

Roxanne Maher

From: Ritter, Matthew D. <MRitter@goodwin.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Carmen Garcia Irizarry
Cc: Fred Allyn, III; Roxanne Maher
Subject: RE: Request for Legal Opinion Regarding Budget Amendment Authority

Carmen - I am in receipt of your email. I will respond soon after I have time to review everything. Thanks.



Matthew D. Ritter
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From: Carmen Garcia Irizarry <CGIri@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 11:38 AM
To: Ritter, Matthew D. <MRitter@goodwin.com>
Cc: Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>; Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Fwd: Request for Legal Opinion Regarding Budget Amendment Authority

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please be cautious of links and attachments.

Dear Attorney Ritter,

My name is Carmen N. Garcia-Irizarry. I am one of the Town Councilors for Ledyard. Yesterday, Wednesday, May 28, 2025 the Mayor sent to all the Town Councilors a letter indicating that the motion made by Councilor St. Vil on Tuesday, May 27th, 2025 for the adjustment of the salaries of several Administrative/Department Heads was not permitted pursuant to **Chapter VIII, Section 2** of the Ledyard Town Charter which states ***"The Classified Service shall include all full and part-time employees of the Town of Ledyard, except (emphasis)...; those positions covered by the Town Council Resolution Establishing Administrator/Department Head Benefits;..."***. Said resolution in page 4 under Wages and Compensation states ***"Employees shall be paid at the rate as designated by the Mayor or contractually negotiated."*** The resolution further states that ***"...wage increases may not be less than the percentage of the highest union contracted increase for that fiscal year."*** Although this resolution states that the Mayor will determine the salaries of the Administrators/Department Heads, the Ledyard Town Charter states in **Chapter III Section 4. General Powers and Duties** that ***"Such Town Council may by ordinance regulate the internal operation of boards, commissions, and offices which it fill by appointment, and shall fix the compensation and conditions of employment of all officers and employees not in the classified service as hereinafter provided in Chapter VIII, Section 2."*** Furthermore, the Town Charter states in **Chapter VI, Section 13. Salaries** ***"Salaries of all directors and of all employees in the classified service of the Town shall be determined by the Town Council, in conformity with a systematic pay plan for the positions involved, upon recommendation of the Mayor,***

provided nothing herein shall be construed to limit the power of the Board of Education to fix compensation of the professional employees of the school system.” Based on this, my understanding is that the Town Council is authorized by the Charter to determine the salaries of employees in the Classified Services and of employees that are not in the Classified Services. Furthermore, ***Resolution Establishing Administrator/Department Head Benefits*** seems to be in conflict with the Charter as the resolution states that is the Mayor who determines the salaries of the Administrator/Department Heads who are employees that are not part of the Classified Service.

I will really appreciate if you can offer some clarification at your earliest convenience regarding this matter.

Thank you very much for your attention!!

Respectfully,

Carmen N. Garcia-Irizarry

Ledyard Town Council

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Date: May 29, 2025 at 9:02:42 AM EDT
To: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>
Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: FW: Request for Legal Opinion Regarding Budget Amendment Authority

From: Gary St. Vil <GSVil@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:59 AM
To: mritter@goodwin.com
Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>; Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Request for Legal Opinion Regarding Budget Amendment Authority

Dear Mr. Ritter,

My name is Gary St. Vil, and I serve as a Town Councilor in Ledyard, Connecticut. I am writing to request your legal opinion regarding a motion I introduced—subsequently passed by the Town Council on Tuesday, May 27, 2025—amending the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budget.

The motion stated:

“I move to amend the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget to reduce the following line items: Finance – Department Head Wages (Acct. 10112101-51600): reduce by \$17,083 to \$115,917. Town Clerk – Department Head Wages (Acct. 10110311-51600): reduce by \$7,639 to \$69,761. Land Use – Department Head Wages (Acct. 10114301-51600): reduce by \$6,084 to \$102,066. Human Resources – Director Wages (Acct. 10110251-51606): reduce by \$1,442 to \$96,408. These changes total \$32,248, resulting in a revised general government budget of \$29,901,179.”

Following this action, the Mayor issued a letter (attached) asserting that the Town Council lacks authority to amend the aforementioned budget line items. I am requesting your legal assessment of this matter. Specifically, please review relevant Connecticut statutes and the Ledyard Town Charter and ordinances, and advise on whether the Town Council has legal authority to make such amendments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,
Gary St. Vil
Ledyard Town Councilor

From: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 3:00 PM
To: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>
Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: FW: Letter to Council regarding improper action 5-27-25

From: Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 2:44 PM
To: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Letter to Council regarding improper action 5-27-25

Roxanne,

I've attached a letter outlining the improper action taken by the Ledyard Town Council on Tuesday May 27, 2025. Please share with the Council so they can determine how they plan to correct this issue.

Best,

Fred

Fred B. Allyn III

Mayor, Town of Ledyard, CT
741 Colonel Ledyard Hwy.
Ledyard, CT 06339
Tel (860) 464-3221

www.ledyardct.org

NOTICE* Effective June 11, 2018

Town Hall hours are 7:30AM-4:45PM Mon-Thurs

CLOSED FRIDAYS

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