



Chairman
Ed Lynch

TOWN OF LEDYARD

Water Pollution Control Authority

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch was present via Zoom for the meeting and asked Vice Chairperson Wadecki to run the in-person meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Wadecki called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present	Board Member Terry Jones Board Member Stanley Juber Board Member Sharon Wadecki Board Member Edmond Lynch Alternate Member James A. Ball
Excused	Board Member Monir Tewfik Alternate Member Tony Capon
Late	Alternate Member Jeremy Norris

Chairman Ed Lynch and Terry Jones were present via Zoom.
Jeremy Norris arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Also in attendance;
Mauricio Duarte, GU General Foreman Water Operations.
Mike Cherry, Town Representative for SCWA.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Jim Ball was appointed as a voting member.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting minutes from February 25, 2025, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Stanley Juber

SECONDER: James A. Ball

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Operations Report.

Vice Chairperson Wadecki commented that Mr. Jones' request to have the report calculated midmonth has come to be. Mr. Jones said he appreciates it. Chairman Lynch noted two things. First that Cashman is using un-metered water and secondly, the quarry off Baldwin Hill Road is using hydrant water, he added that Mr. Mauricio Duarte, GU General Foreman Water Operations has solutions for these issues.

2. Service Correspondence.

None.

3. Aged Reports/Finance.

No questions or comments.

4. Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.

No questions or comments.

5. PSR - Steve Banks.

New London Day reporter Carrie Czerwinski toured the Ledyard Highlands WWTF last month. The article was in The Day paper on March 6, 2025.

SCADA work on Rotary Drum panel needs to be completed. The new panel is working well.

Received Notice of Application sufficiency from DEEP. Awaiting a full technical review from Christopher Falk.

6. Department of Health Communication - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Vice Chairperson Wadecki asked Chairman Lynch why this was on the agenda since the deadline was March 18. Chairman Lynch said the application is for 2026 not 2025. The application has been submitted but Chairman Lynch has not heard back yet.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. FY 2026 Budget Workshop - Sewer

Vice Chairperson Wadecki asked if anyone had questions. Mr. Jones said that Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director, didn't answer the question "Why is GU Customer Service increased

by 15% when the contract modification asks for 6%? ". Vice Chairperson Wadecki read the answer she received from Mr. Stammel; "Ed changed the numbers based on what was provided from Groton Utilities, Ed is using an 85/15% ratio for water/sewer, the budget in the past couple of years had been using 86/14%". Chairman Lynch confirmed that this information is correct, the total is 6% which needs to be divided 85/15%. Mr. Jones noted that it was calculated that way, and the numbers need to be rebalanced. Mr. Jones suggested an approach to take the FY25 numbers, add the numbers together, increase the number by 6% and lastly divide that number by 85/15 %. Vice Chairperson Wadecki and Chairman Lynch agreed this would be a correct approach.

The Commissioners ran the numbers and discovered that the budget was only a few hundred dollars off, and the rate increase would not be impacted, therefore it was not worth changing the budget.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. FY 2026 Budget Workshop - Water

Mr. Jones pointed out that the change column for the fire hydrant maintenance is incorrect. Vice Chairperson Wadecki said she isn't too worried about the change columns if the proposed column is correct. The second inconsistency that Mr. Jones pointed out was the GU Customer Service Proposed Budget Column is \$105,319.85 instead of \$104,177.22. Vice Chairperson Wadecki asked if Mr. Jones wants to change the budget line. She added that the amount is higher (and not by much - \$800.00), plus it's not affecting the 6% rate change, the money could become available for something else. The Commissioners agreed to leave it as is. Mr. Jones said his biggest concern is balancing the budget by treating the wheeling fees as revenue, Vice Chairperson Wadecki said the fees are revenue. Mr. Jones stated that the wheeling fees should be offset by a transfer to a special account for the maintenance of the tank and if this is not the case the WPCA should ask for an audit of the wheeling fee account. Vice Chairperson Wadecki and Chairman Lynch confirmed that the wheeling fee funds go into the Capital account and that the CNR fund is not part of the budget. Vice Chairperson Wadecki said currently there is a contribution of \$130,000 going to CNR and this amount includes the wheeling fees. Vice Chairperson Wadecki said the WPCA could request that the wheeling fees go to a specific part of the Capital account such as tank maintenance, but it would require a vote from the Authority. Going forward the Authority needs to do its own accounting of what is in CNR.

ACTION ITEM:

Vice Chairperson Wadecki will ask Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director, for the CNR account balance(s).

Chairman Lynch said he wants to put \$15,000 in the budget for a leak test. The required test needs to be budgeted every five years. Chairman Lynch thought it was put into the budget spreadsheet but didn't see a line item for the leak test. The Commissioners questioned if the test was added to contingency. It was debated whether it's better to set money aside each year for the test or pay for it only once during the testing year. This will be discussed further at a later date. Vice Chairperson Wadecki suggested adding a separate line item for the test and subtracting that amount from the contingency line, keeping the bottom-line item the same. The Commissioners agreed.

Vice Chairperson Wadecki added that Mr. Stammel said he doesn't think there is enough in the budget for water usage and income for Route 12 and Route 117. The Commissioners agreed to increase these two budget lines.

Route 12 Water Purchase Used = \$350,000

Route 117 Water Purchase Used = \$400,000

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Motion to APPROVE rate increase on Sewer Budget by 4% to \$694.015.86

Motion to APPROVE the Sewer Budget for \$694.015.86, which represents a 4% increase.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

4. Discussion and vote to set a Public Hearing date regarding a 4% rate increase to Water Budget (\$1,565,566.70).

Motion to APPROVE a proposed Water Budget of \$1,765,531.80 which includes a 4% Water Rate Increase.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Stanley Juber

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

Motion to SET a Public Hearing date on April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a 4% Water Rate Increase.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

5. SCWA/WPCA Exclusive Service Area Agreement Adjustments.

Mike Cherry, Town Representative for SCWA thanked Mauricio Duarte, GU General Foreman Water Operations for getting the service area drawings for him. Mr. Cherry passed copies of the drawings to the Authority.

Mr. Cherry said the swap with the two residential areas (939 Long Cove Road and 84 Silas Dean Road) are easy but the swap within Ledyard Center with mixed service development is a bit harder. The constraints are with 2 and 5 Colby Drive, both of which want WPCA service because of sewer. SCWA wants to keep the daycare on 1 Colby Drive within their service area since it's one of their largest customers. This presents the issue of how to run the water main without having two different water companies on the same street.

Proposed Service areas:

SCWA:

- 939 Long Cove Road. SCWA has a water main abutting this planned development from their Tower Division with adequate quality and quantity to support this development.
- 84 Silas Dean Road. SCWA has a water main abutting this planned development from their Ledyard Center Division with adequate quality and quantity to support this development.

WPCA:

- 2, 4, 6 and 8 Colby
- 1, 5, 7, 9 Fairway Drive
- 690 Colonel Ledyard Highway

Mr. Cherry said he envisioned an agreement signed by three parties to support a revision to the ESA boundaries which was part of the Eastern Water Utility Coordination Committee (WUUC) plan adopted in July 2016 and confirmed in May 2017. This revision would best support the vision captured in the Ledyard Comprehensive Plan and the Ledyard Plan of Conservation and Development.

Mr. Norris asked if there are any existing customers that will be affected by the proposed swap and if so, are they on board with the swap? Mr. Cherry answered yes there are existing customers. Vice Chairperson Wadecki said she thinks at a minimum the WPCA should hold a public hearing.

There was a discussion as to whether new pipelines would be required post swap. Mr. Jones suggested asking Groton Utilities to evaluate the swap areas for engineering implications. Vice Chairperson Wadecki concurred and added that she did not want to commit to a service area swap until evaluations are completed. Mauricio Duarte, GU General Foreman Water Operations said he could obtain water main maps from SCWA and compare those to the WPCA water mains to provide the WPCA with an evaluation.

ACTION ITEM: Obtain the potential swap service area evaluation from Mr. Duarte.

6. Resolution of sewer bill forgiveness at 154 Gallup Hill Road - Groton Utilities analysis. Discussion and possible vote.

Vice Chairperson Wadecki said the resident submitted a detailed request for forgiveness but was surprised that he knew to ask to be charged the commercial rate for water instead of the

residential rate. The Authority agreed to charge the customer a commercial rate for water and typical sewer usage.

Motion to ADJUST the water and sewer bill for 154 Gallup Hill Road to \$3034.47.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Terry Jones

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

7. Review of Trail/Sewer line progress report. Communicate punch list requirements - continued. Discussion of Hydrant displacement on Colonel Ledyard Highway.

Chairman Lynch said the GU estimated a cost of \$13,000 to relocate the Gallup Hill fire hydrant. Vice Chairperson Wadecki asked if the proposed hydrant relocation was approved by the Fire Marshall. Mr. Duarte said no that he met with the Fire Marshall, and he wanted the hydrant moved directly across the street from the proposed location (on the same side as the current location on Colonel Ledyard Highway but down further on the edge). Mr. Duarte said the estimate also includes a one-foot riser to the hydrant near the High School bike rack.

8. WPCA Handbook continued.

Mr. Jones referred to the two outstanding issues noted in the February minutes that still need to be verified:

The first one refers to Section 7.23 which states there is a specification for grinder pumps, Mr. Jones said he is not sure if the WPCA officially adopted all of GU's specs but that is what is implied. Mr. Jones wants to know if this is fiction or fact, he added that GUs position on grinder pumps is very different than the WPCA's and adopting their specifications may not be what the Authority wants.

- a) All construction shall be in accordance with the technical specifications as included in "The Town of Ledyard, Water Pollution Control Authority, and Specifications for Sewage Grinder Pump Installation."

Chairman Lynch said he asked Weston & Sampson for specifications, but they have not provided any yet, he will ask again.

ACTION ITEM: Ask Weston & Sampson to provide residential and commercial generic specifications.

The second outstanding issue refers to:

Section 8.11 - check valves for backflow prevention in new houses.

Mr. Jones said that Groton implements this on a case by case basis but in Groton there is just one supplier: GU. Ledyard has multiple water suppliers so how would the Building Officials enforce that requirement with other suppliers? Vice Chairperson Wadecki agreed and said maybe that requirement should be removed.

Vice Chairperson Wadecki commented that Mr. Jones put a lot of work into the handbook and thanked him for his effort.

Mr. Jones ended by saying that the handbook is close to completion but not ready for a vote just yet.

9. 154 Gallup Hill Drive bill resolution - vote on the Review Officer proposal.

This item was voted on during Old Business item #6 "Resolution of sewer bill forgiveness at 154 Gallup Hill Road".

10. Ongoing Lead Survey Grant and project Resolution.

Chairman Lynch said there was nothing new to report, he is still waiting on a response from the Department of Health.

11. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION to approve Groton Utilities invoice #0024013 dated 4.30.2024 in the amount of \$1892.57 for Ledyard LSL Inventory.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

2. Motion to approve Groton Utilities invoice #0024238 dated 8.30.2024 in the amount of \$147.41 for Ledyard Audit Report.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

3. Motion to approve Groton Utilities invoice #0024319 dated 9.30.2024 in the amount of \$1944.64 for Ledyard LS/LR Inventory.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

4. Motion to approve Groton Utilities invoice #0026442 dated 2.28.2025 in the amount of \$30,611.54 for Ledyard Emergency.

Vice Chairperson Wadecki explained that this invoice was for the emergency digging/paving services at Lorenz Parkway. Vice Chairperson Wadecki said she was told by Mr. Stammel that the WPCA was in violation of the Town Ordinance because the Authority didn't complete a bid waiver. Chairman Lynch replied that it was considered an emergency repair.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

5. Motion to approve Groton Utilities invoice #0026443 dated 2.28.2025 in the amount of \$183.60 for Ledyard LS/LR Report.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

6. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Commission.
None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Jones Juber Wadecki Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Tewfik Capon

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