



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Town Council Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339-1551
(860) 464-3203
council@ledyardct.org

Chairman S. Naomi
Rodriguez

Special Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

6:00 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/86382961988?pwd=s6hrrXvpGBJkH5k2bdh2cG3PNps8bd.1>

Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 863 8296 1988; Passcode: 427157

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pro-tem Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Pro-tem Barnes 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

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

XIV. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Chairman Pro-tem Barnes stated the purpose of tonight's Special Meeting was administrative to address some discrepancies and to adopt a Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget.

Chairman Pro-tem Barnes explained because this was a Special Meeting they would not be receiving public comment this evening, although they welcome residents those who were here in-person and attending online.

1. MOTION to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget in the amount of \$70,364,977 comprised of:
 - General Government: \$29,902,735 _
 - Board of Education: \$40,462,242.

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Background Information: Background Information: Subsequent to the Town Council's June 11, 2025 actions the following information was noted:

- 6/11/2025 Floater Salary was reduced by \$9,692 - This position is in the Town Hall and Library Collective Bargaining Unit; and therefore, the salary cannot be reduced per the Labor Contract.
- 6/11/2025 Board of Education Capital was reduced by \$45,000 - There was no funding coming from the Tax Levy for Board of Education Capital. Therefore, this reduction would not have provided a reduction to the budget. Superintendent Hartling has agreed to reduce the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Board of Education Operating Budget by \$45,000.

❖ **MOTION** to amend the Motion to make the following Budget Allocation Adjustments:

Account #	Title	Reinstate	(change from 6/11/2025)
1011-0201-51305	Town Hall Floater	\$9,692	\$28,692

Account #	Title	Reduction	(change from 6/11/2025)
10140107-56301	Sand and Salt	\$9,692	\$115,308

Board of Education **Change from Capital Budget (6/11/2025) To Operating Budge**
 (6/18/2025)

Reduce the Board of Education Operational Budget by \$45,000

Moved by Councilor Dombrowski, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin told Chairman Rodriguez that at the end of the winter he was able to fill the Sand & Salt Shed, noting that the town was stocked up. Therefore, she stated that reducing the Sand & Salt Budget line by an additional \$9,692 should not affect next year's Winter Operations Budget too much.

VOTE 5 - 3 Approved and so declared (Barnes, Dombrowski, Ryan not in favor)

Chairman Pro tem Barnes called for a Vote on the Main Motion as follows:

MOTION to adopt a Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget in the amount of **\$70,364,977** comprised of:

- General Government: **\$29,902,735**
- Board of Education: **\$40,462,242**

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Councilor Dombrowski stated that he did not think the Town Council was doing the residents justice based on the results of both Referendums (May 20 & June 10, 2025), which was the reason he voted “No” on the Amendment this evening. He stated that he thought they should have made a more significant cut to the Board of Education’s increase. He stated although he does not like to cut the education budget; that the General Government has taken the brunt of the budget cuts throughout this year’s budget process.

Councilor Ryan attending remotely via Zoom, noted Councilor Dombrowski’s comments and he stated as most people were aware, both in the audience and on the Town Council, that he believed that more could be done to reduce the Board of Education’s increase. He stated that he was dismayed that the decision was to continue to cut the town’s budget when the General Government’s Budget was now in a negative; noting in other words, the General Government’s Budget was now at a decrease from the current budget year (fy 24/25). He stated it was concerning to him that the Town Council wanted to potentially impact the services that serve everybody in the town. He stated that it was foolish that they were not trying to reduce the tax increase they were putting on their taxpayers.

Councilor Ryan continued by stating although the State has not yet approved their Budget and the Governor has not yet signed it, that he was extremely nervous with what was looming in Hartford and with what Ledyard would have to deal with during the next 2 to 3 budget cycles. He stated that they had a chance to kind of blunt that with this year’s budget; however, they did not take advantage of that opportunity.

Councilor Ryan stated not to belabor this; that his reasons for voting “No” have not changed over the last two votes.

Background Information: With these Allocation Adjustments the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget would call for a 1.93 Mil Rate Increase

VOTE 5 - 3 Approved and so declared (Barnes, Dombrowski, Ryan not in favor)

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Carmen Garcia-Irizarry

SECONDER: Tony Saccone

AYE: 5 Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Saccone, and St. Vil

NAY: 3 Barnes, Dombrowski, and Ryan

EXCUSED: 1 Brunelle

Mil Rate - Fiscal Year 2025/2026

2. MOTION to rescind the Town Council's action of June 11, 2025 setting the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.16 and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.

Moved by Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: None.

Background Information: With the Budget Adjustment to move the Board of Education \$45,000 reduction from the Capital Budget, which resided on the General Government side of the budget ledger, to their Operating Budget, the final calculation for the Mil Rate was reduced by 0.02 mils. Therefore, the June 11, 2025 action needed to be rescinded to approve the corrected the Mil Rate.

VOTE 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

* MOTION to set Fiscal Year 2025/2026 a Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.14; and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Background Information: Since the June 10, 2025 Second Referendum the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate increase has been reduced from the projected 1.99 to 1.93. A 37.14 Mil Rate would be required to support the Fiscal Year 2025/2025 Budget.

Also, for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 the State's Car Tax Cap of 32.46 mils has remained the same as the previous year. Because the Car Tax Cap would result in a loss of tax revenue for several towns, the State has been providing funding to Municipalities to offset the loss of their Municipal car tax losses.

VOTE 5 - 3 Approved and so declared (Barnes, Dombrowski, Ryan not in favor)

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Carmen Garcia-Irizarry

SECONDER: Tony Saccone

AYE: 5 Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Saccone, and St. Vil

NAY: 3 Barnes, Dombrowski, and Ryan

EXCUSED: 1 Brunelle

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Saccone.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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

I, William Barnes, Chairman Pro-tem 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 June 18, 2025.

William Barnes, Chairman Pro-tem

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.