



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Town Council Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339-1551
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council@ledyardct.org

Chairman S. Naomi
Rodriguez

Sp. Town Council Mtg

Thursday, April 17, 2025

6:30 PM

Town Hall Council Chambers

In-Person: Council Chambers Town Hall Annex

Remote: Information noted below:

Join Zoom Meeting from your Computer, Smart Phone or Tablet:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85334590030?pwd=mijGO8MmdfrDLLhUYp8Mc5bVp8Bqk0.1>

by Audio only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 853 3459 0030; Passcode: 933770

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilor William Barnes
Councilor April Brunelle
Councilor Jessica Buhle
Councilor Carmen Garcia-Irizarry
Chairperson S. Naomi Rodriguez
Councilor Tim Ryan
Excused: Councilor Kevin Dombrowski
Councilor Tony Saccone
Councilor Gary St. Vil

XIV. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

1. MOTION to authorize the resubmission of the 2025 COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Grant Application in the amount of up-to \$240,000 through the 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending initiative, to replace the Ledyard Dispatch Emergency Communications CAD/RMS System.

Moved by Chairman Rodriguez, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: Councilor Buhle, attending remotely via Zoom, provided some background

explaining at their April 10, 2024 meeting the Town Council approved to submit the 2025 Grant Application *COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Grant* Application in the amount of up-to \$240,000 under the 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending initiative, to upgrade their software. She explained that Ledyard's Project/Grant Application received approval through the Appropriations Committee and that they were waiting for Congress to approve the Continuing Resolution to allocate the funding. However, she stated in March, 2025 Senator Richard Blumenthal's Office provided an update regarding the Continuing Resolution that Congress passed, noting that the Resolution did not fund the Congressionally Directed Spending Program for Community Projects that had been submitted for the current fiscal year (fy 24/25). She went on to note that Senator Blumenthal's Office explained that should Ledyard choose to resubmit their request in 2026 for the \$240,000 COPS Technology Grant that Ledyard's Application would have top priority at the top of the list.

Councilor Buhle went on to explain on April 14, 2025 she and Chairman Rodriguez were notified that the Application Period for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Program for Community Projects had opened but that it would close on April 20, 2025 (correct date April 27, 2025). Therefore, she stated because of the short Grant Application submission period they needed to act quickly to authorize resubmission of Ledyard's 2025 *COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Grant* Application in the amount of up-to \$240,000 for the 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Program.

Police Chief John Rich, attending remotely via Zoom, thanked the Town Council for scheduling a special meeting this evening to address the resubmission of their 2025 Grant Application *COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Grant* Application in the amount of up-to \$240,000 under the 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Program. He explained that this equipment would really modernize and increase the functionality of their software that allowed them to maintain the records for the Police Department, Dispatch, and their Police Officers. He stated the upgraded software would include enhanced mapping capabilities, and would give them the ability to go back into historical data for investigative purposes. He went on to explain that the software also interfaced with the judicial system for the online submission of forms and electronic signatures, etc. He stated that it would allow them to implement "*E-Citations and Warnings*", for traffic enforcement, explaining that if a Police Officer had a car with a printer, they would no longer need to have ticket books and pens, etc., noting that it would increase efficiency, as well as modernize and further professionalize their Police Department. He stated that he would be happy to answer questions.

Councilor Ryan questioned the April 20, 2025 (correct date April 27, 2025) Grant Resubmission Deadline, noting in reading the email it sounded like Congressman Courtney's Office wanted responses by April 11, 2025; and he wanted to make sure they were not missing the deadline.

Chairman Rodriguez stated that Congressman Courtney's Office reached out to her to see if Ledyard was still interested in seeking the grant funding, and that she said "*Yes, the Town was interested*". Therefore, she explained the April 11, 2025 deadline was to find out if the town was still interested, not the deadline for the Resubmission of the Grant Application.

Councilor Ryan stated that he did not see anything about the April 20, 2025 (correct date April 27, 2025) Grant Application Deadline; and therefore, he was looking for clarification. Chairman Rodriguez explained that there were two separate emails, one from Congressman Joe Courtney's Office that she received; and one from Senator Richard Blumenthal's Office that Councilor Buhle received. Councilor Buhle noted that she would forward the emails to Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher to include them on the Communications List.

Councilor Buhle stated that she just reread the email she received from Senator Blumenthal's Office regarding the Grant Application Deadline for the 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Program, and she noticed that the deadline was April 27, 2025 and not April 20, 2025. She apologized noting that she must have misread the deadline date.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Chief Rich for attending tonight's meeting.

VOTE: 6 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: S. Naomi Rodriguez

SECONDER: April Brunelle

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

VOTE: 6 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 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 Special Town Council Meeting held on April 17, 2025

S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

DISCLAIMER:

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

The Town Council's Official Agenda and final Minutes will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.