



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

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

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting

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Wednesday, November 8, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall Council Chambers

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WORKING DRAFT

**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/82406206512?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82406206512?pwd=VOMP7rb2fTeOT6JBJWTqrZFOCwbscW.1)**  
**[pwd=VOMP7rb2fTeOT6JBJWTqrZFOCwbscW.1](#)**

**Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 824 0620 6512; Passcode: 665313**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dombrowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Dombrowski 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 Kevin Dombrowski  
Councilor Bill Saums  
Councilor Andra Ingalls  
Councilor Gary Paul  
Councilor John Marshall  
Councilor Mary K. McGrattan  
Councilor S. Naomi Rodriguez  
Councilor Tim Ryan  
Councilor Whit Irwin

#### IV. PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Dombrowski stated after decades of community service three members of the Town Council chose not to seek reelection, noting that he along with Mayor Fred Allyn, III, and State Senator Cathy Osten would like to take this opportunity to recognize their dedication and contributions to the Ledyard.

Chairman Dombrowski presented Councilor Mary K. McGrattan with the following Proclamation:

*Be it known that the  
Town of Ledyard  
Recognizes  
**A Lifetime of Community Service***

**MARY K. MCGRATTAN**

*For her more than Forty-five years of dedication to the Town of Ledyard*

*In serving as a volunteer on numerous Town Committees and Civic Organizations in her community, as a Member of the Ledyard Town Council for over two-decades; as Mayor serving two terms from 1983 - 1991; and in serving five terms as State Representative for the Forty-second District from 1991- 2001.*

***Ms. McGrattan** as a wife, mother, and registered nurse also made time to serve her community; all while raising nine children together with her Husband Bob. She had a background in Faith Community Nursing and was a recipient of the Nightingale Award for her excellence in Nursing; and also served her community as a Certified Medicare Counselor.*

***During her time on the Town Council** Ms. McGrattan served on the Administration Committee and Community Services Committee. Her attention to detail made her an excellent administrator in overseeing the drafting of Ordinances, Resolutions, Job Descriptions, Town Policies, and Procedures. She was progressive and instrumental in selecting the town's first cloud-based Meeting Portal in 2008, providing live stream video and on-line public access to the town's meeting agendas and minutes, ensuring residents had the opportunity to be an active participant in their local government.*

***Ms. McGrattan** advocated for the for Ledyard's Youth, Elderly, Public Health, Safety, Nursing Services, Environment, and preserving its History serving as the Town Council Liaison to the Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Ledyard Housing Authority, Library Commission, Nursing Board, Senior Citizens Commission, the Youth and Social Services Board, as well as the Safe Teens Coalition. In addition, Ms. McGrattan baked every week to bring homemade goods for patrons of the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry.*

***Ms. McGrattan viewed Public Health, Safety, and Education** as being essential to a viable and healthy community. She was a proponent of providing reliable potable water to Ledyard residents, supporting the many water projects that now serve 1,200 households. In addition, she worked responsibly at the State Level to see that Ledyard received Grant Funding significantly reducing the costs of major construction projects for the town's taxpayers, which included the construction of a new Gales Ferry Elementary School in 1999; the expansion of the Vo-Ag Wing in 2000; High School Critical Needs Improvements in 2001; the construction of the Emergency Services Building on Fairway Drive in 2002; and the construction of the Police Facility in 2013 to house the Town's Independent Police Department, which included improvements to the Town Hall Complex: the 2015 School Improvement/Consolidation Projects (Middle*

*School and Gallup Hill School) providing up-to-date facilities addressing security and technology improvements.*

***Ms. McGrattan** was a proponent of the Ledyard Volunteer Ambulance Service(LVES) that was established to ensure faster ambulance response for residents in need of emergency medical care, the acquisition of land in 1989 for the construction of the Kings Corner Manor Senior Citizens Housing Facility that was completed in 1991, the construction of the Administrative Office for the Board of education and the Parks and Recreation Department on Blonders Boulevard in 1989; she encouraged the town to join the Regional Ledge Light Health District; and she worked to see that Ledyard's Families and Youth had access to affordable counseling services and mental health support.*

***Most Importantly,** Ms. McGrattan worked tirelessly with local, state, and federal officials on Indian issues setting precedence for our nation. She aimed to see that Ledyard received its fair share of local taxes and formula-based funding from sources such as the Pequot Fund.*

***Those of Us Who Witnessed** her quiet, but steadfast approach will attest that **Mary K. McGrattan** has been motivated by the highest ideals of public service. The citizens of Ledyard have benefited and will remain grateful for her tireless years of service, commitment, integrity and perseverance during a period of growth and change; and are fortunate to have been and will continue to be served by her forethought and leadership qualities.*

***We Also Thank** her husband Bob for graciously sharing Mary with all of us... for all these years*

*Given this Eighth day of November, in the year 2023 at Ledyard, Connecticut.*

*Fred B. Allyn, III, Mayor*

*Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council*

***Senator Cathy Osten** presented Councilor McGrattan with the following State of Connecticut General Assembly Citation that was introduced by herself, Representative Kevin Ryan, Representative Greg Howard and Representative Brian Leneau:*

***Be It Hereby Known to All:** That the Connecticut General Assembly offers its sincerest congratulations to Mary McGrattan in recognition of your dedication service to the Town of Ledyard.*

*Your work on the Ledyard Town Council showed your deep commitment to public service and your drive to improve your community for all.*

*We thank you for all your hard work and we extend our Congratulations and Wish you the Best of Luck in the Future.*

*The entire membership extends its very best wishes on this memorable occasion and expresses the hope for continued success.*

*Given this eight day of November , 2023 at the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut.*

*Martin Looney*

*Speaker of the House*

*Secretary of the State*

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*Senate President**Mark Ritter**Stephanie Thomas*

*Mayor Fred Allyn, III presented Councilor Saums with the following Town of Proclamation:*

*Be it known that the  
Town of Ledyard  
Recognizes*

***WILLIAM D. SAUMS***

*For his more than twenty years of dedication to the Town of Ledyard*

***Ms. Saums was elected to the Town Council in 2007*** where he continued to be elected by his neighbors serving eight consecutive terms.

***During his time on the Town Council*** Mr. Saums served on the Finance Committee; and as the Chairman of the Finance Committee from 2015 to 2023. As a graduate of Cornell University with an MBA from Northeastern along with his business background Mr. Saums was an asset to the Finance Committee in budget preparations, where he worked as a conscientious steward of municipal funds in making fiscally responsible decisions for the betterment and welfare of his community; in representing the Town Council during bargaining negotiation with town employee unions; and in the assignment of projects and oversight for the use of \$4,327,000 Federal American Rescue Act Funding (ARPA) that Ledyard received to help aid public health and stimulate the economy after the COVID-19 Pandemic.

***Mr. Saums*** also served on the Town Council's Land Use Planning & Public Works Committee, Information Technology Committee, Administration Committee, and Community Relations Committee where his background, knowledge, and experience from his time working at AT&T; and as the founder and president of Centech Solutions, a management consulting service to Fortune 100 companies worldwide, made him an invaluable contributor. His calm, pragmatic demeanor allowed him to mitigate challenging situations and find amiable resolutions.

***Mr. Saums*** was an advocate and friend to Ledyard's emergency volunteer organizations and staff supporting the town's transition from the Resident State Trooper Program to creating an Independent Police Department; and in 2013 the construction of a new Police Headquarters Facility adjacent to the Town Hall on Colonel Ledyard Highway. During this time, he worked closely with the town's first responders to ensure they received the funding necessary to purchase essential radio and communication tools to migrate to the State's Emergency 911 System, enabling Ledyard to communicate with neighboring towns; as well as purchase critical equipment not only to rescue and save the lives and homes our residents; but to also protect the volunteers and staff who un-selflessly take risks every day responding to a variety of emergency calls.

***Mr. Saums had a passion*** to preserve open space and maintain the rural character of his community; while encouraging responsible development serving on the Economic Development Commission and the Ledyard Town Center Committee, where he was instrumental in seeking grant funding for the planning, development and implementation of the streetscape design in Ledyard Center we enjoy today, which called for creating a town center comprised of important town buildings such as the Town Hall, Police Facility, Library and Church, with stonewalls, sidewalks, streetlights, destination retail, and improvements to the Town Green.

***As Liaison to the Water Pollution Control Authority*** Mr. Saums recognized the importance to provide potable water to Ledyard residents, supporting the many water projects that now serves 1,200 households in his community. In addition, Mr. Saums was strong proponent to extend the Ledyard Center Sewer Line to support responsible

*economic development; working to see that some of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding be set-aside to aid in the construction of the public sewer system.*

***Education and Community Involvement** was in the fabric of Mrs. Saums's character, he believed in providing the educational tools to enable Ledyard's children to excel today and well into the future, ensuring they had safe and modern school facilities. He supported the many School Asbestos Abatement Projects, Critical Maintenance and System Upgrade Projects, and the 2015 School Improvement-Consolidation Projects (Middle School and Gallup Hill School) closing the Ledyard Center School in 2019; and redistricting the students to facilities that included security and technology improvements. He also mentored at-risk adolescent youth in Norwich from 1998 - 2005; and was a member of Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation.*

***Mr. Saums** supported and was proud of the many talents Ledyard Public Schools helped its students discover, from their strong Academic Curriculums, Regional Ag-Science Program, variety of Athletic Programs, to their Drama Program, and especially loved their Music Program. Every year Mr. Saums would generously buy tickets for the entire Town Council to attend and enjoy the High School Holiday Chorus Concert.*

***Also** as a member of the Ledyard Congregational Church Mr. Saums played a significant role in moving the Food Pantry from the lower level of the Town Hall to the Congregational Church, where it became so successful that it quickly outgrew its location and was later moved to its new home, formerly known as the Red Barn at the Lower Town Green, and today is known as the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry.*

***Most Importantly**, Mr. Saums actively worked to foster a relationship with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MPTN); was an active participant in working with attorneys on Indian issues setting*

*precedence for our nation; as Ledyard aimed to address matters affecting his community; to protect Ledyard's tax rolls; and to see that Ledyard received its fair share from formula-based sources such as the Pequot Fund.*

***Those of Us Who Witnessed** these things will attest that **William D. Saums** is motivated by the highest ideals of public service. The citizens of Ledyard have indeed benefited and will remain grateful for his years of service, commitment, integrity and perseverance during a period of growth and change; and are fortunate to have been and continue to be served by his impeccable qualities of leadership.*

*Given this Eight day of November, in the year 2023 at Ledyard, Connecticut.*

*Fred B. Allyn, III, Mayor*

*Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman*

*Mayor Allyn stated that was an honor to call and have Mr. Saums a friend.*

***Senator Cathy Osten** stated that all of the States Citations were similar, but that they wanted to recognize the accomplishments of each of the Town Councilors this evening.*

***Senator Osten** presented Councilor Saums with the following State of Connecticut General Assembly Citation that was introduced by herself, Representative Kevin Ryan, Representative Greg Howard and Representative Brian Leneau:*

***Be It Hereby Known to All:** That the Connecticut General Assembly offers its sincerest congratulations to Willaim Saums in recognition of your dedication service to the Town of Ledyard.*

*Your work on the Ledyard Town Council showed your deep commitment to public service and your drive to improve your community for all.*

*We thank you for all your hard work and we extend our Congratulations and Wish you the Best of Luck in the Future.*

*The entire membership extends its very best wished on this memorable occasion and expresses the hope for continued success.*

*Given this eight day of November , 2023 at the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut.*

<i>Martin Looney</i>	<i>Speaker of the House</i>	<i>Secretary of the State</i>
<i>Senate President</i>	<i>Mark Ritter</i>	<i>Stephanie Thomas</i>

*Chairman Dombrowski presented Councilor Ingalls with the following Proclamation:*

*Be it known that the  
Town of Ledyard  
Recognizes  
ANDRA INGALLS*

*For her many years of dedication to the Town of Ledyard and in  
Serving as a Member of the Ledyard Town Council from 2016 to 2023*

***Mrs. Ingalls began her service*** in Ledyard's town government in 2013 when she was asked to join the Social Services Board, where her more than twenty-five years of experience working with children and families made her keenly aware of the types of programs and services that could help benefit families in her community; and how to implement them.

***In 2015 Mrs. Ingalls*** was elected to the Board of Education where her education in Family Studies and her experience and talents of homeschooling her four children helped to foster a school environment where Ledyard's children would excel in academics, social, and emotional development.

***With a Masters of Public Administration*** Mrs. Ingalls was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Town Council in 2017; where she was later elected by her community for three consecutive terms.

***During her time on the Town Council*** Mrs. Ingalls served on the Administration Committee and as the Committee's Chairman from 2019- 2023. Her attention to detail made her an excellent administrator in overseeing the drafting of Ordinances, Resolutions, Job Descriptions, Town Policies, Procedures, and the appointment of nearly 200 volunteers, ensuring that Ledyard had the most qualified and talented residents serving on its twenty-three Committees, Commissions and Boards, all working to make their community a great place to live.

***In Addition,*** Mrs. Ingalls served on the Finance Committee; and the Community Relations Committee. Her education and background made her a conscientious steward of municipal funds in making fiscally responsible decisions for her community; as she would weigh each financial decision on how it would impact Ledyard residents and their household budgets. She was fair, intuitive, practical, and continuously worked to

*understand and appreciate what Ledyard's residents, its volunteers, and employees experienced in their daily lives, always having the best interest of her community at the forefront of each and every one of her decisions.*

*Mrs. Ingalls was an advocate and friend to Ledyard's emergency volunteer organizations and staff. With her fellow Finance Committee Members Mrs. Ingalls visited the Fire Departments to learn about their equipment, apparatus, and the technology they used in performing their job. In her unpretentious way she volunteered to participate in a demonstration putting on the 50-pound Jaws of Life equipment to experience what the town's first responders do for their community. She stated it was an eye-opening experience, noting that she left with a new level of respect for what the town's firefighters do, noting that the experience gave her an appreciation for the physical and mental toughness that was required of the town's volunteers and career firefighters, in addition to the reality that each rescue was its own puzzle.*

*Mrs. Ingalls served as the Town Council's Liaison to the Board of Education supporting their commitment to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that would include parent, staff, student, and community involvement, and to work to understand their collective aspirations, establish priorities for funding, improve engagement with residents, and create performance goals, making sure no-student is ever left behind.*

*In addition, as the Town Council's Liaison to the Beautification Committee Mrs. Ingalls was committed to ensuring that Ledyard was a welcoming community. With the Public Act No.21-58 "An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management" pertaining to the revenues that Ledyard would be receiving from Beverage Container Surcharges the State implemented, she was instrumental in working to develop a Program that would keep Ledyard's roads clean and would also provide a financial benefit to the community's non-profit organizations, by mobilizing groups to adopt roads to clean-up roadside trash and remove nip bottles containing alcoholic spirits that were littering Ledyard's roads, getting into catch basins, and flowing into the Thames River.*

*Those of Us Who Witnessed these things will attest that **Andra Ingalls** is motivated by the highest ideals of public service. The citizens of Ledyard have benefited and will remain grateful for her years of service, commitment, integrity and forethought during a period of growth and change; and are fortunate to have been and to continue to be served by her sound qualities of leadership.*

*Given this Eight day of November, in the year 2023 at Ledyard, Connecticut.*

*Fred B. Allyn, III, Mayor*

*Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council*

*Senator Cathy Osten presented Councilor Ingalls the following Proclamation:*

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*Your work on the Ledyard Town Council showed your deep commitment to public service and your drive to improve your community for all.*

*We thank you for all your hard work and we extend our Congratulations and Wish you the Best of Luck in the Future.*

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<i>Martin Looney</i>	<i>Speaker of the House</i>	<i>Secretary of the State</i>
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Councilor Rodriguez presented both Councilor McGrattan and Councilor Ingalls a bouquet of flowers from the Twenty-sixth Town Council as a small token of their appreciation of their dedication, work and contributions to the town.

The Town Council thanked Senator Cathy Osten for attending their meeting this evening.

V. RESIDENT & PROPERTY OWNERS (COMMENTS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES)

Mr. Mike Cherry, 5 whippoorwill Drive, Gales Ferry, stated that he would like to add to the many accolades that were stated this evening in thanking the three members of the Town Council who chose not to seek reelection this year. He stated the town would be losing a combined 70+ years of experience, noting that the Councilors who were stepping down have personally served their community for 10 years, 20 years and 45+ years. He went on to state that he remembered Councilor Ingalls' in trepidation when she was asked to serve on the Board of Education, noting that her educational background in Families Studies and her homeschooling experience would be invaluable. He continued to note that twenty years ago he served on the Economic Development Commission with Councilor Saums. He went on to note Councilor McGrattan's over forty plus years of dedication and community service, as Mayor, Town Councilor and State Representative. He concluded by stating that he looked at all of them as friends and neighbors, noting they would all be missed. He thanked them for their service.

Mr. Tony Saccone, 29 Richard Road, Gales Ferry, Councilor Elect, stated in response to someone who asked him why he wanted to be on the Town Council; that he said that he wanted to serve his community. However, he stated those who serve their community never get thanked. He stated people who show up at Town Council Meetings generally have a complaint, an argument, a problem, or they want something, etc. Therefore, he stated that he believed it would be appropriate to add on to Mr. Cherry's comments, noting that he was present this evening as a taxpayer, and as the Gales Ferry Fire Chief, to thank all of them for their support of the Emergency Services, and for building this community into all the things it has done. He stated Councilor McGrattan started her



community work back in the stone age, and he noted how far they have come. He stated as a Taxpayer he wanted to thank them very much.

Mrs. Eleanor Murray, 16 Chapman Lane, Gales Ferry, stated that she wanted to say “*Good Evening*” and “*Thank you*” to the Twenty-sixth Town Council for their introduction to the Ledyard Municipal process. She stated that she believed that the measure of a community was how they treat their elders and their children, noting that so far that these were the issues in the community that she had dedicated her time to. She stated as many of them know that she has come to the Town Council to plead the case for what she has found here in Ledyard, and what she has tried to do so far. She stated that she particularly wanted to say, as Dorothy said the movie *The Wizard of Oz*; that she was going to particularly miss Mr. Saums and Mr. Marshall because they had good humor, they maintained professionalism, they did not get angry even though they may have disagreed with some of the things that she said. She stated that they were professional and kind; and that she would miss them. She went on to state not that many of them were not, but that these two gentleman were particularly noteworthy. She concluded by stating that she wanted to thank them for the work they did.

#### VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

None.

#### VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Paul stated that he remembered walking into the Town Council two years ago and seeing his name displayed where he was to be seated. He stated that his first thought was, *okay at least I'm on the end in case I need to bolt quick*. He stated that he was a brand-new Town Councilor, a little unorthodox, inexperienced, very overwhelmed, and questioned what the hell he was doing here. He stated he grew up in Ledyard, skipped school here, got in trouble here, and eventually moved back home here to Ledyard and that he put some of his kids through Ledyard's schools, so he knew that he had to stick it out, stating that besides he could hear former Town Council Chairman Linda Davis from up there (heaven), stating that he had to. He stated that he already knew his fellow R's from his Party Affiliation, and that he knew Councilor Dombrowski and Councilor Ingalls were experienced vets that he could rely on for help, which they did. He stated what he really loved about Councilor Ingalls' leadership was her compassion and sincerity. He stated that she always seemed to ask questions that showed just how important this town was to her and she knew how to be soft spoken when needed but also stand up and speak out when something needed to be said. He stated that he would truly miss Councilor Ingalls' insight, her leadership, and her ability to connect with people . He stated that he was thankful for the time he was able to serve with her.

Councilor Paul continued by noting that he knew Councilor McGrattan from his time serving on the Conservation Commission; and of course from having lived in Ledyard, and that he was not really sure what Councilor McGrattan has not done. He stated her

matter-of fact-no nonsense approach showed him that she knew exactly what she was doing and that he knew when she said something to him it was “*YES MA 'ME* and he loved that. He stated that nothing seemed to bother Councilor McGrattan, which was evident by her high shoulder shrug with the head off to one side.

Councilor Paul went on to state after the first Town Council meeting he reached out to Councilor Saums, and they met over breakfast, noting at that time he knew Councilor Saums the least. He stated that he already had tremendous respect for Councilor Saums as he had attended Town Council meetings and was always in the audience at budget time to hear the budget proposals. He stated that somehow he knew if Councilor Saums said it was okay, then it was okay. He went on to state that serving with Councilor Saums on the Community Relations Committee allowed him to get to know Councilor Saums a lot better and he commented that he was jealous that he only got to serve one term with him. He stated Councilor Saums helped him to find his role here on this Town Council and on the Community Relations Committee; and that he enjoyed reaching out to the community with Councilor Saums. He stated that he loved watching Councilor Saums talk to people, always listening, taking his time, and always interested in the conversation. He stated that he knew Councilor Saums truly cared about this town whether it was financial, infrastructure, you name it and Councilor Saums worked to help champion it, and get it out to the community. He stated that Councilor Saums was an incredible example, noting that he would forever be grateful for Councilor Saums' insight and leadership and the impact he had on his own life in the short time that he got to serve with Councilor Saums. He stated not to take away from anyone here on the Town Council or anyone coming into the Town Council, but that he wanted to say that Ledyard would be losing three incredible people. Councilor Paul stated *Thank You* to all of them for looking out for his family during their many years of service, *Thank You* for their dedication, *Thank You* for sticking it out in the bad, and always putting the rest of the community first. He stated that they would have mighty big shoes to fill, but that he would continue to do his best to serve his community, stating that hopefully in the end making all of you proud, and leave his own legacy for the others to latch onto, the same way as he has done with them. He stated *Thank You*, and that he was truly blessed and grateful.

Councilor Ryan stated that he did not think that he could add to the comments that Councilor Paul said. However, he stated as his first term on the Town Council that he came into Ledyard having moved from another community and that the one thing that struck him about Ledyard was the way they go about their municipal business, noting that everyone had the same priority; which was the residents of Ledyard; and doing what was best for the town. He stated that even two-years later he was still awestruck that at every Town Council meeting there was a general consensus on how they do things, in the votes they take, and their stance on issues, noting that this was because they all have the same priority, which was the people of Ledyard. He stated he has never been in such an easy going and amiable environment in terms of municipal decision making. He stated that he was extremely grateful to have served with the Twenty-sixth Town Council. He stated he was assigned to the Finance Committee where he had two great mentors, Councilor Saums and Councilor Ingalls and that he was disappointed that they both chose not to seek reelection this year.

Councilor Ryan stated that he leaned on Councilor Saums as a mentor on the Finance Committee, noting that he learned a lot from him, and that he already talked to the Mayor about bringing him back as an *Unpaid Consultant*. He stated that he appreciated all the time Councilor Saums spent with him, all the questions he answered; and all the telephone calls he took from him, noting that Councilor Saums approached it in a patient manner.

Councilor Ryan went on to note the insightful questions that Councilor Ingalls asked provided balance to the Finance Committee, noting that she took an emotional and human approach, focusing on the historical narrative of the issues. He stated that he takes a numbers approach, but that Councilor Ingalls saw the story behind the numbers, which was extremely valuable to him in serving on the Finance Committee. He stated that he appreciated the time Councilor Ingalls spent with him on the Finance Committee.

Councilor Ryan stated although he did not spend much time with Councilor McGrattan on the Town Council's Subcommittees, but the experience that she brought to the table has been invaluable, as all of the examples they heard this evening and were mentioned in the Proclamation this evening recognizing her 45 years of community service to Ledyard.

Councilor Ryan concluded his remarks by wishing Councilor McGrattan luck on her next civic conquest noting that they all believe that she was not done yet. He noted that Councilor Ingalls was looking forward to spending more time with her Grandbabies, and that he wished her much happiness. He stated to Councilor Saums that he knew he would have fun in Maine. He also stated that he enjoyed working with Councilor Irwin and Councilor Marshall during the past two years and that he would look forward to talking and consulting with them going forward.

Councilor Rodriguez stated that serving on the Town Council for the first time can be a little scary. However, she stated the Twenty-sixth Town Council, as a group, worked well together, noting that they got along. She stated that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve with each of them. She noted that she has known Councilor McGrattan for many years working on the Democratic Town Committee, noting that Councilor McGrattan has been a faithful servant to the Town of Ledyard and that they cannot thank her enough for all that she has done. She stated over the past two years that she has gotten to know Councilor Ingalls better, noting that she was a very nice person, with a kind loving heart, who served her town very well. She stated when she joined the Town Council and saw Councilor Saums facilitate the Finance Committee meetings that she was very impressed, noting that he blew her away. She noted all the time and work he dedicated to the annual budget process each year and his commitment in developing the Projects List for use the American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) funding was amazing. She stated that she would miss all three of the Town Councilors who chose not to seek reelection and that she would also miss her friend Councilor Irwin and Councilor Marshall. She thanked them for their friendship and for the honor to serve with each of them.

Councilor Marshall noted that he provided his comments via an email for the Town Council's October 25, 2023 meeting.

Councilor Irwin stated that he also provided his comments at the Town Council's October 25, 2023 meeting.

Chairman Dombrowski stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Councilor McGrattan over the years noting that he learned a lot from her, and that he looked forward to seeing her at every meeting. He stated when he was in High School that his brother was attending UConn with Councilor McGrattan's son; and that he recalled his brother saying "*his friend's mother was Mary McGrattan and that she was the Mayor of Ledyard*". He stated that Councilor McGrattan would be sorely missed. He went on to state that it was also a pleasure to work with Councilor Ingalls over the years. He stated that he believed that he has served the most years with Councilor Saums, noting that they began serving together in 2007 on the Ledyard Town Center Committee, noting that Councilor Saums moved to the Town Council two years before he did. He stated that he has learned a lot from Councilor Saums over the years and that he hoped he would continue to learn from Councilor Saums' experience in the coming years. He stated that he considered them all friends and that he hoped that their friendships would continue.

Councilor Saums stated public service was not easy and serving on the Town Council was a lot of work. He stated sometime between 1991 - 2001 that while he was attending a Town Budget meeting, that at the suggestion of one of the residents he call Ledyard's State Representative because the State was shorting Ledyard and other Towns in their Education Funding. He stated while driving home at 10:30 p.m. he received a call from State Representative Mary McGrattan, returning his call. He stated Councilor McGrattan and former Town Councilor Dave Holdridge have been his role model ever since, noting that they were the epitome of public service and commitment. He thanked Councilor McGrattan.

Councilor Saums went on to state that former Town Council Chairman Linda C. Davis had some really big shoes to fill; and he stated that Councilor Dombrowski has done a great job in filling those shoes. He stated that it has been his pleasure to work with him; and that he intended to continue to work with him and to continue their friendship.

Councilor Saums stated that over the years people have said that this Town Council has worked well together and he noted that it has for all of the years he has served on it. He stated the members listen to each other, noting that several years ago the Town Council sat at the dais with the Republicans on one side and the Democrats on the other side, until one visionary Town Council Chairman suggested that they be seated together Republicans and Democrats side by side. He stated this seating arrangement made it harder to tell whose-whose, but that they could never really tell, because they listened to each other and that was how they got work done. He stated no one gets anything done by themselves, noting that it takes a Team; and he stated that this has been his greatest pleasure.

Councilor Saums continued to state that it has been a pleasure working with Councilor Paul, noting that during the past two years that he has grown tremendously; and that he has changed this Town Council. He went on to state that Councilor Ryan's work on the Finance Committee' has been exemplary, and that he hoped the next Town Council would assign him to the Finance Committee. He stated Councilor Rodriguez never gives up and last night's election proved that. He stated that he loved working with Councilor Ingalls, noting that she was so thoughtful, so kind and deep in her thought process, noting that she amazed him. He stated Councilor Irwin's humor, bow ties, and whit has been a pleasure on this Town Council. He stated that he has considered Councilor Marshall a friend since the day he met him. He stated that he loved his humor and his reports on the horrible outcomes on the school projects reporting the issues from one week to the next with grace, stating it all as a matter of fact; and he appreciated that. He stated that he has known Mayor Allyn for a long time, noting that he and his wife Kathy watched him grow up stating he was a college student when they met him. He stated that he has been a wonderful Mayor, noting that he was great when he served on the Town Council as the Finance Committee Chairman, and he was great when he served on the Ledyard Town Center Committee. He stated before the Committee started he said just make sure you guys don't produce another report that would just sit on the shelf, and so they now have a new Town Center. He thanked Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher for everything she had done for the Town Council, he stated she has been wonderful to each of them and that she keeps the Town Council together, noting her constant telephone calls, emails, questions, and reminders. He stated her organizational skills, and her work to transition to the online meeting portals so that they do not have to receive the three-inch packets in the mail, noting that she was amazing. Councilor Saums concluded by stating last that he wanted to thank his wife Kathy for putting up with him going to all the meetings.

Councilor McGrattan thanked everyone for all of their kinds words, noting that she has thoroughly enjoyed her time serving the Town of Ledyard.

Councilor Ingalls stated that she started in civic service by serving on the Social Services Board noting at that time Councilor McGrattan was the Town Council Liaison. She stated it has been a privilege to know Councilor McGrattan for her entire civic service, stating that it has been a pleasure to sit next to this historian for all these years. She humorously stated that she wasn't sure if Councilor McGrattan knew Colonel Ledyard. Councilor McGrattan humorously replied that she did not know Colonel Ledyard, even though Mr. Saccone stated that she has been around since the stone age. Councilor Ingalls stated that she admired Councilor McGrattan and has been thankful for her influence.

Councilor Ingalls continued by stating that it was bittersweet to be delivering her last Councilor Comments. She stated that some of you are aware that her family suffered a huge tragedy. She stated the months that followed brought other heavy life events and she simply could not get her head around serving for another term, noting it has been a very hard year. She stated this part was bitter; however, she stated this moment was also sweet, because she leaves her season on the Town Council feeling enriched by the

experience of serving our Town in this way and with each of the members of the Town Council. She stated she successfully ran in four elections, noting that it was humbling. She stated she joined the Town Council as an appointee from the Board of Education, when Mayor Allyn, III, was appointed from the Town Council to the position of Mayor. She stated Mayor Allyn, III, was a truly skilled and dedicated Municipal Executive; and it has been an honor to work with him. She stated that she has also had the privilege of sitting on this dais with some great people during the past two years. She recognized Councilor Paul, Councilor Ryan, Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Saums, Councilor McGrattan, Councilor Irwin and Councilor Marshall stating that she appreciated each of them and the work they have brought to this Town Council. She stated it takes a diversity of skills and personalities, noting that her entire time on the Town Council has been amiable, noting the collegiality has allowed them to work together very well, even through hard issues and hard conversations. She stated earlier in her time on the Town Council that she had the opportunity to work with former Town Councilor Steve Eichelberg, who was the person who nudged her to get involved in her community. She also noted former Councilors Lou Gabordi, Councilor Tom Malone, Councilor Tony Sabila, Councilor Michael Washington, and of course Mother Ledyard the irreplaceable Town Council Chairman Linda C. Davis, stating that each of them left a positive mark on her life. She stated the real MVP of the Town Council was their Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher. She stated Ms. Maher was breathtakingly proficient at keeping them organized. She stated if she had any advice for the new incoming Town Council it would be First: To be a Team; and Second: To listen to their Administrative Assistant Ms. Maher. She stated although this evening was bittersweet that she feels enriched, and that she was grateful to have served her community.

#### VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Town Council Minutes of October 25, 2023.

Moved by Councilor Marshall, seconded by Councilor Irwin

VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** John Marshall

**SECONDER:** Whit Irwin

#### IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications List - November 8, 2023

Chairman Dombrowski stated a Communications List has been provided on the meeting portal for tonight's meeting and he noted the referral listed.

**RESULT:** RECEIVED AND FILED

#### X. REFERRALS

## XI. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

## 1. Administration Committee

Councilor Ingalls stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening and has two items on tonight's agenda.

**RESULT:** .

## 2. Community Relations Committee

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting

**RESULT:** .

## 3. Finance Committee

Councilor Saums stated the Finance Committee met on November 1, 2023 and in addition to the items on tonight's agenda the Committee also discussed the following: (1) Fiscal Year Audit Ending June 30, 2023 - Councilor Saums stated Finance Director Matthew Bonin reported that the Audit work was going well. He stated the town side was nearly complete and the Board of Education had a few more things to finish up; (2) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Project List - Councilor Saums stated the Committee reviewed the most recent update regarding the status of the ARPA Projects List. He noted the number of projects completed had not changed since the last Report. However, he stated there were the following significant updates: (a) Ledyard Center Sewer Line Extension Project - The Bids came in under budget, so there could be excess funding left for other Phases of the Project. Councilor Saums explained in the event of that occurring it may be too late under the Federal ARPA Guidelines to reallocate funds and they would have to be returned to the US Treasury. Therefore, he stated that Mayor Allyn, III, has asked the Water Pollution Control Authority to consider implementing part of a Phase of the Project that has not been funded using ARPA Funding to date. Councilor Saums stated that the Finance Committee believed that this would be an excellent alternative to returning the funds to the Federal Government; and agreed with the Mayor's approach; (b) LED Message Signs; (c) Electric Charing (EV) Stations; (d) Linda C. Davis Food Panty Vinyl Siding; (3) Public Act No.21-58 "*An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management*" in accordance with "*Resolution Regarding Revenues Received from Beverage Container Surcharges*"- Councilor Saums stated the Finance Committee continued to discuss the Surcharge Revenues the Town has been and would continue to receive from the State and a plan to implement a Town-wide Clean-up Program working with the Ledyard Beautification Committee and Non-Profit Organizations. He stated to-date the Town had a balance in the Surcharge Beverage Account in the amount of \$48,000; (4) Transition Items to Incoming Town Council - Councilor Saums stated the Finance Committee agreed to forward a recommendation to the incoming Finance Committee to continue work on the following initiatives: (a) ARPA Funded Projects List; (2) Surcharge Revenues, uses and roadside clean-up program; and (3) Opioid Settlement Funding relative to the, Allocation of Funds; Potential Uses; and Oversight-follow-up-communication with Organizations administering the funds.

Councilor Saums continued by stating that he wanted to mentioned the work of the Committee to Review the Budget Process, noting that some members of the Committee were present this evening. He stated the Committee provided a number of good recommendations; however, he stated the one recommendation that stood out the most to him, because it had the

potential to change the way the town used taxpayers funds, was to set aside more funding for capital improvement projects. He stated Finance Director Matthew Bonin, who previously worked for an Auditing Firm, and performed Ledyard's Annual Audit prior to taking the position of the town's Finance Director, commented several times to the Committee that in his experience that he has never seen a town set aside money the way that Ledyard does, so that they do not have to pay interest to borrow funds to purchase large capital items such as fire trucks and equipment or public works trucks and equipment, etc. He stated the town had a multi-year plan showing the lifecycle of these types of large purchases, and they set aside funding each year so that when the time comes to replace those vehicles the funding was available. Therefore, he stated the Committee to Review the Budget Process looked for ways to save more money without cutting the budget. He stated they looked at trash removal and recycling expenses and were only able to find a savings that was less than \$1 million. However, he stated the Committee also looked at what the town paid for Debt Service each year, noting that currently the town does bond (borrow) funding for Capital Improvement Projects such as School Projects and the construction of the new Police Facility. He stated the town currently spends about \$4 million a year on Debt Services ( interest on the bonds and financing fees), noting that about \$1 million of that was for interest. He stated 1mil of the town's budget formula equated to about \$1 million. He stated if the town had set the money aside for those large projects; and was not paying interest fees, their mil rate would be 1 mil less than it was today. He went on to state that Committee Member Minna DeGaetano, who was present this evening, conducted an analysis on two business cases, with the help of Committee Members Terry Jones and himself, regarding the following two scenarios: (1) *If the town set aside money each year (example to support a \$10 million Project), in advance of needing the money for the project, how much money would they have to set aside; and how would that impact the mil rate* "; (2) *If the town bonded the funding to fully support the \$10 million project how would that impact the mil rate?* Councilor Saums stated the result of the two-business case analysis showed: (1) If the town set the funding aside in advance, that the entire \$10 million project, with receiving a 62% Grant Reimbursement from the State, would cost the taxpayers about \$1.5 million, and (2) If the town bonded (borrowed) the \$10 million, along with receiving a 62% Grant Reimbursement from the State; that it would cost the taxpayers \$4 million, because of the interest costs, noting that they used what they thought were reasonable assumptions in these scenarios. He went on to state that he believed that this data was a stunning breakthrough for the town because it could reduce the taxes by several mils, not by just 1 mil. He stated that it would take a lot of guts to take more money to set aside every year to save the town money down the road. He stated that setting aside more money right now would have a minimal impact on the mil rate, compared to savings down the road. He thanked Ms. DeGaetano and the members of the Committee to Review the Budget Process, stating that the work they did was awesome. Ms. DeGaetano stated it was a pleasure to work with Committee.

**RESULT:** .

**4. Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee**

Councilor Paul stated the LUPPW Committee met on November 6, 2023 and discussed the Spicer Ruins with Historic District Commission Member Earl (Ty) Lamb and Tri-Town Trail Association President Karen Parkinson. He stated that they would be working to research the process to designate the Spicer Ruins, which was within the Clark Farm property as a Historic Site on the State's Registry.



**RESULT:** .

## Other Liaison Reports

**5.** Committee to Review the Budget Process

Councilor Ryan stated the Committee's Final Report was submitted on October 31, 2023. He stated the Committee did some great work, noting that Councilor Saums' highlighted some of their accomplishments and recommendations during his Finance Committee Report (see above). He stated the Committee would present their Report at the Town Council's December 13, 2023 meeting; noting that the entire Report was available online. Councilor Ryan continued by personally thanking the Members of the Committee, noting that many of them were present in the audience this evening, specifically the residents who stepped forward to volunteer their time on this important assignment, Ms. Minna DeGaetano, Ms. Beth Ribe, and Mr. Earl (Ty) Lamb; and Terry Jones, who represented the Community-at-Large. He stated their participation had a huge impact on the Committee's work, stated that they provided a fresh perspective that was invaluable to the process. He noted the Elected Officials who also participated in this initiative included Board of Education Member Joanne Kelley, who was present this evening; Chairman Dombrowski, Councilor Saums, himself, along Board of Education Members Mike Brawner, who was not present this evening. He stated that he appreciated their guidance, noting that it was his first experience serving as the Chairman of a subcommittee, noting that it was a learning process. He also thanked Mayor Fred Allyn, III, and Superintendent of Schools Jason Hartling for their perspective and historical guidance.

**RESULT:** .**XII.** REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Allyn, III, congratulated everyone who ran for this year's Municipal Election, noting that it takes a lot of energy, time and dedication. He thanked everyone who participated, noting that it was critically important. He stated the Registrars of Voters were present this evening because there would be a Mandatory Recount on Monday, November 13, 2023, that would be held here in the Council Chambers starting at 10:00 a.m. He explained tonight everyone who was part of the Town Council race would receive a letter from the Registrars of Voters indicating the process. He stated 28.9% of Ledyard's registered voters came out this year, which was relatively high for a Municipal Election.

Mayor Allyn continued by reporting on the following: (1) Multi-Model Use Pathway Bid Opening and American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) - Mayor Allyn stated the Bids came in favorable. He stated the Consulting Engineering Firm, who was currently reviewing the Bids, expect to have their work completed by Monday, November 13, 2023, at which time the town could then negotiate an Agreement with the selected Bidder. He noted as Councilor Saums' mentioned during his Finance Committee Report earlier this evening (X. Subcommittee Reports) that if the town had American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding designated for a project and it does not stay with that project, as of

December 21, 2024 that the town could not use those funds for anything else and the funds would have to be returned to the US Treasury. Therefore, Mayor Allyn explained because the Bids for the Multi-Model Use Pathway have come in favorable that he has talked with the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) about looking to expand the Ledyard Center Sewer Line Extension Project where they can, in an effort to reallocate (obligate) and make use of those ARPA Funds before December 31, 2024. He explained that the WPCA would be looking at design, engineering and bid process to extend the sewer line part way up Fairway Drive which would bring the line halfway to the Ledyard Center Sewer Line Project and halfway down Colby Drive, which would bring the sewer line half the way to the Habitat for Humanity Project; (2) Sewer Line Upgrade from the High School to Pennywise Lane - American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) - Mayor Allyn stated the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) would also look at design, engineering and bid process to upgrade the current 2.5 inch pipeline to the regular 5 inch main. He explained that once the Ledyard Center Sewer Line was established and connected that because the current sewer line was under size that they would have to alternate pumping to High School and then during the off hours they would have to pump from the High School to the Highlands. He stated by replacing the current 2.5 inch main to the regular 5 inch main that the system could run the entire time, and they would not have to worry about alternating the pumping. He stated this work would continue and that the new incoming Town Council would be seeing work from the WPCA to continue to advance these sewer line projects, noting that the time involved to meet the ARPA obligation of funding by December 31, 2024; (3) Officer of the Year Kyra Teixeira - Mayor Allyn stated he attended the Law Enforcement Night on November 3, 2023 that was held in Groton. He stated Ledyard Police Officer Kyra Teixeira was named Officer of the Year. He stated Officer Teixeira was in her second year here in Ledyard and has been doing an amazing job for the Town. He noted she was a two-sport Collegiate Athlete, and National Athlete of the Year, noting that she has put those athletic skills to use in the field; (4) 332 Colonel Ledyard Highway Property Transaction - Mayor Allyn stated at the September 27, 2023 Special Town Meeting the Townspeople approved to sell the residential house that the town acquired through a foreclosure to Mr. Leonard D. Sherman for \$280,000. He stated he executed the deed for 332 Colonel Ledyard Highway; and the final property transaction was scheduled for November 9, 2023. He stated thereafter he would be coming to the Finance Committee to appropriate funds from the sale of the property; (5) Ribbon Cutting - United Child & Family Services (UCFS) - Mayor Allyn stated he attended the new UCFS Clinic at Ledyard High School on November 3, 2023. He stated it was a fantastic facility. He stated the High School UCFS Facility would have two clinicians available, noting that the Facility would be tremendously valuable for all of Ledyard's Schools. He stated the schools would work to get the kid to the High School UCFS Facility and to the Counselors as needed; (6) Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) Annual Policy Review - Mayor Allyn stated that the Town and Board of Education had its Annual Policy Review with their Insurance provider CIRMA. He stated CIRMA Insured about 162 of the 169 Municipalities in Connecticut. He stated they were working to put in place the Multi-Factor Authentication for all the computers in the Town, which was required for the town to obtain the Cyber Insurance coverage. He stated currently the Town had a limited cyber insurance policy; however, he explained as soon as the Multi-Factor Authentication was in place the Cyber Insurance

Policy would move to the full coverage policy. He thanked MIS Director Justin Dube for keeping the process moving forward to roll-out the Multi-Factor Authentication; (7) Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) Legislative Meeting - Mayor Allyn stated he attended the CCM Legislative Meeting which was in preparation for the State Legislative Session, which was scheduled to begin on February 7, 2024 to roll-out the Municipalities priorities. He stated CCM and COST (which was the conference for smaller towns) were working together to advance a Uniformed Agenda. Mayor Allyn stated that this was important because the upcoming year would be a short Session; (8) Town Hall Office Refiguration - Mayor Allyn stated that the Tax Collector's Office and the Tax Assessor's Office would be merged into one office space. He stated most often residents have to go from one office to the next, and he stated having them both in one office would provide residents one-stop. He stated the Tax Collector's Office and Tax Assessor's Office were pleased with the move. He went on to explain that the current Tax Assessors Office would partition into two offices and the Director of Human Resources and the Assistant Finance Director would move into those spaces. He stated work should begin the first week in December; (9) Library Services - Mayor Allyn stated Book Circulation was up by 12%; and Program Attendance was up by 27%. He stated Library Director Jennifer Smith was doing a great job and he noted that the residents were responding positively to the work that she was doing; (10) Career Firefighter Position - Mayor Allyn stated Mr. Scott Sapletta, who recently retired from the City of Norwich Fire Department, has been hired to fill the vacancy. He stated Mr. Sapletta has a lot of skills and technical abilities and that he believed that Mr. Sapletta would be a plus for the Ledyard Fire Department; (10) Firefighter Assistance Grant \$468,000 - Mayor Allyn stated Ledyard received the Firefighter Assistance Grant \$468,000 to purchase new radios that would communicate through the State Radio System. He stated the radios cost about \$4,000 each; and required the State to program the radios for the town. He stated it has taken the State eleven months to program the first batch of radios for the town, not because it takes that much time to program the radios, but because that was how much time it took the State to turn them around, noting that the new radios were rolling out far slower than they had hoped; (11) Fleet Vehicles - Mayor Allyn stated in years past the town was able to purchase surplus vehicles from the state at a very low cost to provide vehicles for town staff to conduct town business. He noted as an example the 4-wheel drive Jeep Cherokee that the Public Works Director was currently driving was purchased 12-years ago for \$1,250 with 22,000 miles on it. However, he stated that the State discontinued this program several years ago; and he explained that three of these vehicles that the town has been using for a long time, were now no longer safe to use on the road. He stated they were going to have to look to replace those three vehicles; (12) Town Clerk Vault - Heating and Air Conditioning HVAC - Mayor Allyn stated they were having a humidity problem in the Town Clerk's Vault which was not good for the storing of historic records and documents. However, he stated the HVAC System was now fully operational and the humidity level in the vault was in a perfect spot; (13) Stuff a Cruiser-Saturday-November 18, 2023 - Mayor Allyn stated the Stuff a Cruiser Program would be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Village Market. He stated they would love to have residents come out and help stuff a cruiser for the Holiday Programs.

Mayor Allyn concluded his report by thanking all of the members of the Town Council for their relationship and in working with him. He stated without that working relationship they could not have done all the great things they did for the town, noting that the decisions they made were always based on what was in the best interest for the Town of Ledyard; and he thanked for all for that.

**Questions to the Mayor** - None.

### XIII. OLD BUSINESS

MOTION to Remove from the Table and Act on the  
 MOTION to withdraw and Remove from the Agenda the  
 MOTION to approve proposed updates to the Youth Services Coordinator as presented in the draft dated October 11, 2023.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor McGrattan

Discussion: Councilor Ingalls stated at the Town Council's October 25, 2023 meeting the proposed updates to the Youth Services job description were sent back to the Administration Committee. She stated at the Administration Committee's meeting that was held earlier this evening that it was determined that although there were some reasons to make some short-term changes; that the changes did not need to be in the job description. She stated the town was not posting the job, explaining that the updates were brought up for housekeeping purposes. Therefore, she stated the Administration Committee has reviewed the job description and has recommended the job description until such a time it would make sense to more fully address it.

**VOTE: : 9 - 0 Approved to Remove from the Agenda**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Andra Ingalls

**SECONDER:** Mary K. McGrattan

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

### XIV. NEW BUSINESS

#### Administration Committee

- MOTION to appoint Mr. Matthew Miello (R) 12 Cardinal Lane, Gales Ferry, to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an Alternate Member to complete a three-year term ending October 31, 2026 filling a vacancy left by Mr. Baudro.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor Irwin

Discussion: Councilor Ingalls stated that she always likes to see the reason a resident was interested in serving on a particular Town Commission. She stated in reading Mr. Miello's Appointment Application that he noted because he had some planning and zoning challenges and he decided that he would like to join the Commission. She noted that the RTC has endorsed

Mr. Miello's appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Councilor Ingalls also noted that Mr. Baudro indicated that he would be stepping down from the Planning & Zoning Commission at the end of his term, which was October 31, 2023. She thanked Mr. Baudro for his many years of service to the town.

**VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Andra Ingalls

**SECONDER:** Whit Irwin

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

2. MOTION to appoint Ms. Jacquelin Baudro (R) 135 Whalehead Road, Gales Ferry, to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an Alternate Member to complete a three-year term ending October 31, 2025 filling a vacancy left by Mr. St. Vil.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor McGrattan

Discussion: Councilor Ingalls stated Ms. Baudro has been an active member in the community, and was looking to provide service to the town in different ways. She noted in reviewing Ms. Baudro's background that she would be a good fit for the Planning & Zoning Commission. She noted that the RTC has endorsed Ms. Baudro's appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

**VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared**

**POST MEETING NOTE: 11/15/2023:** In an email dated November 15, 2023 Ms. Baudro submitted her resignation, noting that serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission could be a Conflict of Interest with her employer.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Andra Ingalls

**SECONDER:** Mary K. McGrattan

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

#### Finance Committee

3. MOTION to authorize the Mayor to sign a Owner Architect Agreement for Roof Projects at the Gales Ferry School, Juliet Long School, and Board of Education Central Offices, and PV with Silver Petrucelli & Associates of Hamden, Connecticut, in the amount of \$78,280.00 in accordance with Chapter III, Section 4 of the Town Charter.

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Councilor Saums provided some background explaining at the February 22, 2022

Referendum the townspeople approved a “*Resolution Appropriating and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds in the amount of \$6,725,000 for Various School Improvement Projects*”, that included the following: the replacement of the roofs at the Central Office, Gales Ferry School, and Juliet W. Long School; the installation of solar equipment at Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School; upgrades to the Building Management Systems (BMS) at Gales Ferry School; and electrical, and Juliet W. Long HVAC System.

Councilor Saums went on to note that more recently, at the October 17, 2023 Referendum, the townspeople approved to increase the original appropriation by 1,825,000 bringing the total funding authorization to \$8,550,000 to provide funding to redesign of the HVAC system at the Juliet W. Long School to a full air conditioning system, noting that the system had been previously designed as a split system.

Councilor Saums continued by explaining that this Silver Petrucelli & Associates contract in the amount of \$78,280 did not include provisions for the Heating and Ventilation System (HVAC) for the Juliet W. Long School because the contract was in response to the original Bid for the Roof Projects. He stated subsequent to the October 17, 2023 Referendum, pertaining to the redesign of the HVAC system at the Juliet W. Long School to a full air conditioning system, that the Board of Education submitted the Grant Application to the State for the HVAC System. He explained because the State would most likely not award the HVAC round of Grant Funding until January, 2024, that the Board of Education did not want to delay the work on the Roof Projects.

Councilor Saums stated during the Finance Committee’s November 1, 2023 meeting they asked Board of Education Director of Facilities & Grounds Mr. Wayne Donaldson if the town does not receive the Grant Funding for the Juliet W. Long redesigned HVAC System whether it would affect the architectural work for the roofs. He noted that Mr. Donaldson explained that they did have some concerns about the placement of the solar panels and the HVAC equipment, but they were trying to get a jump on the roof projects while they were waiting to hear whether the State awarded the Grant Funding for the Juliet W. Long School redesigned HVAC System. He stated the Architect Silver Petrucelli & Associates were aware of the possibility of having or not having the HVAC System. He stated the Finance Committee was comfortable with the approach and found that the Board of Education was being proactive and thinking ahead at the same time.

Councilor Ryan noted that Board of Education Director of Facilities & Grounds Mr. Wayne Donaldson stated that they would work together to make sure that the roof design would accommodate HVAC System.

**VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bill Saums

**SECONDER:** Tim Ryan

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

4. MOTION to authorize the Mayor to submit an American Library Association Application to obtain “Round II” of the - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural

Communities Grant in the amount of \$20,000 to purchase a new circulation and reference desk for the Bill Library designed to meet ADA requirements and better serve individuals with disabilities

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Irwin

Discussion: Councilor Saums provided some background noting at the Town Council's April 26, 2023 meeting they accepted and appropriated \$20,000 to Account #20250101-50000-G0015 (Library Grant Expense) that was received from Round I of *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant Program* to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities. He went on to explain that tonight the Library was seeking authorization to apply for Round II of this Grant Program which was also designed to meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and better serve individuals with disabilities.

Councilor Saums explained in Round II of the Grant Program that Ledyard would again be applying for \$20,000, noting that the Application Deadline was December 11, 2023. He stated the funds would be used for a one-time purchase for a new Circulation and Reference desk at the Bill Library noting that the current desk was original to the 1983 Library addition/renovation, and it was at the end of its useful life. He noted at the Finance Committee's November 1, 2023 meeting Library Director Jennifer Smith, who was attending tonight's meeting remotely, explained that the current desk was 39 inches high and was not ADA compliant and posed a challenge for anyone in a wheelchair or with other mobility limitations. He stated that Ms. Smith also pointed out that the height of the desk was daunting for a young child trying to check a book out; and that it was also a problem for those working behind the desk explaining that the space was tight and the maneuverability was limiting for staff. Councilor Saums went on to note that no local matching funds were required to apply for or receive the grant. He also explained if there were any funds remaining after the purchase of the circulation and reference desk that the Library could use those funds for other Library needs.

**VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bill Saums

**SECONDER:** Whit Irwin

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

5. MOTION to appropriate the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$29,827 to Account 20360101-57300-G0014 (New Equipment - Park & Rec - AARPA)

In addition, authorize the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Center to expend the \$29,827 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) specifically designated for Senior Citizens Centers as outlined in their ARPA Senior Center Plan dated October 17, 2023.

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated in addition to the Town receiving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding and the Board of Education receiving ARPA money that the Senior Citizens Centers were also receiving ARPA Funding to specifically be used for senior center

activities.

Councilor Saums stated that Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr. attended the Finance Committee's November 1, 2023 meeting and presented the following Spending Plan for the use of the \$29,827 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding: Peloton Bike \$1,445; Rower \$700; Elliptical \$600; Dumbbell set and Bench \$1,200, Rubber Flooring \$810; Gym Contingency \$470; Chairs (88) for the Dining Room; \$5,409 Card Tables (5) \$190, 71" Table \$875; Room Divider \$8,524, Floor Carpet \$6,355 for the building. He stated that Mr. Johnson explained that once they reached the \$29,827 that they would stop spending. However, he stated if they had enough funding that they would also purchase the following items: Refrigerator \$800, Replacement Railing \$1,000. He stated that the Public Works Department would be doing some of the work (installation, etc.) to keep the costs down.

Councilor Saums stated that the room that was formerly used for ceramics was now only being used for storage and was an underutilized space, noting this was space/room that would be converted into the Gym to help the Senior Citizens Center capture the next phase of retirees. He stated the baby boomers who were starting to retire at a high rate and would be looking for different services than their current Senior. He stated the current residents that frequent the Senior Citizens Center were more sedentary and liked to play card games, bingo, etc. He stated the next generation of Seniors were going to be more active noting that they liked to hike, go to the gym, etc. He stated our country was currently on the verge of the largest retirement surge in US history and that they need to prepare for an increase in participation and attract them to visit the Senior Citizens Center.

Councilor Saums stated the Finance Committee discussed with Mr. Johnson the purchase, maintenance, and subscriptions for the equipment and other associated costs. He stated that Mr. Johnson explained that Parks & Recreation had a capital account that could be used for maintenance and repairs of the gym equipment. Councilor Saums stated that Mr. Johnson was being resourceful in looking to purchase the equipment, noting that Mr. Johnson explained that UConn continuously rotates/replaces their equipment, and that he has been able to get brand new commercial grade equipment that was still in the box from them. Councilor Saums stated that Finance Committee thought this was an excellent use of the ARPA Funds and good for everyone's health.

Councilor Ryan stated that Mr. Johnson noted that they were considering implementing a nominal Membership Fee to use and help maintain the Gym. He stated the maintenance of the mechanical equipment such as treadmills would be accommodated within their Operational Budget.

**VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bill Saums

**SECONDER:** Andra Ingalls

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

**6. MOTION** to grant a Bid Waiver to Locust Grove Landscaping, of Ledyard, Connecticut, in the



amount of \$27,000 to rebuild the retaining wall of the race and reset the steps to divert water away from the building at the Up-Down Sawmill due to the lack of receiving the required three (3) Bids in response to Bid #2023-09 (Sawmill Repairs); in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) “An Ordinance for Purchasing”.

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums noted that the Historic District Commission had previously requested a Bid Waiver for this work at the Up-Down Sawmill. However, he stated at their August 16, 2023 meeting the Finance Committee withdrew the Commission’s request for a Bid Waiver to Locust Grove Landscaping based on a procedural technicality. He stated although three quotes were obtained, that because the cost of the Project exceeded the \$15,000 threshold, as provided in Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1), the town was required to solicit Proposals through an Advertised Bid Process.

Councilor Saums went on to state that since August, 2023, the Historic District Commission sought proposals through the Advertised Bid Process for the repairs to the Sawmill. However, he stated that only one Bid Proposal was received. Therefore, a Bid Waiver to Locust Grove Landscaping (Ken Geer) has been requested. He noted that Historic District Commission Chairman Vincent Godino was present this evening to answer questions. He stated that Mr. Geer does stunning work and that this bid was very low, noting the work that had to be done at the Historic Up-Down Sawmill was more a labor of love, than labor of dollars.

Councilor Ryan stated that he appreciated Historic District Commission Chairman Vincent Godino’s patients with the process; and he thanked him for his follow-thru, noting that it was an emerging project, but that they were getting the work done. Mr. Godino stated that he understood that process and that in the end they were getting the work done.

**VOTE: 9- 0 Approved and so declared**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bill Saums

**SECONDER:** Andra Ingalls

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

7. MOTION to appropriate \$4,200 from Undesignated/Unassigned Fund Balance to Account # 10110107-56100 Cemetery Committee Operating Expenses for the removal of four dead trees at the Newton Cemetery.

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated that this request was similar to one that the Town Council previously addressed, noting that the Newton Cemetery was the beautiful cemetery located on Whalehead Road where they make a sharp bend toward the right heading toward Gales Ferry. He stated the Cemetery had four large dead Ash Trees that needed to be taken down. He stated although he thought that \$4,200 was a lot of money to take down four trees, that considering the site, and the specialized equipment that was required to get in between the grave stones, that this dollar amount was reasonable.

Councilor Saums went on to explain that the Cemetery Committee obtained a cost estimate from

H&H Landscaping, here in Ledyard, who was a responsible Arborist and had the specialized equipment needed to do the job, noting that specialized equipment was called the Spider and was compact enough to get into the Historic Cemetery, which only had a four-foot gate to enter the property, and could maneuver between the gravestones, not to cause damage. He went on to note that H&H Landscaping leased the specialized equipment to other companies. He stated Cemetery Committee Member Mr. Vincent Godino attended the Finance Committee's November 1, 2023 meeting and was prepared to answer all of the Committee's questions.

Councilor Saums stated that he appreciated Mr. Godino and all of the volunteers who serve on town committees, as well as staff, who attend their meetings to provide information and answers.

**VOTE: 9 - 0 Approved and so declared**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bill Saums

**SECONDER:** Andra Ingalls

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

8. MOTION to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$3,256.25 exceeding \$2,400.00 in accordance with tax collector departmental procedures.  
Barbara Arthur \$3,256.25

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated in accordance with policies established for the Tax Collection Department, refunds to taxpayer exceeding \$2,400 need to be approved by the Town Council. He stated the paperwork was in order for the refund, noting that a double payment was made, explaining that both the property owner and the mortgage escrow company paid the taxes. He stated overpayments under \$2,400 were signed by the Mayor. He also noted in most cases that Tax Collector discovered the overpayment, who reports the overpayment to the taxpayer.

**VOTE:9 - 0 Approved and so declared**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Bill Saums

**SECONDER:** Tim Ryan

**AYE:** 9 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, Ryan, and Irwin

General Business

9. MOTION to cancel the Town Council Regular Meeting of November 22, 2023 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Marshall

Discussion: None.

**VOTE: 7 - 2 Approved and so declared (Saums, Irwin, not in favor)**

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Tim Ryan

**SECONDER:** John Marshall

**AYE:** 7 Dombrowski, Ingalls, Paul, Marshall, McGrattan, Rodriguez, and Ryan

**NAY:** 2 Saums, and Irwin

10. Discuss Work Session Items as time permits.

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marshall moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Paul

**VOTE: 9- 0 Approved and so declared.** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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

I, Kevin J. Dombrowski, 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 November 8, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin J. Dombrowski, 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.