. Retirement Board ltr dated 8/21//2024 re: Retirement Board Actions Mtg 8/20/2024
4. Ms. Roberts-Pierson – Town Planner email thread dated 8/20/2024 re: Inland Wetland & Water Courses 3rd Application Quarry- Mount Decatur (former Dow-Styrenics Property) Route 12 – Hire Experts
5. Ms. Roberts-Pierson email thread dated 8/22/2024 re: Land Use Director-Town Planner Staff Report – Planning & Zoning Commission Agenda
6. Mayor Ltr dated 8/8/2024 re: Appoint Cherry to Economic Development Commission (EDC)
7. Mayor Ltr dated 8/27/2024 re: Reappoint Driemiller to Economic Development Commission (EDC)
8. Mayor Ltr dated 8/27/2024 re: Reappoint Schneider to Economic Development Commission (EDC)
9. Water Pollution Control Authority ltr dated 8/29/2024 re: WPCA Actions Mtg 8/27/2024
10. Mr. Cronin ltr dated 9/3/2024 re: Resignation – Library Commission
11. Ms. Nash ltr dated 9/3/2024 re: Resignation – Library Commission Town Attorney Memo dated 9/9/2024 re: Municipal Display of Flags & First Amendment
12. Ms. Wilkinson email dated 9/10/2024 re: Quarry Application-Cashman- Mount Decatur
13. Mr. Casse email dated 9/10/2024 re: Quarry Application-Cashman- Mount Decatur
14. Ms. Onorato ltr dated 9/10/2024 re: Quarry Application-Cashman- Mount Decatur
15. Ms. Roberts-Pierson email dated 9/10/2024 re: Quarry Application-Cashman- Mount Decatur- Request Recusals
16. Board of Education Chairman email dated 9/10/2024 re: Request Comprehensive Infrastructure Study – Proposed New Housing Developments
17. Board of Education Chairman email dated 9/11/2024 re: Proposed Amendments Ordinance 100-015 Permanent Municipal Building Cmt- Appointment of Temporary Board of Education Members
18. Ms. Healy ltr dated 9/10/2024 re: Third Party Flags

OUT GOING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 8/15/2024 re: Action ltr. Town Council Regular Meeting of August 14, 2024.
2. Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 9/5/2024 re: Action ltr. Town Council Special Meeting of September 4, 2024.
3. LTC ltr to Board of Education dated 8/15/2024 re: Approved pass through of Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Additional Funding ASTE Program & Impact Aid
4. LTC ltr to Board of Education dated 8/15/2024 re: Approved \$90,888 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Child and Family Agency – Mental Health Services Juliet W. Long & Gales Ferry School
5. Chairman Rodriguez ltr dated 8/15/2024 re: Assignment of Duties – Chairman Pro-tem Councilor Garcia-Irizarry 8/16/2024 – 9/1/2024
6. Chairman Rodriguez to Ms. Johnson email thread dated 8/16/2024 re: Request for Noise Ordinance – Referred to LUPPW
7. Councilor St. Vil to Mr. Davis email dated 8/19/2024 re: Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD)

8. Councilor Brunelle email to Ms. Ribe dated 8/22/2024 re: Community Relations Cmt For Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – 8/21/2024 meeting - Governance Training Videos
9. Admin Asst ltr(s) to Commission & DTC re: Request Reappointment Endorsement Agricultural Commission Members
10. Admin Asst ltr(s) to Commission & DTC re: Request Reappointment Endorsement Beautification Committee Commission Members
11. Admin Asst ltr(s) to Commission & DTC re: Request Reappointment Endorsement Historic District Commission
12. Admin Asst ltr(s) to Commission – DTC-RTC re: Request Reappointment Endorsement
Admin Asst ltr(s) to Commission & DTC re: Request Reappointment Endorsement Planning & Zoning Commission Members
13. Admin Asst ltr(s) to Commission & DTC re: Request Reappointment Endorsement Library Commission Members

NOTICE OF AGENDAS

1. Retirement Board Agenda 8/20/2024
2. Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Agenda 8//20/2024
3. Agricultural Commission Agenda 8/20/2024
4. Historic District Commission Agenda 8/20/2024
5. Library Commission Agenda 8/19/2024 - Cancelled
6. Zoning Board of Appeals Agenda 8/21/2024
7. Water Pollution Control Authority 8/27/2024
8. Housing Authority Agenda 9/3/2024- Cancelled
9. Ledyard Beautification Cmt Agenda 9/3/2024
10. Economic Development Commission Agenda 9/3/2024 - Cancelled
11. Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission Agenda 9/3/2024
12. Farmers Market Committee Agenda 9/5/2024 – Cancelled
13. Permanent Municipal Building Cmt Agenda 9/9/2024
14. Conservation Commission Agenda 9/10//2024
15. Cemetery Committee Agenda 9/10/2024
16. Planning & Zoning Commission Agenda 9/12/2024
17. LUPPW Cmt Agenda 9/9/2024
18. Finance Cmt Agenda 8/21/4/2024- Cancelled
19. Community Relations Cmt for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion 8/21/2024
20. Finance Cmt Agenda 9/4/2024
21. Admin Cmt Agenda 9/11/2024 Cancelled
22. Public Hearing Agenda 9/11/2024- Cancelled
23. Town Council Agenda 9/11/2024

MINUTES

1. Retirement Board Minutes 6/18//2024
2. Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Minutes 8/20/2024
3. Agricultural Commission Minutes 7/16/2024
4. Historic District Commission minutes 7/15/2024
5. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes 12/20/2023
6. Water Pollution Control Authority Minutes 7/23/2024
7. LUPPW Cmt Minutes 6/3/2024
8. Finance Cmt Minutes 8/7/2024
9. Permanent Municipal Building Cmt Sp. Minutes 8/12/2024
10. Ledyard Beautification Cmt Minutes 8/6/2024
11. Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission Minutes 8/6/2024
12. Planning & Zoning Commission Minutes 8/8/2024
13. Conservation Commission Minutes 8/13//2024
14. LUPPW Cmt Minutes 8/5/2024
15. Finance Cmt Sp. Minutes 8/14/2024
16. Admin Cmt Sp. Mtg & Work Session Minutes 7/24/2024
17. Town Council Sp. Minutes 8/14/2024
18. Town Council Sp. Minutes 9/4/2024
19. Town Council Minutes 8/14/2024

REFERRALS

Administration Committee

1. Board of Education Chairman email dated 9/11/2024 re: Proposed Amendments Ordinance 100-015 Permanent Municipal Building Cmt- Appointment of Temporary Board of Education Members
2. Mr. Cronin ltr dated 9/3/2024 re: Resignation – Library Commission
3. Ms. Nash ltr dated 9/3/2024 re: Resignation – Library Commission

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

IX. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening and addressed the following: (1) Ordinance #100-0115 (rev 1) “*An Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Town of Ledyard*” - Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Committee reviewed the proposed Amendments to the Ordinance with members of the PMBC. She also noted that the Committee has forwarded an item to the Town Council to schedule a Public Hearing on October 23, 2024 to present the proposed Ordinance Amendments to the Public for their comments; (2) Discussed developing a Code of Ethics and Establishing an Ethics Commission; and (3) Appointments – Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the Committee forwarded Ms. Cynitha Wright’s Application to the Town Council to be appointed to the Library Commission to fill a vacancy left by Mr. Brian Cronin. She thanked Mr. Cronin for his 16-years of service on the Library Commission noting that he was dedicated to the success of the Library, and that he would be missed.

Community Relations Committee for Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Councilor Brunelle stated the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion met on August 21, 2024. She stated the Committee would continue to discuss the topics they had on the Agenda at their September 18, 2024.

Finance Committee

Councilor Saccone stated the Finance Committee met on September 4, 2024 and that they had one item under Old Business and two items under New Business on tonight’s agenda.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor Buhle stated the LUPPW Committee met on September 9, 2024, and they discussed the following: (1) Continued to work with the Historic District Commission on the process to designate the Spicer Homestead Ruins as a Historic Site. The Group agreed that the next step in the process was to conduct an A2 Survey of the property; (2) Illegal Dumping – Land Use Director-Town Planner Elizabeht Burdick would be reviewing Ordinance #300-012 (rev 1) “*An Ordinance Concerning Blight and Public Nuisance for the Town of Ledyard*” to determine whether it would be appropriate to amend the Ordinance to address the illegal dumping on other’s property; or whether a separate Ordinance would be needed; (3) Noise Ordinance – In response to a resident’s concerns about noise issues the LUPPW Committee would be researching mechanisms to address noise in residential neighborhoods; other than using an Ordinance to address these types of issues.

Board of Education

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Board of Education met on September 10, 2024 and discussed the following: (1) Gales Ferry School Roof Project was not progressing as well as the Juliet W. Long School Roof Project. Because of delays the Gales Ferry School Roof was not completed before school started on August 29, 2024. Therefore, the Contractor would be working on weekends to complete the project; (2) Budget Timeline – The Board of Education created a timeline for their Annual Budget Preparation. The Board of Education would like the Town Council to send them the Budget Letter of Directive in October, instead of November/December; (3) Capital Improvement Plan Prioritization – The Board of Education discussed forwarding their entire Capital Improvement Plan to the Town Council to bridge the

gap relative to the process used to prioritize their projects; (4) Working to set Goals for the Board of Education and to set Goals for the Superintendent of Schools – This would enable the Board of Education to evaluate themselves and the Superintendent at the end of the year.

Conservation Commission

Councilor Paul stated the Conservation Commission met on September 10, 2024 and discussed the following: (1) Clean Burton Trail – The Commission would be cleaning the Burton Trail on Sunday, September 29, 2024 and they were looking for volunteers to help with the work; and (2) 2024 Water Fest Day – Saturday, September 21, 2024 – Ledyard’s Conservation Commission, North Stonington’s Conservation Commission, Avalonia Land Conservancy, and others would be participating in the Event.

Chairman Rodriguez noted that the Town Council received an Invitation to attend the 2024 Water Fest on September 21, 2024

Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission

Chairman Rodriguez announced that this Friday, September 13, 2024, was the Senior Prom noting that it was going to be held at the Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. She stated the theme was Autumn Nights, and they have invited the Town Council and Mayor Allyn, III, to attend their Prom, noting that Tickets cost \$10 and that there would be refreshments served. She stated that she hoped they all could attend because the Seniors would love to see all of them at the event.

Farmers Market Committee

Chairman Rodriguez stated tonight was the last Farmers Market for the 2024 Summer Season. She congratulated Chairman Pam Ball and the whole Ledyard Farmers Market Committee on a job well done! She stated Ledyard’s Farmers Market was rated as #2 Best Farmers Market in the State of Connecticut for good reason. She noted the Farmers Market had excellent vendors, themes and activities this summer and that she was going to miss going to the Farmers Market each week. Again, job well done!

X. MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) Backpack and School Supplies Distribution – August 19, 2024 - Mayor Allyn stated Ledyard’s Social Services distributed 56 Backpacks this year; which was the most they have distributed; (2) Gales Ferry Corridor Study Request for Proposals (RFP) – Mayor Allyn stated the town only received one Bid for the Project, noting that it came in \$25,000 higher than the \$50,000 that was earmarked from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. He stated although they were working to try to reduce the cost that additional funding would be required; (3) Human Resources Director Position – Mayor Allyn noted as he reported at the August 14, 2024 Town Council meeting their Human Resources Director took a job closer to home and for higher pay. He stated the town received a number of Applications and hired Christine Diaz, noting that she would be joining Ledyard on September 16, 2024. He stated Ms. Diaz interviewed well and was a well-rounded individual; (4) Senior Citizens American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding – Mayor Allyn stated Ledyard received its \$29,827 Senior Citizens ARPA Funding, noting that they were waiting to sign the Agreement. He stated once the paperwork has been completed Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., and his staff were ready to spend the funds; (5) Hurricane Preparation Meeting – Eversource – Mayor Allyn stated he attended a Hurricane Preparation Meeting with Eversource. He stated due to a sandstorm in the southern part of the country that their region has been lucky this Hurricane Season, noting that the weather pattern for Connecticut has been very quiet. However, he stated for a Category 2 Storm that Eversource was projecting electric power outages for 2 – 3 weeks; (6) Habitat for Humanity Project – Colby Drive – Mayor Allyn stated he attended a meeting regarding the Habitat for Humanity Project which would construct 40-housing units. He stated the Construction Project would be phased-in over 5-years, noting that about 8-units would be built each year; (7) First Day of School – August 29, 2024 – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the first day of school where he saw Councilor Buhle’s son busy at work and he also saw his Executive Assistant’s two daughters; (8) Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) – Mayor Allyn stated he attended their Annual Meeting on

September 4, 2024. He stated Ledyard's DEMHS Region included 40 towns, noting that they had about \$350,000 to spend through a Budget Process to purchase items such as emergency generators, light towers, and road blockades, etc. He stated all this equipment was available to all DEMHS towns, noting that the town where the equipment was stored would be responsible to deliver the equipment to the town that was in-need; (9) Zoning Enforcement Officer – Mayor Allyn stated that Zoning Enforcement Officer Alex Samalot has taken a job closer to his home in West Hartford. He stated Ms. Hanna Gieanu has been hired and would join Ledyard on September 12, 2024. He stated Ms. Gienau was a Ledyard High School Graduate and has experience in the field for wetlands and wetlands soils; and was ready to work on zoning matters as well; (10) Opioid Settlement Funding Disbursement \$13,435.20 (McKinzie & Company) – September 6, 2024 – Mayor Allyn stated as a Party to the Class Action Case that Ledyard, along with all Connecticut Municipalities, have been receiving National Opioid Settlement disbursements from the Sackler Family Trust - Purdue Pharma, and others who were party to the case such as Johnson & Johnson, Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, CVS, and Walmart. He stated last year the Town Council appropriated \$36,100 from the National Opioid Settlement Funds to Ledge Light Health District/ Ledyard Prevention Coalition to implement programs to address opioid use disorder, prevention, to expand access to intervention, treatment, and recovery options. He stated that he would provide an update regarding the balance of these funds, noting that the Town Council may want to consider appropriating some funding to other organizations such as *Community Speaks Out* (see IV. Informational Items/Presentations above); (11) Council Chambers Microphones and Speakers – Mayor Allyn stated he was working with the MIS Department to upgrade equipment in the Council Chambers, to improve the sound quality in the meeting room; (12) Baby Delivery – Mayor Allyn congratulated Firefighter Brian Pepin for delivering a pre-mature baby. He stated the baby had to stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for a few days, noting that Mother and Baby were doing well. He stated the family visited the Firehouse for all the firefighters who attended the call to see the baby and to thank them for their service; (13) Ledyard Farmers Market – Closing – Mayor Allyn stated he Rang the Bell for the final Farmers Market for the 2024 Season earlier this evening. He stated the Farmers Market Committee does an amazing job each year in putting on the Market each week during the summer months. He stated making the improvements at the Lower Town Green and to the Pole Barn has worked out great for events like the Farmers Market.

Questions to the Mayor

Councilor Dombrowski addressed upgrading the microphones and speakers in the Council Chambers, noting that the sound has been a long-standing issue. He provided clarification noting that the microphones that were in front of each person on the Dias were only connected to the audio recorder for the official recording of the meetings, explaining that they were not to amplify the speakers' voices. He stated the only microphone for those participating via Zoom was located on the OWL that was sitting several feet away from the Dias.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. MOTION to authorize the town to proceed with the engineering design of sewer mains along Fairway/Colby Drives (\$108,000) and Route 117 (\$137,500), respectively, per Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. Bid No. 2021-03 Amendments 3 and 4.

In addition, transfer and appropriate \$245,000 from Account #0210-10-1210-12101 (CNR Undesignated) for said purpose.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski

Discussion: Councilor Saccone stated as the Motion indicated this funding would pay for the engineering work to bring the sewer line down Colby Drive and Fairway Drive and from the Library to the Post Office on Colonel Ledyard Highway. He stated the funding to pay for the engineering work would be coming from CNR Undesignated which had a current Balance of \$775,000. He went on to state that this CNR Undesignated Account was funded by fees collected at the Transfer Station, Recycling Revenue, and other various revenues that were received from a specific program. He stated this CNR Undesignated Account was not funded by taxpayer dollars.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 that the Transfer Station collected \$296,000; noting that the Transfer Station Revenues continue to accumulate each year.

Mr. Ed Lynch, Water Pollution Control Authority Chairman, 11 Red Brook Lane, Ledyard, stated that this engineering work was for Phase II of the Sewer Line Extension Project. He stated since they have begun work to extend the sewer line that there has been a lot of interest from Developers. He stated the WPCA has been working to be pro-active, so when the Developers approach them, they would at least have the design work in-place.

Mr. Lynch continued by stating that they do not have the final estimate for the construction of Phase III, which would upgrade/replace the inadequate 2.5-inch sewer line to a 6-inch line from the High School to Pennywise Lane; and would tie into the service lines that go to the Wastewater Sewer Treatment Facility. He stated that he thought that the cost would come in about \$950,000 under the original estimated budget. Mayor Allyn added that the design work for Phase III was 90% completed.

Councilor Dombrowski explained when the sewer line was originally installed from the High School to Pennywise Lane that they intentionally put a 2.5-inch line in because of the limitations of the Wastewater Treatment Facility at that time. Mr. Lynch stated that Councilor Dombrowski was correct; and he explained that the 6-inch sewer line would lay on top of the existing 2.5-inch sewer line, noting that the original line would not be disturbed. He went on to explain that the High School had a 12,000-gallon storage tank, noting that they could use the High School storage tank should they ever have to repair the sewer line. He stated eventually the High School would also be tied into the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Paul, Rodriguez, Saccone,
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- MOTION amend the Agenda to add the following
MOTION to discuss Board of Education Chairman Anthony Favry’s September 10, 2024 email requesting the Town Council conduct a comprehensive infrastructure study to include Ledyard school facilities.
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 1 Approved and so declared (Dombrowski not in favor)

RESULT:	APPROVED 6 - 0 - 1
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Paul, Rodriguez, Saccone
NAYES:	Dombrowski
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

Chairman Rodriguez noted that this item would be added as Item #3 on tonight’s agenda.

Finance Committee

1. MOTION to approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$75,000 from Account #10114301-53300 (Undesignated Fund Balance) to Land Use Professional/Tech Services in order engage project specific consultants to support the Land Use Department for the remainder of the fiscal year (2024/2025).

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, stated this funding request was in response to several large Development Applications that have been submitted to the Land Use Department noting the following:

- Two substantial Applications have been received for Gales Ferry.

- Expecting an Application for about 125-Units of mixed use for the land behind the Town Hall.
- Expecting an Application for 225-Units across the street behind the former Ledyard Center School; plus, the rear wing of the Ledyard Center School would be developed to provide Age Restricted Housing.
- Habitat for Humanity 40-Units on Colby Drive.

Mayor Allyn went on to explain because Ledyard only had one Town Planner that they were looking to bring in Independent Consultants to provide additional support for these Applications, versus hiring someone. He stated when this activity dwindles, they could cease the use of the Consultants. He stated if only one of these Applications gets to the finish line that the new tax revenue it would generate would pay for the Independent Consultants.

Councilor Saccone thanked Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick for getting ahead of a problem the town was having with the massive Building Applications.

VOTE: 7- 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Paul, Rodriguez, Saccone
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

2. MOTION to approve a tax refund to June Munch, 119 Whalehead Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335 in the amount of \$3,817.82.

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Saccone stated this was a refund for a triple payment of taxes. He noted in accordance with Tax Collection Procedures, that tax refunds over \$2,400 were required to be approved by the Town Council.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Paul, Rodriguez, Saccone
EXCUSED:	Ryan, St. Vil

3. Discussion regarding Board of Education Chairman Anthony Favry’s September 10, 2024 email requesting the Town Council conduct a comprehensive infrastructure study to include Ledyard school facilities to the Finance Committee.

Chairman Rodriguez read Mr. Favry’s September 10, 2024 email as follows:

From: Anthony Favry <afavry@ledyard.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 6:31 PM
To: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>
Cc: BoE Members <boemembers@ledyard.net>
Subject: Comprehensive Infrastructure Study

Good Evening Chairman Rodriguez & Councilors,

It was raised at a recent Board Meeting that multi-residential developments were being proposed across Gales Ferry and Ledyard. Depending on the timeline for when these developments are expected to break ground and complete, the general population growth could bring with it strain on the infrastructure within our community, inclusive of our schools.

The Board of Education would like to request of Town Council that a comprehensive infrastructure study be conducted, inclusive of our school facilities, in order to better understand what the projected growth rates are and where there may be investments

needed to the facilities supporting our community and students. As you may be aware, space is limited across multiple of our school facilities and any major fluctuations in the student population could put significant strain on our ability to serve students and the faculty and staff the support them. We believe this type of comprehensive analysis is necessary to provide Town Council and the Board of Education with insight that will likely inform recommendations and decisions that will need to be made in the future to support this growth.

*We appreciate your consideration of our request.
Thank You,
Anthony Favry
Chairman, Ledyard Board of Education”*

Chairman Rodriguez asked Mayor Allyn, III, if he would like to make any comments.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated that the Board of Education’s request was surprising because it was only 4-years ago that the town completed the School(s) Consolidation/Improvement Project(s) (Middle School & Gallup Hill School- Renovate As New). He stated around 1989 Chow-Lawler conducted a Full Facilities Study; and that another Study was done around 2010. He stated based on the Requests for Proposals that the cost for these Studies ranged between \$87,700 to \$350,000 in 2010. He stated a Study such as these would be a major financial undertaking. He stated if the Study were to be conducted that it should occur as part of the Budget Process in the Capital Plan.

Councilor Dombrowski stated the reason he voted “No” to amend the Agenda to add this discussion was not because a Study was not needed. He stated Chairman Favry’s email that was received today did not facilitate a level of urgency in which it had to be added to tonight’s agenda. He stated Chairman Rodriguez could have announced that Chairman Favry’s email was received and referred it to the Finance Committee. Chairman Rodriguez noted that she planned to refer the Facilities Study to the Finance Committee this evening.

Councilor Paul stated that he agreed with Councilor Dombrowski’s comments, noting that he did not see the urgency. However, he stated that he also thought that the request for a Facilities Study should be discussed.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Board of Education had concerns regarding the space of the School Facilities, noting as an example that although the Middle School was a new school that the Cafeteria was too small. She stated they cannot have a full grade eat lunch at the same time. She stated this should not have happened noting that she believed it was a bad design from the beginning. She stated the Board of Education had similar concerns regarding the Elementary Schools, noting that the Gallup Hill School had 600 students.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that he viewed a Town Facilities Study from a pragmatic perspective. He stated if the town had an additional number of housing units built in Gales Ferry; and if they had additional housing units built in Ledyard, as the Mayor mentioned earlier (see New Business Item #1 above) they have to look at what all this development was going to do to everything, not just the schools. He stated that they would have to look at the impact on the Police Department, Town Hall, the Library, Road Use/Maintenance, Public Works, Water, Sewer, Fire Response, etc. He stated with having nearly 1,000 additional housing units in town, that it was time to look at everything not just the schools. However, he stated that the town would have to plan for a Facilities Study as part of the Budget Process.

Councilor Buhle stated that she agreed that looking to conduct a Facilities Study should be referred to the Finance Committee; and that it should be part of the Budget Process. She stated because the schools were already at capacity, that she believed the Board of Education had a sense of urgency to start discussing a Facilities Study now, noting that schools take so long to build. She went on to state that the Parks & Recreation Department has been wanting to have a Parks Study done for quite some time, however, she stated due to the lack of funding that they have not been able to have a Park Study done. She stated the parks in her home state of Illinois were phenomenal, noting their playgrounds had zip lines, and splash pads, etc. She

stated a Park Study was necessary whether or not they had more people in town, to determine whether their Park Facilities were adequate to meet the needs of their residents. Therefore, she suggested they look at whether all their resources, including parks, were adequate, for our current population and their growing population.

Chairman Rodriguez referred the Facility Study to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED

Finance Cmt Meeting: 09/18/2024; 5:00 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Brunelle.
7 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 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 September 11, 2024.

S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman