



**TOWN OF LEDYARD**  
CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

**MINUTES**  
**LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025; 7:00 PM**  
**HYBRID FORMAT**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM**

**DRAFT**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Rodriguez welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She 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** –

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Excused	
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Kevin Dombrowski	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

- IV. **APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCILOR**

1. **MOTION** to appoint Mr. William Barnes (R) 1 Spruce Street, Ledyard to the Town Council to fill a vacancy left by Councilor Gary Paul, in accordance with Chapter II Section 10 of the Town Charter.

Moved by Chairman Rodriguez, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski

Discussion: Chairman Rodriguez stated that she has known Mr. Barnes for many years, noting that he was an outstanding citizen and active member in their community, along with his whole family. She stated that she was proud and happy to see that Mr. Barnes was nominated this evening to serve on the Town Council.

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman
SECONDER:	Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

Chairman Rodriguez congratulated Mr. Barnes for being appointed as a member of the Town Council. She welcomed Councilor Barnes to join the Town Council on the dais and to participate in tonight’s discussions. However, she noted that he would not be eligible to vote until he has taken the Oath of Office. She asked that Councilor Barnes visit the Town Clerk’s Office to complete the paperwork and to be sworn in at his earliest convenience.

- V. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS** – None.

## VI. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

**Mr. Earl (Ty) Lamb**, 95 Lambtown Road, Ledyard, stated that he was happy with tonight's vote appointing Colonel Barnes to the Town Council. Mr. Lamb stated that William Barnes has been a long-time member of the Ledyard Congregational Church, noting that he currently serves in a leadership role at the church as Moderator. He also noted that Mr. Barnes was a retired Colonel - US Marine Corp; and he thanked Mr. Barnes and others for their service to our country; as well as those who support military families. He stated that Mr. Barnes was currently employed at General Dynamics Electric Boat as an Information Security Officer. He wished Mr. Barnes well, stating that he hope that he would do great things for the Town.

**Mr. Vincent Godino**, 1906 Center Groton Road, Ledyard, stated that he was currently serving as an Alternate Member of the Historic District Commission and that he was also serving as member of the Cemetery Committee. He stated that he first met Mr. Barnes when he was serving as a mentor for Boy Scouts who were working toward their Eagle Scout Medal. He stated during that time they did several Eagle Scout Projects that benefited the Historic Nathan Lester House. He stated when Mr. Barnes was later appointed as a member of the Historic District Commission he asked what he could do to help the Commission. Mr. Godino stated because the Commission was short a few members that they did not have a Chairman for the Historic Up-Down Sawmill and that Mr. Barnes stepped up and took on that role, as well as managing the \$125,000 American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) that was allocated for repairs to the Sawmill, which included handling the Requests for Proposals (RFP). He stated that Mr. Barnes loved this town, he was dedicated, and he noted that Mr. Barnes' background, experience, and talents would make him a very good Town Councilor. He stated that Mr. Barnes would be missed by the Historic District Commission. He congratulated Mr. Barnes and the Town Council noting that they did the right thing by appointing Mr. Barnes to be a member of the Town Council this evening.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked the residents for their comments this evening.

## VII. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

## VIII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Saccone stated last week his wife had the unfortunate need to call Emergency 911. He stated that his wife pointed out how great the Firefighters were, because he was one of them; and in particular the 911 Dispatchers. He noted that his wife stated Dispatcher Stephen Whaley and Dispatcher Kristen Wadecki showed empathy, confidence, and comfort in talking with her during the call. He stated his wife's terrible experience was rewarded by Ledyard's great Dispatchers and he thanked them for their service.

Councilor Buhle stated that first she would like to welcome Mr. Barnes to the 27<sup>th</sup> Ledyard Town Council. She stated that she was excited to work with Mr. Barnes for the residents of their town. She stated that his diverse experiences would bring a new viewpoint to the Town Council and that she looked forward to working together in the months to follow.

Councilor Buhle continued by stating that she also wanted to take a moment to make a statement in support for all of the Ledyard residents who were feeling disheartened or despondent after Monday's Presidential Inauguration. She stated that she was here to listen and support those who feel lost in this political climate, that now feel alienated to the ideals we have worked for. She stated as an Elected Official, that she promised to do her best to support the rights and freedoms of all of our residents, especially those in marginalized or at risk communities.

Councilor St. Vil welcomed Councilor Barnes to the Town Council, and he stated that he looked forward to working with him in the future. He continued by stating in listening to the media and what was going on at the Federal Level that it might sound like pandemonium to

some people. However, he stated when he focuses on what he could control that he thinks about working with each and every person in this town, and on this Town Council to do the right things for our community. He stated knowing that he was working with people that were

aligned with doing the right things for Ledyard gives him a sense of peace and pleasure. He stated that he looked forward to their continued work here in Southeastern Connecticut.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that he would like to join the other members of the Town Council in welcoming Mr. Barnes to the Town Council this evening. He stated that he would also like to echo Councilor St. Vil's comments in that they would continue to work on the things that they could control, and that they work together to do what was in the best interest for Ledyard.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she wanted to welcome Mr. Barnes to the Town Council. She stated that she had the pleasure to work with his wife Cari for many years on Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF) and that she was glad that she would now have the opportunity to work with Mr. Barnes on the Town Council.

IX. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2025  
Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Buhle

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**

X. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Rodriguez stated a Communications List has been provided on the meeting portal for tonight's meeting, and she noted referrals were listed.

XI. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Administration Committee has not met since the last Town Council Meeting.

Community Relations Committee for Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Councilor St. Vil stated the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion met on January 15, 2025 and he noted the Committee would be sponsoring the Fourth Black History Poster and Essay Contest for Ledyard Students. He explained as in past years the program would include an Essay Contest for the High School and Middle School students and a Poster Contest for the Elementary School students. He stated last year they had great participation and a great turnout to recognize those who won awards. He stated the Contest will be open to Ledyard Students, Magnet School Students, and Homeschooled Students. He stated that more information on how to participate will be available at the Schools, and that information would be posted on the town's website. He stated the winners of the Poster Contest would be recognized among their peers at their schools, and the winners of the Essay Contest will be recognized at a Town Council meeting. Councilor St. Vil stated: *"There would be prizes!"*

Finance Committee

Councilor Saccone stated the Finance Committee met on January 15, 2025 and have a number of items on tonight's agenda.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor St. Vil stated the LUPPW Committee has not met since the last Town Council Meeting. He noted the Committee's next meeting was scheduled for February 3, 2025.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilor St. Vil noted the Planning & Zoning Commission met on January 9, 2024 and addressed the following: (1) Reviewed an Open Space Subdivision Application, which would result in a request to the Town Council to accept the completed Marty's Way into the Town's Road Inventory.

Councilor St. Vil went on to report that the Planning & Zoning Commission will discuss the Development Application for the former Dow Chemical/Styrenics Site on Route 12, Gales Ferry, at their Special Meeting scheduled for January 23, 2025 which would be held at the Ledyard Middle School.

Library Commission

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Library Commission’s next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025.

Board of Education

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that the Board of Education met on January 7, 2025 and discussed the following: (1) Juliet W. Long Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Project – Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that only one bid was received which came in \$1.5 million over the projected budget. She stated Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) Chairman Joe Gush would be meeting with the Architects to review the proposal and plan to try to understand the reason the bid came in much higher than estimated; and (2) Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Preparation.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry went on to note that the Board of Education held a Budget Workshop at the High School on January 21, 2025; and also participated in a Special Joint Finance Committee Meeting of the Town Council and Board of Education on January 21, 2025 to discuss budget preparations.

Retirement Board

Chairman Rodriguez stated the Retirement Board has one item on tonight’s Agenda.

Chairman Rodriguez stated with the addition of Councilor Barnes that she made some adjustments to the Town Council Standing Committees and Liaison Assignments. She presented the revised assignment lists as follows:

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE  
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL  
2023-2025**

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Chairman Councilor Buhle**  
Councilor Dombrowski  
Councilor Brunelle

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Chairman Councilor Brunelle  
**Councilor Barnes**  
Councilor St. Vil

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chairman Councilor Saccone  
Councilor Buhle  
Councilor Ryan

**LAND USE/PLANNING/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Chairman Councilor St. Vil  
**Councilor Garcia-Irizarry**  
Councilor Dombrowski

## TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS 2023-2025

<u>Commission/Committee Board</u>	<u>Town Councilor</u>
Agricultural Commission	Councilor Dombrowski
Beautification Committee	Councilor Ryan
Board of Education	Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>Councilor Barnes</b>
Economic Development Commission	Councilor Buhle
Gales Ferry Fire Company	Councilor Saccone
<b>Historic District Commission</b>	<b>Councilor Barnes</b>
Inland Wetland/Water Courses Commission	Councilor St. Vil
Ledyard Farmers' Market Committee	Chairman Rodriguez
Ledyard Fire Company	Councilor Saccone
<b>Ledyard Housing Authority</b>	<b>Councilor Ryan</b>
Library Commission	Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
<b>Parks, Recreation &amp; Senior Citizens Commission</b>	<b>Councilor Barnes</b>
Planning & Zoning Commission	Councilor St. Vil
Public Safety Commission	Councilor Saccone
Permanent Municipal Building	Councilor Brunelle
Retirement Board	Chairman Rodriguez
Social Services Board	Councilor Brunelle
Water Pollution Control Authority	Councilor Dombrowski
Zoning Board of Appeals	Councilor Buhle

### XII. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) Ledyard Center Sewer Line Extension Project Phase III (from Ledyard High School to Pennywise Lane) – Mayor Allyn stated the sewer line has been installed across the High School Property. There were a couple of brief pauses because of the extremely cold temperatures, however, the work has continued noting that the sewer line has been installed up to 73 Gallup Hill Road, which was near the Gallup Hill Baptist Church, and that they were forging ahead; (2) Spicer Homestead Ruins Historic Designation – Mayor Allyn stated the A2 Survey to delineate the boundaries of the area of the Spicer Homestead Ruins; which was located within the former Clark Farm Property (town-owned property) has been completed. He stated a copy of the A2 Survey would be provided to the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee for their review; (3) Juliet W. Long School

HVAC Bids - Mayor Allyn noted as Councilor Garcia-Irizarry reported earlier this evening (see above XI- Subcommittee Reports – Board of Education) the one bid received for the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System for the Juliet W. Long School came in \$1.5 million higher than estimated. He stated Board of Education Director of Facilities and Grounds Wayne Donaldson and Permanent Municipal Building Committee Chairman Joe Gush would be meeting on January 24, 2025 with the one Bidder to see if they could bring the cost to within the authorized dollar amount. He explained to increase the cost of the project that the town would need to go back to the townspeople to increase the Bond Authorization to cover the cost; (4) Southeastern Connecticut Council of Government (SCCOG) Meeting January 15, 2025 – Mayor Allyn stated SCCOG primarily discussed the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge, which was one-lane in either direction. He stated SCCOG has been advocating to increase the span width to allow for possibly three or four lanes. He stated that they have identified the various projects that were in-play as well as the growth of Southeastern Connecticut as a result of General Dynamics Electric Boat, the Great Wolf Lodge which was scheduled to open in May, 2025; and the former Norwich State Hospital Property which would probably be a large conduit as well. He stated that SCCOG was shocked to hear that the State Department of Transportation (DOT) appeared to not know anything that was going on in Southeastern Connecticut. He stated SCCOG pressed the State to look at expanding the width of the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge, citing that Southeastern Connecticut was in lockdown on April 21, 2023 when there was a fuel truck incident on the Gold Star Bridge. He stated that they need to do better; and that SCCOG hoped that DOT would listen and be able to increase the span width on the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge; (5) Ledyard Prevention Coalition Meeting – January 21, 2025 – Mayor Allyn stated that he and Chairman Rodriguez attended the Ledyard Prevention Coalition Meeting, noting that their 10-year Grant would be ending in September, 2025. He stated they were looking for options to continue to fund the Ledyard Prevention Coalition; which cost about \$125,000 per year for ten years. He stated Ledyard Prevention Coalition (Ledge Light Health District) was urged to consider stacking grants from various agencies to continue to fund the Program; (6) Social Services Board Organizational Meeting – January 21, 2025 – Mayor Allyn stated the Social Services Board replaced the Youth & Social Services Board, which was dissolved through the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget due to the lack of funding. He thanked Mikala Bozym for stepping up to Chair the Board as well as the other members who took on the role of Vice-Chairman and Secretary; (7) Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Preparation – Mayor Allyn stated he received the working draft of the compilation of all of the Town's Departments today which would call for a 5-mil tax increase. Therefore, he stated that a lot of work would be required to reduce the Department's budget requests to meet their projected expenses. He noted that he would deliver a proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget on March 3, 2025, which was the first Monday in March in accordance with the Town Charter, noting that the budget would look vastly different than how it stands today. He stated in the twelve years he has been dealing with the budget that this year was the worst one he has seen; (9) Roadside Mower – Mayor Allyn stated the new Roadside Mower that was ordered by the Public Works Department about a year ago was delivered last week. He noted that the town would be having a GovDeals Auction to sell the following: (a) The current John Deer Roadside Mower, which had about 8,000 hours of run time on it; and (b) Honda Civic; (10) Winter Operations Budget – Mayor Allyn stated Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin provided the status of this year's Winter Operations Budget, noting that although they have not received a lot of snow this winter that the timing and types of storms they have had were costly. He noted this week's storm which came Sunday afternoon into Monday (Martin Luther King Holiday) called for double and triple time pay; (11) 2025 Small Town Economic Assistance (STEAP) Grant- Mayor Allyn stated on January 9 2025 Governor Lamont authorized the STEAP Grants. He stated the Grant Applications were due on February 20, 2025, noting that with guidance from the Finance Committee the town would be seeking \$1 million to replace 3 – 4 Playscapes throughout the town (Upper Town Green, Colonel Ledyard Park, Christy Hill/ East Drive Park, and Aljen Heights Park). He stated Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., was working to obtain the final written quotes to include it with the STEAP grant Application.

**Questions to the Mayor** – None.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION to accept the Connecticut Recovery Support Center 2024-2025 Proposal in the amount of \$10,000 for the use of the National Opioid Settlement Funding.  
Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Buhle

**Background:** In 2021 the National Prescription Opiate Litigation Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee confirmed that the \$26 billion global opioid settlements were finalized with the “Big Three” drug distributors - AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, McKesson, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson for their participation of litigating local governments nationwide. As part of this settlement, Ledyard has been; and would continue to receive funding through 2037.

Discussion: Councilor Saccone explained that Ledyard has been receiving funding from the National Opioid Settlement. He stated that *Connecticut Recovery Support Center* would be an additional support unit, noting that currently the town was receiving support services from the *Ledyard Prevention Coalition*; and *Community Speaks Out*.

Councilor Saccone stated that *Connecticut Recovery Support Center* would provide the following services:

- Monthly Collaboration Meeting with First Responders - Review Overdose (OD) Calls, discuss trends, new developments, updates).
- Monthly Overdose follow-ups - Follow-up with community members--knock and talk--who have survived an overdose.
- Community Outreach - 3 to 4 hours/week - Ongoing engagement with individuals connected, via referrals, outreach efforts, Overdose (OD) follow-ups; outreach to individuals, new referrals and businesses in the community.
- Opioid Education & Naloxone Training - Offered quarterly for community members.
- Opioid Education & Naloxone Training - Biannual refresher for First Responders (1.0 CEU).
- Recovery Basics Course for Parents, Friends, and the Community to help support friends/family with Substance Use Disorder - 2-hour seminar--offered twice throughout the year.
- Recovery Basics for Employers Training - Education & training course for area employers to help support employees in recovery - 8-hour seminar - offered twice throughout the year.

Councilor Saccone stated that Connecticut Recovery Services would also provide Quarterly Reports on their work in the community.

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Jessica-Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

2. MOTION to authorize the Land Use Department to overspend their Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget.

In addition, transfer \$4,895.75 from CNR Account #210104301-53315 (GIS) to CNR Account # 21014301-57300 (New Equipment).

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick stated that she attended the Finance Committee’s January 15, 2025 meeting to discuss this request to overspend the Land Use Department Budget due to the following reasons:

- **Legal Fees-** Ms. Burdick explained that the Land Use Department has had multiple complex Land Use Applications and several Land Use Appeals that have required the attendance of the Attorneys at their meetings. She noted the Attorney Fees were currently at 300% of the projected \$10,000 budget explaining that this was the first year the Attorney Fees was included as an expenditure line in the Land Use Department’s budget, noting that in prior years all the legal fees were paid out of the Mayor’s budget. Therefore, she stated when the budget was prepared last winter that it was based on a projected estimate.



- **Training/Continuing Certifications/Dues/Subscriptions** – Ms. Burdick stated that the Land Use Staff, both new and existing, was required to attend trainings and meetings which included the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials (CAZEO) Training (continued education) to obtain and to retain their certifications. This training would provide the following in the Land Use Office:
  - ✓ Certified Zoning Enforcement Official
  - ✓ Certified Zoning Technician

Ms. Burdick stated that the Land Use Office also had other expenses such as dues and legal notices, etc.

Councilor Ryan stated that some of the costs Ms. Burdick reviewed this evening looked like that were going to be recurring costs, in terms of the need to build them into the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. Ms. Burdick stated that she has been working with Finance Director Mathew Bonin and that they have put together a pragmatic budget going forward for next year.

Ms. Burdick continued by addressing the request to transfer the remaining \$4,895.75 from the Geographic Information System (GIS) Capital Account to the New Equipment Capital Account explaining that the Land Use Offices have moved into the former Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) space, and therefore, they needed to purchase some office furniture, noting that she currently was working on a table because she did not have a desk. She also stated that they would be purchasing a conference table so the they would have a place where they could meet with Developers and roll out the Plans.

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

3. MOTION to approve an additional appropriation from undesignated fund balance in the amount of \$87,055 to the following accounts to address the budgetary impact of hiring an additional mechanic in conjunction with the shared services agreement with the Town of Preston:
- \$57,820 to account 10140105-51620 Public Works Employees – Vehicle Maintenance
  - \$21,800 to account 10110253-52201 Healthcare Teamsters
  - \$ 4,425 to account 10110253-52500 Social Security
  - \$3,010 to account 10110253-52310 Defined Contribution Plan

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor St. Vil  
Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, explained because the Town of Preston’s one mechanic retired and they were in need of a mechanic, the two towns came up with a Shared Service Agreement, whereby Preston would pay Ledyard \$96,000 per year, plus expenses for materials and other supplies used to service their vehicles. He stated to take on Preston’s Fleet that the Public Works Department hired an additional Mechanic, noting that this arrangement would also be beneficial for Ledyard. He stated when the mechanic was not working on Preston’s vehicles that he would be working on Ledyard’s vehicles, noting for safety purposes it was good to have the additional mechanic. He noted as an example that last week they had to remove the backhoe’s five-foot tire. He stated one person could not do that without getting hurt. He stated they hired a fantastic young man who just passed his probationary period.

Councilor Ryan stated that this Shared Service Agreement was a great arrangement for the Town; and that he was pleased that it was working out well.

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**



RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Gary St. Vil, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

4. MOTION to approve appropriations from the receipt of sales of vehicles and equipment through GovDeals in the total amount of \$8,806.11 as follows:

- \$4,750 to the Public Works Large Trucks CNR Account #21040101-57312;
- \$3,046.11 to the Public Works Light Equipment CNR Account 21040101-57314
- \$1,010 to the Police Vehicle CNR Account 21020101-57510.

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Saccone stated the Town has been using the on-line GovDeals auction to sell surplus equipment that had reached its end of life. He noted the town received a total of \$8,806.11 from the sale of surplus equipment, and he explained that the funding would go into the accounts associated with the equipment to be used toward the replacement of equipment at a later time.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated the amount of revenues received using GovDeals auction site has turned out much better than the former sealed bid process that the town previously used. He went on to note that the following equipment was sold:

- 2001 Sterling L7500 Cab and Chassis – \$4,750
- 2013 Hustler Mower – \$2,826.11
- 2008 Nissan Altima – \$1,010 (Police obtained through a drug seizuer)
- Milwaukee Fuel Power Tool Components – \$220

VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

5. MOTION to adopt a proposed "*Amendment 2025-1 to the Retirement Plan for Full-Time Employees of the Town of Ledyard*" pertaining to Section 5.06 (Suspension of Benefits) as presented by the Retirement Board in the draft dated December 17, 2024.

DRAFT: 12/17/2024

**AMENDMENT 2025-1  
TO THE RETIREMENT PLAN FOR  
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF  
THE TOWN OF LEDYARD  
Amended and Restated July 1, 2012**

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Ledyard, hereinafter referred to as the “Employer” established a Plan which reserves in Section 10.01, the Ledyard Town Council’s right and authority to amend the Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Employer desires to amend the Plan to provide for continuation of retirement benefits for any Member rehired by the Employer; and;

**NOW THEREFORE**, effective January 23, 2025, the Employer hereby amends the Plan as follows:

Section 5.06 (Suspension of Benefits) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5.06 Rehired Employees

If a Member elects to retire under the Plan upon reaching his or her Normal Retirement Date, and is rehired by the Town, the rehired Employee shall be paid retirement benefits as prescribed by the plan as if he/she had not been rehired by the town.

Table of Contents is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5:06 Rehired Employees

Approved by the Ledyard Town Council on Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Ryan  
Discussion: Mayor Allyn provided some background explaining in 2015 the Town Council adopted an Amendment (2015-1) to the Pension Plan Document to address town employees who retired and had begun collecting their retirement benefits from the town (Defined Benefit Plan); and later returned to employment with the town. He stated that Amendment 2015-1 did not allow the employee who returned to employment with the town to contribute/participate in the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (401 type plan).

Mayor Allyn went on to explain that the Retirement Board reviewed Amendment 2015-1 and its impact on retaining skilled/experienced workers in the town’s employment after they have reached their Normal Retirement Age under the Defined Benefit Plan. He stated the Retirement Board found Amendment 2015-1 to be detrimental to this effort, noting that these individuals had years of experience in their positions, making them valuable to the town, especially during a difficult hiring environment. Mayor Allyn stated with their experience, these individuals could easily go to a nearby town where they would get both Ledyard’s retirement benefits and a compensatory salary/pay; and also be allowed to participate in a Defined Contribution Retirement Plan. He noted as an example that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin, Police Department Capitan Kenny Creutz; and Firefighter Jerry Watkins (now working in the Public Works Department) have reached retirement age, and have continued to work for the Town.

Mayor Allyn stated to address this issue the Retirement Board forwarded the proposed Amendment 2025-1, as presented in the draft dated December 17, 2024, which would allow town employees to receive their earned retirement benefits under the Defined Benefit Plan after reaching their Normal Retirement Age; and to be rehired, should the town choose to do so, in the same position with the ability to contribute/participate in the Defined Compensation Plan (401 Plan) and to receive a town match in accordance with the Plan.

Chairman Rodriguez noted that Amendment 2015-1 was originally written for Michael Finkelstein. Mayor Allyn noted that Chairman Rodriguez was correct, explaining when Mr. Finkelstein retired from the Police Department and retuned to employment with the town when he was elected as Mayor that Amendment 2015-1 was written for his situation.

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

6. MOTION to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to conduct auditing services for the General Government, WPCA, and Schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with Chapter III, Section 11 of the Town Charter for a fee of \$74,500.  
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Ryan  
Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, explained the town solicited RFP #2022-09 (Auditing Services) at which time only two RFP's were received, noting that CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) was the low bid. He stated the contract was for two years and included two-one-year extension options. He stated this year (Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025) would be the second one-year extension option, noting that next year the town would need to solicit Requests for Proposals for Auditing Services. He stated the \$74,500 cost for services included a 3% increase noting the following cost breakdown:

**\$74,500 Breakdown:**

General Government:	\$25,100
Board of Education:	\$23,400
WPCA:	\$9,800
State Single Audit:	\$8,100
Federal Single Audit:	\$8,100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$74,500</b>

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that the Board of Education's Budget was 70% of the town's overall budget; however, the Auditor only looked at one budget line in conducting their audit work at the Board of Education. Mayor Allyn explained that the Auditor conducts various samplings from various Accounts for both the General Government and the Board of Education, noting that they do not audit every line in the budget for either the General Government or the Board of Education. He stated should the Auditor find that the various samplings were in agreement with the data sets that they move on; if the samplings were not in agreement that they continue to conduct samplings.

Councilor Ryan questioned whether the Auditor dives deeper than the one Board of Education Budget line. Mayor Allyn explained that the State's Audit requirements were different for the Town versus the Board of Education, which he found to be interesting. However, he stated that the Auditor does review more than one line of the Board of Education's budget. He stated when the Auditor conducts their work for the General Government that they set up in the Council Chambers, noting that they have the Munis Financial System on their computers and they substantially go through all of the Town's accounts, noting that this work could take a couple of weeks. He stated that he agreed that it was interesting given that 30% of the total tax dollars reside on the General Government side and 70% of the tax dollars reside on the Board of Education of the budget.

Councilor Buhle provided some clarification, noting that what she and Councilor Garcia-Irizarry have been asking was when the town solicits bids next year for Auditing Services whether they could request a more thorough Audit on the Board of Education side of the budget to match the level of work that is done on the General Government side of the budget. She noted that they understand that the Audit may cost a little more, but that they would like to have more eyes on the Board of Education's budget because it was 70% of the overall budget. Mayor Allyn stated that he thought the request to have more work done on the Board of Education's side of the budget was fair. Therefore, he suggested that the Finance Committee be involved in preparing the Request for Proposals for Audit Services when they go out to bid next year.

Mayor Allyn noted that CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP would be attending the Finance Committee's February 5, 2025 meeting to present the Annual Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and their findings. He stated all were welcome to attend the meeting.

**Background:** In accordance with Chapter III, Section 11 of the Town Charter: “*The Town Council shall annually designate an independent public accountant or firm of independent public accountants to audit the books and accounts of the Town in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes*”.

In accordance CGS 7-396 and 4-232 the Office of Management and Policy (OPM) must be notified of the Municipalities Appointed Auditor 30 days (May 31<sup>st</sup>) before the end of the Fiscal Year.

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

7. MOTION to approve two tax refunds in the combined total amount of \$6,437.03 with each exceeding \$2,400.00 in accordance with tax collector departmental procedures.
- Dale & Joanna Waddell \$3,334.74
  - Eric Carlson & Mary Peckhamor \$3,102.29

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Buhle  
Discussion: Councilor Saccone explained in accordance with the Tax Collector’s Procedures that refunds over the amount of \$2,500 need to be approved by the Town Council. He stated because both the property owner and the lender paid the taxes that refunds were due.

**VOTE: 7 – 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT:	APPROVED 7 - 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor St. Vil  
**VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared.** The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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

I, S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council,  
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and  
correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Town Council  
Meeting held on January 22, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman