



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

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

## Town Council ~ AGENDA ~

Chairman S. Naomi  
Rodriguez

Regular Meeting

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Wednesday, July 9, 2025

7:00 PM

Town Hall Council Chambers

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**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/86475891587?pwd=yWP4HEbsSBMs08Cnk1CenKJRgaam2m.1>**

**Audio Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 864 7589 1587; Passcode: 836523**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation - David Holdridge

Proclamation - Daniel and Laura Troy

State of Connecticut Citation

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

VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the following Town Council Minutes:

- Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2025
- Special Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2025
- Special Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2025

**Attachments:** [TC-MIN-2025-06-11](#)  
[TC-MIN-2025-06-18-SP](#)  
[TC-MIN-2025-06-25](#)

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications List - July 9, 2025

**Attachments:** [Communications List-2025-07-09](#)  
[Action Letter WPCA Mtg-2025-06-24](#)  
[Merando-Fiscal Year 2025-2026-Budget](#)  
[Human Resources Director - Budget cut impact 6-11-2025-Floater Salary- Ltr dated-2025-06-15](#)  
[Actin Ltr -Retirement Boarde Mtg-2025-06-17](#)  
[Hosey-Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget-email-2025-06-17](#)  
[DTC-APPOINT ENDORSMENT-BOARD OF ASSESSMENET APPEALS-2025-06-23](#)  
[Social Services Op Ed Article- Day Newspaper-2025-06-26](#)  
[Resignation-Peterson PMBC-2025-06-30](#)  
[Venkateswaran-Fiscal Year 2025-2026- Tax Mil Rate Increase-semail-2025-07-01](#)  
[Venkateswaran-Howard-Fiscal Year 2025-2026- Tax Mil Rate Increase-semail-2025-07-01](#)  
[Cili-Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget-Taxes-email-2025-07-05](#)  
[Board of Education Ledayrd Teachers Association](#)  
[Negotiations-Buhle- Town Council Liaison-email-2025-07-07](#)  
[Cherry-Reappointment-Southeastern CT Water Authority-email-2025-06-24](#)  
[DTC -Reappointment Reommendation-Beautification Commitee-2025-07-07](#)  
[DTC -Reappointment Reommendation-Parks-Recreation& Senior Citizens-email-2025-07-07](#)  
[DTC-APPOINT ENDORSMENT-BOARD OF ASSESSMENET APPEALS-2025-06-23](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-Agricultural Commission-2025-06-24 signed](#)  
[RTC-Reappointment Recommendation-Agricultuireal Commission-2025-07-07](#)  
[RTC-Reappointment Recommendation-Beautification Commission-2025-07-07](#)  
[Greco-Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget-Board of Education-email-2025-07-08](#)  
[Board of Education - Chiller Replacment - Gales Ferry School- Bid Waiver Requested2025-07-08](#)  
[Graeber email - Chairman Rodriguez- Resignation- Town Council dated-2025-07-07](#)  
[Barnes email - Chairman Rodriguez- Resignation- Town Council dated-2025-07-07](#)  
[ACTION LTR-TOWN COUNCIL MTG-2025-06-18-FINAL -FY 25-26 BUDGT](#)  
[Chairman Pro-Tem-Assignment of Duties-Barnes- Memo-2025-06-13](#)  
[ACTION LTR-TOWN COUNCIL MTG-2025-06-11](#)  
[ACTION LTR-TOWN COUNCIL MTG-2025-06-11-MIL RATE FY25-26](#)

[ACTION LTR-FY-25-26-MIL RATE-TC-MTG-2025-06-18](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-Agricultural Commission-2025-06-24](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-Agricultural Commission-2025-06-24](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-Agricultural Commission-RTC-2025-06-24](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-Beautification Committee-2025-06-24](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-Beautification Committee-DTC-2025-06-24](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-Beautification Committee-RTC-2025-06-24](#)  
[Re Appointment Request-SCWA-2025-06-24](#)  
[Board of Education Ledayrd Teachers Association](#)  
[Negotiations-Buhle- Town Council Liaison-email-2025-07-07](#)  
[Chairman Rodriguez- Resignation- Town Council email-2025-07-07](#)

## X. REFERRALS

## XI. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

1. Administration Committee Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025
2. Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - Report- Fiscal Year 2025/2026
3. Finance Committee Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025
4. LUPPW Committee Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025

## XII Mayor Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025

## I.

**Attachments:** [Mayors Report 2025-07-09](#)

## XIII. OLD BUSINESS

## XIV. NEW BUSINESS

**\*\*ADD ON\*\***

- \* MOTION to Amend the Agenda to add  
MOTION to grant a Bid Waiver in the amount of up-to \$390,782 to Tradesmen of New England, Bloomfield, Connecticut, to address the emergency replacement of the Chiller at the Gales Ferry School.
1. MOTION to grant a Bid Waiver in the amount of up-to \$390,782 to Tradesmen of New England, Bloomfield, Connecticut, to address the emergency replacement of the Chiller at the Gales Ferry School.

**Attachments:** [Board of Education - Chiller Replacment - Gales Ferry School- Bid Waiver Requested-Ltr-2025-07-08](#)  
[Proposal - GalFerSc-Replacement Chiller - Carrier](#)  
[Proposal - GalFerSc-Replacement Chiller - Carrier](#)

## XV. ADJOURNMENT



**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.



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2182

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:**

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## PRESENTATIONS

**Presentation:**

Proclamation - David Holdridge



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2183

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:**

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## PRESENTATIONS

**Presentation:**

Proclamation - Daniel and Laura Troy



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2192

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:**

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## PRESENTATIONS

**Presentation:**

State of Connecticut Citation



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2034

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:**

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## MINUTES

### **Minutes:**

MOTION to approve the following Town Council Minutes:

- Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2025
- Special Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2025
- Special Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2025



**TOWN OF LEDYARD**  
CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

**MINUTES**  
**LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 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
William Barnes	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
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	Excused	
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

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

- V. **RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS**

**Mr. Whit Irwin**, 2 Winfield Way, Ledyard, stated that he was present this evening to tell the Town Council that he voted “No” on the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget at both the May 20, 2025 Referendum and at the second Referendum on June 10, 2025 noting that inflation in 2022 was 8%; in 2023 it was 3.3%; in 2024 it was 2.95%. He stated after the May 20, 2025 Budget Referendum failed the Finance Committee came up with a plan at their May 21, 2025 meeting. However, he stated the Town Council at their May 26, 2025 meeting threw out the Finance Committee’s recommendations and added more cuts that were frankly disgusting. He stated the Town Council did not address the Board of Education, which was larger side of the budget. He stated instead the Town Council went after the salaries of a few town employees that moved the needle less than five one hundredths of one percent of the budget, noting that it amounted to a penny. Therefore, he stated the budget the Town Council presented at the Second Referendum was garbage; and that he voted against the budget for a second time; noting that the Town Council should be ashamed. He noted that Waterford, Bozrah, Sprague, Colchester, Preston, Griswold, East Lyme, Salem, Groton, Baltic, Franklin, Lyme, North Stonington, and Lisbon all held line on tax increases. He stated every one of these towns have a mil rate that was lower than Ledyard’s mil rate. He stated Ledyard’s residents were getting squeezed noting consumer prices across the board. He noted State Senator Cathy Osten championed a Bill in Hartford that stripped away \$600,000+ in tax revenues that the Town has been collecting from the commercial businesses operating at the Mashantucket Pequot Foxwoods Resort and Casino. He stated the loss of \$600,000+ in tax revenue from these commercial business was almost 1% every year, and that the taxpayers would have to make up for that loss in tax revenue. He stated instead of addressing the larger side of the house; the Board of Education, that the Town Council went after 0.05 of 1% on the General Government side of the budget; and now they want to raise their taxes.

Mr. Irwin continued by addressing the property revaluation that would take effect next year. He stated during the last five-years the median home price in Connecticut went up 45%.; which means that their homes were going to be worth more; therefore, residents would be taxed more based on the increased value of their property. He stated even if the town lowered the mil rate that resident's tax bills were still going to go up, noting that the lower mil rate would not offset the increase in the value of their homes.

Chairman Rodriguez noted that Mr. Irwin's three minutes were up; and she thanked him for his comments.

**Dr. Adrienne Parad,** 5 Birch Street, Ledyard, noted that she submitted comments ahead of time, so they were on the record. She addressed Mayor Allyn, III, and the Town Council reading her June 11, 2025 email as follows:

*I would not advocate for an improved budget, but to champion a vision, one that prioritizes the needs of the majority, not just the desires of a few.*

*A budget is not just a collection of numbers; it is a reflection of our town's values, our priorities, and our commitment to each other. We all recognize that resources are limited, and difficult choices must be made. But when we revise our budget, let us ask not, "What do people want?" but rather, "What do people truly need?"*

*As a physician, I often have difficult discussions with patients and colleagues about noting the differences between wants and needs. Just because one person may want a full body MRI, they likely do not need to have that. They do, however, need to follow evidence-based guidelines on screening for and treating any diseases. I can't be focused on Press-Ganey reviews when making tough medical decisions, and I have to focus on doing the right thing. In my profession, it is very difficult to simultaneously do the right thing and make everyone happy. It is not possible, so I choose to focus on making meaningful and actionable plans even if it doesn't necessarily make everyone happy. If I focused on my image and how people think of me all of the time, I wouldn't be able to make tough decisions and do the right thing.*

*So, what do we NEED? We need safe roads and reliable infrastructure. We need strong schools that prepare our children for the future. We need emergency services that protect us, social programs that uplift us, and economic initiatives that create opportunity—not just for today, but for the generations that will follow.*

*Of course, compromise is inevitable. No budget will satisfy every individual preference. But what matters is ensuring that we invest in the greatest good—the foundational services and initiatives that affect the majority of our town's residents. This means resisting pressure from loud voices advocating for pet projects that benefit a few at the expense of the many. It means making decisions based on necessity, impact, and long-term sustainability.*

*In my opinion, I would like to see the budget originally proposed by the Board of Education, with the adjustment of revenue, to be fully reinstated. Our school district is egregiously underfunded, and we need to slowly try to remediate all of our deficiencies now, and focus on growth in the years to come. I also would like to see a compromise on the raises to the Town employees to show them that we value them, while not also burdening our residents with a large tax increase to pay for it. Additionally, I am a strong believer in environmental stewardship, and would like to see the town composting program to stay intact.*

*I urge you—our leaders—to craft a budget that stands for fairness, responsibility, and the collective well-being of this town. A budget that may not satisfy every want, but one that meets the essential needs of our community. Because when we prioritize wisely, we don't just balance the numbers—we build a stronger, more equitable future for all. Thank you.*

**Mr. Jeff Eilenberger**, 2 Village Drive, Ledyard, stated he was present this evening to defend the hacking of Finance Director Matthew Bonin's salary in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. He stated for those who do not know Mr. Bonin or know what he has done for this town that he would tell them that since Mr. Bonin joined the Town Hall Staff around 2022 that he worked with the banks to obtain higher interest earnings on the funds the town has in their Capital Reserve Accounts. He stated that these funds were designated for future capital investments and were sitting idle in the bank. However, he stated because of Mr. Bonin's work the Town's Capital Account earned \$43,000 in 2022 (for a partial year) which was .74% of the town's revenue for that year, and saved taxpayers money. He went on to note that in 2023 the interest earnings was \$576,000; in 2024 the interest earnings was \$1,010,000, and to date for 2025 interest earnings was \$623,000. Mr. Eilenberger stated that Mr. Bonin has saved Ledyard's taxpayers more than \$1.5 million by the revenue that has been received through the interest earnings on money that had been previously sitting stagnate in the town's bank accounts. He stated that he understands that a salary increase of over 10% seemed like a lot. However, he stated that he believed that by explaining to residents the amount of revenue Mr. Bonin has brought into the town; his education and background, and the need to bring the Finance Director's salary in-line with the market rate for the position that residents would understand. Mr. Eilenberger went on to state at their May 21, 2025 meeting the Finance Committee spent hours working on the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. He stated that both Councilor Buhle and Saccone signed off on budget. However, he stated Councilor Buhle basically lied at the Finance Committee Meeting rather than say what she was going to do with the salaries. Thank you.

**Ms. Wendy Hellekson**, 14-L Lakeside Drive, Ledyard, stated that while she was many things in this town, that tonight she was speaking as a private citizen to speak about truth. She stated that every morning during her school day she was reminded about what makes this town special. She stated that every person that she encounters was kind, helpful, and generous. Therefore, she stated that was the reason the recent budget vote was confusing and disappointing. She stated out of the roughly 1,100 eligible voters, only about 700 voted against moving the budget forward, noting that this was not the mandate that some may claim. She stated what they were hearing from the voters was the result of a campaign that was driven by lies and fear. She stated when they live in a time when some say that there was no more truth, noting that too, was misinformation. She stated the truth was that the town started the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget preparation with a \$2.4 million dollars shortfall. The truth was that 700 people voted based on fears and that should not dictate the future of the town's 15,000 residents.

Ms. Hellekson went on to state that she would also like to tell them that Google was not where they could always go to get the truth. She stated that Google was a filing cabinet with the most used documents at the front, noting that it did not matter if the documents were right or wrong, noting that they were just the documents that were looked at the most. She stated that the truth lied in the investigation and verification of information in Ledyard, and like many places, has been assaulted by false information. She stated that anyone could say anything on the Internet. Therefore, she asked that they please be aware of what they were reading and reposting on social media. Thank you.

**Mr. Steve Munger**, 12 Nutmeg Drive, Gales Ferry, noted that he would begin his comments this evening the way he has started his comments every time he has addressed the Town Council. He stated that he appreciate everybody on the Town Council for their dedication to the town even though he disagreed with about 90% of what they do, as he has repeatedly said at prior meetings. He proceeded to address the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget; and he noted as others have said, it was tough on both sides (General Government and Board of Education). He stated that he no longer had kids or grandkids in the school system. However, he stated that he loves kids which was why he fought to allow Ledyard kids, who were attending other schools to play sports in town, noting that it was his understanding that it has not gone through yet. However, he stated if he happens to get back on the Board of Education that he would again fight for that because it was for all the kids in town. He stated that he did not prepare any comments because he did not plan to speak tonight. However, he stated in looking at Chairman Rodriguez he thought he better say something otherwise she would be disappointed.



Mr. Munger continued by addressing comments provided by other residents this evening. He stated that they were not all doctors, nurses, or engineers that work at Electric Boat and earn six-digit salaries every year. He stated for those families it was fantastic; however, he stated there were a lot of people who might not earn half that. Therefore, he stated for some to say they should pass the budget because they could afford it, that they were being selfish; because they have to consider everybody in town. He stated in September, 1996 when he bought his house in Ledyard that he did not think many people were that well off; however, he stated that he may have been wrong because from what he was hearing, Ledyard must be upper middle class, noting that everybody was saying *"We need more money for this, and we need more money for that"*. He stated that he heard residents say that more money for the schools would mean a better education. He stated if more money meant better schools and better graduation rates then the inner-city schools would have the best education and the highest graduation rates, because they get extra money. Therefore, he stated that he did not think that more money was the issue, noting that Ledyard has great teachers, and great schools. He stated that they have to take care of everybody, noting that the budget was supported by everybody's money. Therefore, he asked when the Town Council makes their final decision on the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget that they consider everybody, not only the people that were screaming *"No or Yes"* ; but that they think about everybody in the middle.

Mr. Munger addressed the comments about misinformation, noting that some have said *"Don't believe this; or don't believe that"*; noting that people were going to believe what they want to believe. He stated that he believed that they need to make sure they have the right budget for everybody, not just for those who were well off, but also for people who were in the middle; and in the lower income area, noting that should be their number one concern. He stated that he did not care whether the members of the Town Council were Republican Democrat, or Independent, that they have to take care of the whole entire Town.

**Mr. Earl (Ty) Lamb**, 95 Lambtown Road, Ledyard, addressed the Town Council's May 27, 2025 meeting in which they worked to make budget adjustments to submit to the Second Referendum on June 10, 2025. He specifically noted the reductions to some of the General Government's Administrators/Department Head salaries, stating that he thought their action was a political game. He questioned whether any member of the Town Council knew how the General Government would work without the Mayor and their key Administrators /Department Head Staff. Thank you.

**Mr. Edwin Murray**, 26 Devonshire Drive, Gales Ferry, noted at the Town Council's May 27, 2025 meeting they came up with the adjusted budget, after a lot of discussion and compromise. He stated the reason he attended the meeting was because he wanted to hear what the Town Council was going to do for the folks who have told them that they did not agree with what they say. He stated that they may not have all the information, noting that some folks heard the wrong information. He stated that he has lived in Ledyard for two-years and that it was his perspective that the Annual Budget Process was this thing that just happened and that 400 to 500 people showed up and voted on the budget, noting that he wondered whether they were the same 400-500 people every year. He stated the point that he was making was that in past years that if about 200 voters said *"Yes"* the town got their budget. Therefore, he questioned those who have said that the 700 people that voted *"No"* at this year's Second Budget Referendum was not a mandate, when they were looking at the whole population of the town. However, he stated 700 *"No"* votes was really the people's frustration, because this year, for some reason, they decided to let people know. He stated right now a lot of people did not know everything, but the point was that more people came out. Therefore, he stated out of the 1,100 people who showed up at the polls that 700 people voted *"No"*; noting that in past years that out of the 400 – 500 people who showed up at the polls that maybe 200 people voted *"No"*. He stated the difference was not only did 1,300 people showed up for the First Referendum that was held on May 20, 2025, but that 1,100 came back for the Second Referendum yesterday on June 10, 2025 to tell them what they thought; and he noted that the Town Council needed to take notice of that participation. Therefore, he stated that the Town Council needed to ask themselves some questions and get some answers for the next budget. He stated the earlier they can hear what people think about the Budget the better. Thank you,

**Mr. Matthew Bonin**, Finance Director, stated that he would like to speak to the Town Council this evening. Chairman Rodriguez stated that Mr. Bonin could address the Town Council. Mr. Bonin noted that he sent an email to the Town Council. He stated although he did not receive an response that he assumed they read it, but that he was not sure if they did. He stated he had a few comments regarding the Town Council's May 27, 2025 Special Meeting. He stated that he has never felt more unappreciative than he did at that meeting. He stated the message he heard loud and clear was that members of the Town Council do not value what the General Government Administrators/Department Heads do for the Town. He stated the fact that none of the Town Councilors who were championing the salary cuts could look him or Town Clerk Patricia Riley in the eye when they brought forth the Motion was very telling. He stated that the entire process of un-doing the long overdue salary survey was pre-orchestrated. He stated that he would like to clarify a glaring error in Councilor St. Vil's Motion, noting that the Motion was presented in response to the *Budget Advisory Questions*; however, Mr. Bonin stated that the problem was that the budget failed. He noted that Councilor St. Vil claimed that he was pushing for 4% raises for the Administrators/Department Heads, but that was not true. Mr. Bonin stated that Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick was hired at a salary of \$105,220 annually and that the information that was provided in the proposed budget reflected a 3% raise to get to the total of \$108,150. Yet Councilor St. Vil proposed reducing that salary line to \$102,066, resulting in a pay cut of \$2,934; stating that they were reducing her salary to less than what she was making now, which was a pay cut.

Mr. Bonin continued by addressing Councilor Brunelle's comment regarding why employees were paid more than others could not have been more disingenuous and insulting to all of the Town's Administrators/Department Heads. He stated that Councilor Brunelle's comment, was "*The pay is probably appropriate to what the Education and skill level is.*" Mr. Bonin said *seriously education and skill level*. He stated that he has BS in Accounting, and he is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), which was one of the hardest professional certifications to acquire, of which Councilor Brunelle clearly knows nothing about what any of their education and skill sets were. Mr. Bonin stated in talking about pay disparity, for comparison purposes, that he would note that the salary of his counterpart at the Board of Education was \$155,250 a year, noting that his annual salary is \$111,459. He noted that his Board of Education counterpart was being paid almost \$44,000 more per year than he was being paid, that was a difference of \$850 a week, noting that he would remind the Town Council that he is a CPA; while his Board of Education counterpart is not a CPA. Mr. Bonin stated that based on Councilor Brunelle's statement that it would seem as though he should be making north of \$155,000. He stated the Finance Director's salary that was requested in the Fiscal Year Budget was not even close to that. He stated that he found it ironic that there was no discussion whatsoever on Board of Education's salary increases, noting that although Councilor Ryan tried it fell on deaf ears.

Mr. Bonin went on to note Councilor Garcia-Irizarry's pre-orchestrated comments in which she referenced Colchester as a comparison; and he questioned whether any members of the Town Council knew the history of the Finance Director position in Colchester.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Mr. Bonin for his comments noting that his three-minutes was up.

**Ms. Rebecca Watford**, 429 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, stated as a low- income family that she has seen how one bad vote could turn low-income families in town to being homeless. She stated that they were now homeowners and that a tax increase could very well tip that scale, to make her family homeless again. She went on to address the Board of Education, noting that she did not have much faith in the Ledyard School District. She stated that she had two autistic children in the Ledyard Public Schools, and that they absolutely failed; therefore, she has chosen to homeschool her children, and she pays for all the curriculum they need. She also noted the large population of Ledyard residents that were pulling their children from the Ledyard Public Schools and were also homeschooling their children. She stated the homeschooled children do not get invited to play sports in this town, and that their children cannot take part in any activities in this town. She stated as taxpayers on a low-income they have to question how a tax increase fits into their household budget. She stated that she wanted the town to know that a vote to increase taxes could make these homeowners who were living on a very low-income, to become a homeless population in Ledyard. She questioned with no low-income housing in town where these families could go,

noting that these low-income residents would be pushed to leave the town the town they loved so much. Thank you.

**Mr. Mike Cherry**, 5 Whippoorwill Drive, Gales Ferry, stated that he and his wife Mary have lived in town for about 40 years. He stated that this was probably the first year that he voted against the budget. He stated during the budget process that most years he has talked with the School Superintendent and that he has asked how they could do more for the schools. He stated this year they did do more for the schools to the tune of about seven (7) full-time positions noting that there was a reason for those positions. He stated that he was not an educator, and he did not know what the requirements were, but that he trusted the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and the staff to know what those needs were.

Mr. Cherry went on to state in reviewing the numbers that were presented at the Second Referendum on June 10, 2025 that the General Government budget increased by \$742,429. He stated in looking at the Healthcare Expenses, which has been a subject of discussion throughout this budget process, that the Board of Education Employees Healthcare increased by \$875,960. He stated if you take that almost \$1 million off of the General Government's proposed \$29,901,179 Budget that the General Government was less than their current year's budget to support the town's operation and services to residents, noting there was nothing to cut without impacting services. He stated that they could cut bulky waste pick-up but that would make the town look bad, noting that they had been there before. He stated that they could eliminate one of the library buildings; which was discussed in previous years, and it was decided that it was not a good idea. Therefore, he stated that there was no place to cut in the General Government side of the budget. He stated while he understands the constraints, and he understands how people feel, noting that the town paid to educate his two children and the majority of that came from other people, who paid their taxes; that it was now his turn. Thank you.

**State Senator Cathy Osten**, asked Chairman Rodriguez if she could speak during public comment. Chairman Rodriguez stated "Yes". Senator Osten stated that she wanted to correct the record regarding the *Dual Taxation Bill* that has been talked about this evening. She explained that *the Dual Taxation Bill* passed the General Assembly today; and as a result Ledyard would receive \$800,000, which was more than the amount they were receiving right now; and it was more than what the town would receive next year after the Property Revaluation has been completed. She stated with the current Property Revaluation that there would be a decrease in commercial property; and an increase in residential property. She stated the State has included that \$800,000 for Ledyard through the year 2027. However, she stated that some people were saying "*Well, we can't trust the State.*" She stated that since she has been a State Senator, that she has brought in more than \$1.2 million in grants that were directly reflective of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; and an increase in PILOT Funding (Payment in Lieu of Taxes); and an increase in Pequot Fund, that has been incorporated in this year's State Budget, noting that it has been incorporated in every State Budget for the last five (5) years, stating that there has never been a decision to decrease those dollars. She stated in addition; the State has put into their budget that they would maintain *Hold Harmless for the Schools*. She stated for Ledyard this was a lot of money noting that it was \$13,000 in year-one; and \$26,000 in year-two. She also stated that there was also additional special education money that for Fiscal Year 2025, noting for the current year Ledyard received \$192,000 that they were not expecting to receive and that these funds helped out with special education costs. Senator Osten stated in addition to that, there was the same dollar amount in both year-one and year-two, with an increase for Special Education. She noted the State has \$181 million dollars in year-one and year-two which was increased by \$40 million dollars. In addition to that, she stated that the State put \$30 million dollars in the Budget for Seed Money, noting according to the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA), Ledyard would receive \$173,000.

Senator Osten concluded by stating that every year she works to make sure that she brings more dollars back to this town, and that she would continue to protect those dollars as she has done every year, noting that she had a proven track record of that. Thank you.

**Ms. Joanne Kelley**, 12 Thames View Pentway, Gales Ferry, stated that she wanted to correct the record on a lot of the inflammatory rhetoric that has been going around; and she wanted to correct statements made by Mr. Bonin and Councilor Ryan, who she was sorry was not present this evening.

Ms. Kelley noted at the Town Council's May 27, 2025 Meeting that Councilor Ryan stated that he was reading from a Report that stated the Board of Education had salary increases in the amounts of 10%; 26% and 36%. She stated that it was all made up, noting that those percentage increases had nothing to do with salaries, and as she has stated there has been a lot of inflammatory rhetoric going around town. She stated that she gets it, noting that it was an election year; and that it was an attempt to pit residents against each other; and particularly against the Board of Education, and it was successful. She stated the Budget Referendum failed twice, noting that there was a lot of information put out without context, that led people to make incorrect assumptions about what the mil rate increase would mean to them. She stated that she tried to correct a lot of that as she could, but it was like playing whack-a-mole.

Ms. Kelley continued by stating that she was not going to stand here and beg the Town Council to listen to the results of the *Budget Advisory* Questions and to restore the \$160,000 to the Board of Education's Operating Budget, noting that more people asked that the Board of Education Budget not be cut, commenting that it was bad enough that 80% of the approved Capital Plan that was presented had been chopped away. She stated that the original Capital Plan that the Board of Education approved was \$569,000; and that only \$114,000 was left. She stated in reality, what that does was just kick the can down the road, which will wind up costing taxpayers more in the long run, and that she thought it was important for people to know that. She stated that they all know what happens when they defer maintenance on our homes, noting that it may be necessary at times, but that it was never cost effective.

Ms. Kelley went on to state that she wanted to talk a little bit about last year's Board of Education Budget, noting that they attempted to cut roughly \$300,000 from the budget that was related to two very important positions. She noted one position was for the one full-time Multi-Tiered Support Systems (MTSS) Coordinator to oversee the literacy and numeric numeracy intervention team that they had slowly, laboriously, and incrementally funded over the previous eight-years, with the very spare budget increases because Ledyard was sorely lacking in these skilled specialists who assess plans and provides support for students.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Ms. Kelley for her comments noting that her three-minutes was up.

**Ms. Elizabeth Burdick**, Land Use Director/Town Planner, noting that she was not a Ledyard Resident, but was a member of the Town's Staff. She stated after the Town Council's May 27, 2025 meeting that she received a copy of the Post Meeting Action Letter, which showed that her salary had been cut. She stated that she sent a letter to Councilor St. Vil because he made the Motion. She stated although she did not receive a response to her letter that she hoped all the members of the Town Council read her letter noting that it was posted to the Correspondence List for tonight's meeting.

Ms. Burdick continued by stating her comments would be brief noting that the Town of Ledyard Staff were some of the hardest working, most qualified, and most pleasant people she has had the privilege to work with in municipal government. She stated any of the staff members whose salaries were cut and those who were not cut, would go out of their way to help any resident that asked for their assistance, and they should be paid at least the mid-range market rate salaries for high-rate service they provide to the public. She stated that she felt that none of them deserved to be blindsided, or to have their salaries cut. She stated that she watched the video of the meeting and that she was disappointed that one Councilor said that the Board of Education Staff should be paid more because of their education and skill level. She stated that she would invite any Board of Education Department Head to walk into Town Hall and perform the duties of any Town Hall Department Heads; and vice-versa, noting that she does not know anything about running school. She stated that they were all skilled in their respective jobs. She stated that she confirmed that there were no cuts to the Board of Education salaries that she was aware of; and she asked that the Town Council correct her if she was wrong. She stated that she started working in Ledyard in 2018 and after three-years she relocated out of state. She stated that she came back to Connecticut because her parents were ill, and when she had the opportunity to come back to Ledyard that she was thrilled

because she loved working in Ledyard during the three-years she had previously spent here. She stated even though there was no complaints about her and that she did great work in the just over 3-years she had spent in Ledyard, that she was not given a warm welcome by the residents of this town when she returned. She stated in fact, that she has been treated by the residents of this town worse than in any town that she has ever worked in, despite the fact that she was the Ledyard Town Planner before, simply because she was not the previous Town Planner. Therefore, she stated having her salary reduced felt a little personal; noting that not only did the Town Council not give her a cost-of-living increase, that they actually cut her salary current salary by \$3,000, noting that she just wanted to say that for the record. Thank you for listening.

**Ms. Caitlyn Greco**, 9 Stone Court, Gales Ferry, attending remotely via Zoom, stated that she and her husband were raising three boys that were attending Ledyard Public Schools. She stated that she has a background in finance, technology, and education. She stated after extensively reviewing the Board of Education Budget that she voted “No”. She stated the reason she was present this evening was because she attended the Board of Education’s June 10, 2025 meeting and after only partially providing her comments regarding her reasons for voting “No” on the budget; that she was cut-off, and the Board of Education told her to tell the Town Council her reasons instead

Ms. Greco continued by stating that she was extremely disappointed in the Budget, as well as some of our Elected Official’s insistence in misleading residents about the budget on social media and she noted the following:

- **Funding Residency Verification** – Ms. Greco stated if the quality of Ledyard’s education was suffering so much over money, why the School Administration was asking for additional funding for Residency Verification, stating that non-Ledyard Residents prefers Ledyard’s Schools to the ones in their town.
- **STEM Elementary Teachers** - Ms. Greco stated that it was also being represented that \$200,000 was required for three Elementary STEM (Science Technology, Engineering Mathematics) Teachers because it was mandated by the State. Ms. Greco stated in looking up State Mandates, that she could find one that required them to hire three new elementary STEM Teachers.
- **Value of Transparency**- Ms. Greco stated while they claim to value transparency, that it was about time they start sharing the specific legislation reference, especially with social media posts.
- **STEM Curriculum** – Ms. Greco stated if STEM curriculum was truly mandated that it could be implemented for much less than \$200,000 if managed by our wonderful General Education Teachers. She stated that she was a consultant in the Ed-Tech space for a company that offers turnkey curriculum that was designed for educators who do not have a STEM background to teach computer science. She stated that they offer site licenses, allowing entire schools and all the teachers access for under \$10,000 per school. She noted that many competitors exist in the space at similar for lower price points; and that some were even free.
- **Teachers Time Constraints** - Ms. Greco stated if Ledyard’s teachers were as time limited as some claimed at last evening’s Board of Education Meeting that efficiency training and AI Literacy Programs would be quite effective. She noted that one program her family uses at home cost a maximum of \$100 per year stating that it can design full curriculum, including exams and grading rubrics, essentially allowing educators to proofread and modify content quickly, instead of building it from scratch.
- **Administrators** – Ms. Greco stated that she also finds it concerning that Ledyard has so many Administrators for such a small number of students, and they keep saying any further reductions in the budget would result in teacher layoffs, instead of being more frugal with salaries and curriculum expenses. She stated that perhaps it was time to cut one of their well-compensated Administrators in order to afford the \$200,000 they request every time they were asked to do something, noting that one Administrative cut could cover the entire cost of the supposedly necessary STEM Program.

- ***Shared School Superintendent*** – Ms. Greco stated that it appears that legislation actually allows for school districts to partner and share one superintendent. She stated if Ledyard's Administrators prefer to remain in their roles, it was time they learn to budget like money does not grow on trees.

Ms. Greco concluded her comments by stating that she would be happy to research all options at multiple price points, and present them to the Board of Education, and allow our town to decide what was best. She stated if the Board of Education would like any help at all with this research that her family was always willing to provide assistance. She stated that she was sure that her family was not the only ones in town who would be happy to volunteer to keep Ledyard affordable for all residents, including her own family. Thank you.

***Mrs. Eleanor Murray***, 26 Devonshire Drive, Gales Ferry, stated for those who worked very hard to prepare the Annual Budget that it must be disappointing to have it voted down twice. She stated that she spent this afternoon on Facebook battling down the flies of bad information. She noted that she was on four different Facebook Pages and that she told people that they were believing bad information, and it was not true, that they should really look again at the information, and that they should try to believe what the truth was, however, she stated that her efforts were not too useful. She suggested that the budget information be shared more in advance. She stated she lived in Niskayuna, New York, as they all know because she has told everybody a thousand times. She stated if the town shared information a little bit more in advance, she thought that people would have a chance to swallow it, to digest it, and have a chance to ask the questions a little bit more in advance. She stated that the night before the Referendum was not useful at all. She stated the way things were done with the Finance Committee that was not helpful the second time around. She stated that she would really like to see the Board of Education Budget be separate from the Town Budget, noting that it should have happened a long time ago.

Mrs. Murray continued by addressing Land Use Director/Town Planner Ms. Burdick's comments and she stated the reason she did not have a warm welcome was because when 100 people in town did their speeches against Cashman, that she spoke in favor of the Project at the former Dow Chemical/Styrenics Property; so that was not going to make it warm here for her. Thank you very much.

***Ms. Christine Krupansky***, 18 Saw Mill Drive, Ledyard, noted her June 10, 2025 email to the Town Council. She stated what they were hearing was frustration as the root problem from the people that have come out to speak to the Town Council in a 2 to 1 fashion saying that they were not in favor of this year's budget, noting that they received the same response at the first vote and at the second vote. She stated the reason she showed up tonight was to let the Town Council know that work needed to be done by all of them in a nonpartisan way, to acknowledge the fact that the townspeople do not want to weather a 6% increase. She stated the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget, as proposed, was \$70 million, noting that they do not care about whether it was Board of Education or whether it was the Town; what the residents care about was that it is a 6% increase, and it will be felt by every homeowner. She stated it was her understanding that they will probably see another 6% increase next year (fy 26/27) without including any kind of contractual increases. Therefore, she stated they need to take into consideration: (1) Things that we need; and (2) Things that we want. She stated to consider the things that we want may not be a good idea for this year; and that they might be able to plan for those things in two-years. She stated if the Town Council was forthright with the townspeople, and heard the people who came out and voted the budget down twice; that maybe they should think about what we really need and not what we want across the board such as cutting salaries for people on one side of the town, not the other side. She stated that a 6% budget increase was a lot. Thank you.

***Mr. Gary Paul***, 49 Avery Hill Road Extension, Ledyard, former Town Council Member, stated he wanted to reiterate the following:

- ***State Funding*** – Mr. Paul stated that he does not trust the State with anything, noting that their track record was horrendous, to say the least.

- ***Town Administrators/Department Heads*** – Mr. Paul thanked the Town’s Administrators /Department Heads for all that they do for the town, noting that Ledyard has the best people from the Mayor all the way down.
- ***Misinformation – Social Media*** – Mr. Paul stated it was disturbing to hear about the misinformation on Facebook and other Social Media sites.
- ***Results of the Budget Referendum*** - Mr. Paul stated the townspeople came out and told the Town Council that they have to do better. He stated the Town Council has a daunting task, noting that the townspeople spoke, and that their job was to listen. Thank you.

**Mr. Gary McKeon**, 15 Elizabeth George Drive, Mashantucket, thanked everyone who expressed concerns regarding the Budget. He stated that he has known State Senator Cathy Osten for a long time and as the previous speaker stated that he also does not trust the State. He noted that the State promised to give Ledyard money from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Resort & Casino in lieu of taxation; however, he noted that State Funding would eventually dry up.

Mr. McKeon continued by stating that the Board of Education has an enormous amount of State Unfunded Mandates, which their State Representatives vote for and approve through the different Legislative Bills, noting that the biggest problem for the Board of Education was probably coming from Hartford.

Mr. McKeon went on to state that the General Government Budget was one-third of the overall budget and after the first Referendum they cut \$400,000 from their side of the budget. He stated the other two-thirds of the budget was for the Board of Education and that \$160,000 was cut from their budget after the first Referendum. Therefore, he stated there were places to cut. He stated perhaps there were people that they do not have to hire; noting that the Board of Education had three Directors of Departments. He stated Town Employees actually got their pay cut, that was ridiculous. He stated to talk about morale, that people do not leave a job because of money; people leave because they were not appreciated.

Mr. McKeon stated three weeks ago he was out knocking on doors, noting that he spoke to residents who live in the Highlands who cannot afford a massive tax increase. He stated they would see the result of whatever the Town Council does today, in November, 2025. He stated for the last 20-years that he has lived in town the taxes have been reasonable; the mil rate increases have been reasonable. However, he stated when they get to the point of ridiculous, people actually pay attention. He stated the Town Council has a very hard job to do, and they do not have a lot of time to do it; so they better look very closely. Thank you.

**Ms. Kristen Chapman**, 7 Windward Lane, Ledyard, began her comments by noting that not only was she a resident, that she was also a town employee, and she has children in the School System. She stated that she has nothing but wonderful things to say about their School Principals and Teachers, stating that they do an absolutely amazing job. She stated she was present this evening in support of her colleagues. She stated that she did not plan to speak tonight, but that she wanted to share with the Town Council that in addition to her full-time role as the Executive Assistant to the Mayor that she was also Social Services Coordinator for the entire town. She explained while Ledyard does not have a Social Services Department that there were other towns that have Social Services Departments that were staffed with 3 or 4 people that do the same job that she does, noting that her role as Social Services Coordinator was not her full-time job. She stated because of her role as Social Services Coordinator that she works with the town’s population that would be most affected by the proposed tax increase. She stated that she would have loved to have had the first budget that was presented at the May 20, 2025 Referendum, noting that they need to fund their schools. She stated that the Town Council was going to have a difficult time adjusting this budget; noting that the real problem for Ledyard was revenue; and she asked this Town Council how they were going to diversify the tax base. She stated the tax increase was on all of their residents, noting that she was a town resident, and a single mother, and she cannot afford the proposed tax increase, so she voted “No”; although she would have loved to vote “Yes”. She stated that Ledyard has a problem that will continue unless they diversify the tax base.

Ms. Chapman continued by addressing the needs of the town's residents, noting that this year the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry had more guests than ever before; and she has received more telephone calls this year from residents who need assistance. She stated that she thought some may not have a clear picture of the people that would be affected by the proposed tax increase. She stated that she would like to share that she has been receiving telephone calls from residents whose household income was \$100,000 a year; however, they cannot pay their bills right now; and they do not qualify for any type of assistance, including assistance through the town. She stated Ledyard has people, including herself, that cannot afford a \$1,200 Luxury Bill; noting that was what people were facing. She stated the first Budget was not bad, however, residents cannot afford the proposed tax increase. Thank you.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, for participating in the Budget Process, and for their comments this evening.

VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Barnes stated that the Town Council has some serious things to talk about this evening. However, he stated that first he would like to talk about two really great things in town.

- **Ledyard Farmers' Market** - Councilor Barnes stated this evening he could not find a parking spot at the Farmers Market, noting that once he was able to get his dinner that he had to eat a little quicker than he planned. He stated that the Ledyard's Farmers' Market was amazing. He went on to note that his family has talked about how much they missed the Ledyard Fair, noting that it was a really great weekend that they looked forward to each year. He stated that there were a lot of people in this room who either partake or volunteer to make the Ledyard Farmers' Market happen each week during the summer and he thanked everyone for their participation and support.
- **Community** – Councilor Barnes stated that he was in awe this evening noting that the Council Chambers was full because a lot of people love this town. He stated that he was not elected to serve on the Town Council, explaining that Mr. Gary Paul, who spoke during Citizens Comments this evening, decided that he could have his spot on the Town Council; and that he very much appreciated having the opportunity to serve Ledyard, because he loves this town.

Councilor Barnes went on to state when they talk about a political party, that he liked to think of his Party as Ledyard. However, he stated when residents would say what about Gales Ferry, that former Town Council Chairman Linda Davis said it best, noting that she would say: "*Gales Ferry is the Capital of Ledyard*". Therefore, he stated that he did not care which party they were, or which side of the town they live on, that they need to do, what they need to do for the town. He thanked all those here tonight regardless of their perspective, and he stated that he was glad to be in a town where people cared enough to come out and speak. Thank you.

Councilor Brunelle thanked the residents for coming, whether we agree or we do not. She was so glad that everybody came out today and online to speak their minds, noting that it was important.

Councilor Saccone stated that he would reiterate the comments that he appreciated everybody coming out to participate in this budget process. He stated at every Finance Committee he begged residents to attend the Finance Committee meetings to see what the Town was being faced with; which was a steep increase, because before they even began to look at projected expenses for the coming year, that they were dealing with a \$2.5 million loss in revenues. He stated it was a lot of hard work to minimize the impact for their residents, explaining that they used some funding from the Mil Rate Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund), noting that he would talk more about the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget which was voted down at the Second Referendum yesterday (June 10, 2025). He stated all the Finance Committee Members did everything they could to keep the mil rate increase to a minimum; noting the many State



Unfunded Mandates, and skyrocketing inflation, however, he stated that any increase was not good. He stated based on the current budget and projected mil rate that a home with an average assessed value of \$200,000 would see about a \$31 increase a month. He thanked the residents for their comments.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she would like to make a statement regarding the May 27, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting and the emails sent by the Mayor and Finance Director Mr. Bonin to the Town Council; as well as the email that Land Use Director/Town Planner Ms. Burdick's email to Councilor St. Vil.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated as Town Councilors, they were the stewards of the taxpayers' money. They try to find a balance between compensating the town's employees fairly and their duty to the taxpayers. Six out of the nine Town Councilors were serving for the first time. Many of them were not aware of the *Resolution Establishing Administrators /Department Head Benefits* that passed in 2023 regarding the Department Heads/Administrator's salaries. That Resolution was passed by the 26<sup>th</sup> Town Council. That being said, it was their duty to be familiar with all the Town's Ordinances and Resolutions.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she found all the messages and feedback that they have received very disheartening and disappointing. She stated that they all appreciate immensely what their town employees do. None of them made lightly the decision of cutting the magnitude of the salary increases for the Town Clerk, the Human Resources Director, the Finance Director, and the Land Use Director. Before the First Referendum, they all voted "Yes" for those increases. On making the decision of decreasing the amount of the salary increases, that she took the task of looking at the salaries of other Towns and sharing that information with her fellow Councilors. She stated that she looked at the salaries of the Towns surveyed in the Salary Study that was done specifically for Preston. In that study, after the Town of Preston received the results, they decided to increase the salaries of their Department Heads/Administrators in a staggered way and not all at once as has been proposed in Ledyard's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. She stated that her intention was to approach those salary increases in a similar way to how Preston adopted their salary increases and that it was not in a pre-orchestrated way as was stated in Mr. Bonin's email. In addition to that, she stated that it was important to clarify that the results of the Salary Study was specific to Preston. The Firm hired to conduct the Salary Study did an analysis of what each position entailed and interviewed each employee to understand their responsibilities, skills, education, experience, etc. Based on that information and the Survey that they surveyed other towns, and the Firm recommended a range of salaries (low-point, mid-point, high-point) for each position. Such a Study has not been done for Ledyard. As Mr. Bonin expressed in his email regarding her comparison of salaries to Colchester, the results from the Preston study cannot be applied completely to the Town of Ledyard due to the differences in responsibilities, skills, education, and experience of the employees in analogous positions. That being said, her vote for the Motion that Councilor St. Vil made was based on the information available, noting that they do not have a Study for Ledyard like the Study that was done for Preston. She noted in the Town Council Meeting of February 15, 2023, Former Councilor Bill Saums stated the following "...they did not have a mechanism to survey surrounding towns to find out what employees do in similar positions because all of the positions were different, the requirements were different, and the staffing level was different among towns."

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry went on to state that she and the rest of the Councilors that voted "Yes" for Councilor St. Vil's Motion did it with a heavy heart as they all know that Ledyard employees give their best to their town. She stated that it was very difficult for them to come to their decision as this year the increase in the mil rate was quite significant and as the Mayor has mentioned many times, that many residents can barely make ends meet, which was something that they have to consider when making decisions regarding the taxpayers' money.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted at the time when the *Resolution Establishing Administrator/Department Head Benefits* was passed, Former Town Councilor Andra Ingalls (Republican), Former Town Councilor Bill Saums (Democrat), and even Town Councilor Tim Ryan and Kevin Dombrowski (Republicans) shared the same or similar sentiment as the majority of the Councilors on the 27<sup>th</sup> Town Council. She noted the Finance Committee

Minutes of January 4, 2023, and she quoted Former Councilor Bill Saums as follows: *“Councilor Saums addressed the language in the new Wage and Compensation Section as follows: ‘Employees shall be paid at the rate as designated by the Mayor or contractually negotiated. Increases in wages shall be effective on the first day of July and may not be less than the percentage of the highest union contracted increase for that fiscal year’. He stated that the town has been very careful with raises for Department Heads; noting that the Department Heads have not received many raises; and the raises they received have not been much. Therefore, he stated that he was in-favor with keeping the Department Head’s wage increases at par or upping them a little based on the past cycle. However, he stated if this clause was included in the Resolution; and for some reason one union asked for a 5% wage increase, and the town said ‘No’; but the union then won their case through Arbitration; that the fourteen Department Heads covered by the Resolution would also receive a 5% wage increase. Therefore, he stated he had concerns, because the town did not have total control over what they give their union employees.”* Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated in addition, Former Councilor Saums also expressed during that meeting the following: *“He concluded by expressing concern that with the proposed wage language, as written, in the ‘Resolution Establishing Administrator/Department Head Benefits’ that they could end up giving some big raises unintentionally. He questioned whether they could write the wage language in a way that would prevent them from unintentionally giving big raises to Department Heads.”* Councilor Garcia-Irizarry went on to note at the same meeting that Councilor Ryan suggested the following: *“...basing the Department Head wage increases on an average of wage increases of the bargaining units.”*

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated as they could see, at the time the Councilors back then were concerned about a 5% increase, noting that it seemed like increases of 10% and 20% was not something that they ever imagined back then.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry continued to quote excerpts from the February 15, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting by Former Councilor Andra Ingalls as follows: *“...stating that she agreed with sunsetting the term and making sure that they were paying competitive wages. She stated part of the work in stewarding the town’s resources was that they were stewarding tax dollars, noting that the best resource the town had was their employees. Therefore, she stated in stewarding the resource of the town it meant taking proper care of our professionals. She stated the best way they could do that was to pay them a competitive rate. She stated that they could not afford to go to high, noting that every tax bump was being paid by people who cannot afford it. She stated one person’s pay increase was coming out of someone else’s household budget. She stated that they were aware of all of this, and that they feel the tension of it, and that they want to do right by everyone, as much as they can.”*

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry went to note the following quotes from the February 22, 2023 Council Meeting noting that Former Councilor Bill Saums *“stated while the Finance Committee understood the intent, that they had concerns regarding the possible long-term and unintended consequences.”* In addition, he *“stated the Finance Committee talked with the Administrator of Human Resources Don Steinhoff about a couple of ideas and they settled on the idea of accepting the Department Heads proposed language for three years: ‘wage increases may not be less than the percentage of the highest union contracted increase for that fiscal year’, noting that conceptually that would put the Department Heads wages closer to about where they should be. However, he stated to avoid the law of unintended consequences, the Finance Committee added the following language to sunset the clause after three years ‘...and continuing until June 30, 2025.’”*

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that the term of the Resolution was scheduled to sunset at the end of this month which meant that the Resolution has to be reviewed and acknowledged with any changes becoming effective on after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. She stated that she would also like to add that the salary increases could have been started in the FY of 2025, but that was not done and now it was all being done at once before the Resolution sunsets.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the February 22, 2023 Town Council Minutes in which Former Councilor Andra Ingalls was quoted as follows *“stated budgets were a value statement. She stated by putting numbers into a budget that they were communicating their*

*values, priorities, what the community needed and the things they think were important. She stated because there were always multiple needs pulling on the same pot of money there were tensions. She stated part of that pulling/tension was stewarding their tax dollars and stewarding their professionals. She stated the town's professionals were paid with tax dollars and that some of those tax dollars were being demanded of people who could not afford to pay somebody else's pay increases. She stated every time she voted 'yes' on these types of decisions that she feels the tension, noting that she feels the need to take care of our staff and that she feels the ach of someone who cannot afford to pay somebody else's pay increase; and that she knows everyone on the Town Council feels the same way. She stated the reality of working with the budget was that it affects people. She stated that they were always working to try to find that balance, noting that they cannot be absorbent, and at the same time they cannot be dismissive of the skill set that was being brought to the town."*

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated in addition to Former Councilor Andra Ingalls' comments that Former Councilor Saums *"stated during the School Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget presentation earlier this evening, that he had the same thoughts that Councilor Ingalls expressed. He stated he was thinking that the taxpayers cannot afford an increase; or if they can afford it that they do not want to pay it. However, he stated at the same time they have to look at what was happening to their kids. He stated that they have to strike a balance, noting that they have to get the kids the education they need, because they were going to produce and pay the taxes down the road; and at the same time, they have to be sensitive to those who have to pay for that education. Councilor Paul stated that he appreciated the comments made this evening. He stated from a layman perspective that every time he hears about a tax increase that his heart sinks. He stated these are the types of things he talks about with residents, noting that it comes down to money. However, he stated they have a responsibility to provide education and services to the town."* Also, *"Chairman Dombrowski noted both Councilor Saums' and Councilor Ingalls' comments, and he stated by making an investment in their employees that they were making an investment for their residents and for the town, but at the same time he stated they needed to be careful not to over burden their residents. He also addressed the importance to recognize the skill set of their employees and to make sure they were compensated at a point in which they wanted to continue work and produce for the town. However, he stated at the same time they have to recognize that it was the residents of the town who have to pay for it. He stated this was the difficult challenge they had serving as members of the Town Council."*

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated in reading all the minutes from 2023 that she quoted this evening that she agreed with the statements that Former Councilors Andra Ingalls, Bill Saums, and Gary Paul expressed in that meeting. She stated that she also agreed with the statements made at that meeting by Councilor Dombrowski.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that they want to appropriately compensate their employees and diminish the impact of taxes in their residents, which was why they proposed an increase of 4%; and they suggested that additional salary increases in the same range be done each year to try to bring the Department Heads salaries to market rate.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted during the Town Council's May 27, 2025 Meeting that Councilor Ryan mentioned the salaries of the School Principals and other School Administrators. She stated that those salaries were negotiated by the Board of Education; and the Town Council has no say over those negotiations, noting that the salary increases were 3% per year. She stated in addition to that; they acknowledge that the voters said that both the General Government Budget and the Board of Education Budget were *Too High* with more voters saying that the General Government was *Too High*. Taking in consideration the opinion of the voters, the Motion that Councilor St. Vil made did not include any wording to reinstate the funds that were cut at the Finance Committee meeting for the Board of Education's Operational and Capital Budgets, noting that those cuts were not touched by this Town Council. She stated even with the cuts to the salary increases; the dollar amount of the cuts made to the Board of Education were still higher than the dollar amount of the cuts made to the General Government Budget.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry proceeded by stating that now, she would like to address the discrepancies regarding Land Use Director/Town Planner Ms. Burdick's salary. She stated in the FY 2024, the salary approved by the voters for the Land Use Department Head was \$95,270, but the actual salary was \$105,220, pointing out that this was a significant discrepancy that does not match what the voters approved. In addition to that, Finance Director Matthew Bonin and Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick brought to the Town Council's attention that the salary for the Land Use Director position that was included in the Motion that Councilor St. Vil made was an actual reduction of her current salary. Both Mr. Bonin and Ms. Burdick wrote to the Town Council to clarify that Ms. Burdick's current salary was \$105,220; however, Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the salary approved by the voters for her position in FY 2025 was \$98,150. She stated the 4% increase proposed in Councilor St. Vil's Motion was based on the \$98,150 salary that was approved by the voters; and not what her current salary was. Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that if her memory does not fail her, that the Town Council was never informed of the increase in the salary of that position. She noted the numbers that were included in the Councilor St. Vil's Motion were based on the numbers provided to them in the budget materials. She stated that the Town Council could not make accurate decisions if the numbers were incorrect.

Councilor St. Vil stated what Councilor Garcia-Irizarry just presented were the facts. He stated to summarize that they reviewed facts, data, and previous Town Council actions. He stated as First Term Councilors that they were ignorant of the politics, of how information can be presented, and how misinformation plays a part in their constituents perspective. Nonetheless, Councilor St. Vil stated that he would vote for what he believed was the right thing; noting that the right thing was the children in this town.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that this Town Council now had the challenge to figure out what was the right path forward; noting that he appreciated the comments made this evening by all of their residents, town staff, and Board of Education Members. He stated in working on this partnership that they need to be engineers and analytically review the data and the facts; while they try to take the emotion out of their decisions to determine what was the right number for the town. He stated that they might not agree on what that number should be; or they may not agree on how to achieve that number, or they may not agree on what the number would ultimately end up being. However, he stated that what they do must be in the best interest of the town, noting that was their task, regardless of emotion. Thank you.

Councilor Buhle stated at the Town Council's May 27, 2025 Meeting that she voted alongside four other Councilors to reduce the salary increases of four talented and hardworking department heads. She stated that despite the information presented after the fact that this was not something within Town Council's authority, that she must be honest, noting that she regretted her "Yes" vote as soon as the meeting was over, probably actually right after she said "Yes". Not because of backlash from opposing Councilors, but because she voted to support those pay increases the first time and truthfully, she supported the first budget forwarded by the Council wholeheartedly. However, she heard the voices of the residents who spoke out, both in public comment and email, and also in private and in personal conversations. The overwhelming concern that market rate salary adjustments were not appropriate in this budget year, and some residents, as a whole, feeling that the salary increases were unjustified.

Councilor Buhle went on to note that she heard the comments from Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, with information providing other salary numbers that aligned with the Motion presented: *"to reduce the salary increases to 4% instead of the market rate adjustments originally proposed"*. She stated that she personally attempted to start the discussion to find a halfway point that valued their town employees but also respected the concerns of their residents and voters, though there were no alternative numbers proposed. With that she learned that she should have had more of a spine and proposed something more fair and favorable all around. She stated the longer she had to think about it, not because of corrections and backlash, but because her brain does not let things go; and because she does not sleep when she is anxious, she must say that she has grown to regret it further. She noted that she did not regret acting in what she had considered to be the wishes of the residents who voted and expressed their opinions publicly or privately. However, she stated that she does regret that she did not address it the way she had addressed the Board of Education funding, which was to continue to fight for what the right thing was for this town with education and good conversations. She stated that she personally thinks the negativity to these increases were a knee jerk reaction to

the numbers, the same way others have a knee jerk reaction to the overall Board of Education Budget.

Councilor Buhle stated that she knows that the path forward to fund the Board of Education at the right levels needed to continue to provide excellent education required her to push back against those who argue to reduce funding. She stated that she should have brought that same energy to defining the market rate salary adjustments/increases.

Councilor Bule concluded her comments by stating that she apologizes to those who dedicate their work to the growth and improvement of this town, whom she has slighted and disrespected when she should have used her voice to stand up for them the way she has stood up for education funding.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the following:

- Special Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2025
- Regular Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2025
- Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2025
- Special Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2025 (as filed)
- Public Hearing Minutes of June 4, 2024
- Special Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2025

Moved by Councilor Dombrowski, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

**VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared**

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

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

X. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Buhle stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening and addressed the following: (1) “*Ordinance Establishing an Ethics Commission for the Town of Ledyard*”.- Councilor Buhle noted the Committee made some final edits to the Ordinance and would be forwarding the document to the Town Attorney for their legal review and recommendations; (2) “*Resolution Establishing a Sustainable-CT Ad-hoc Committee*” – Councilor Buhle stated the Committee made some final edits to the Ad Hoc Committee Membership and forwarded a recommendation for Town Council approval at their July 9, 2025 meeting; (3) Job Descriptions – Councilor Buhle noted the Committee reviewed updates with Human Resources Director Christine Dias regarding the following: Mechanic II; Fiscal Assistant II Finance and Human Resources; Fiscal Assistant II Finance Department; and Assistant to the Tax Collector; and (4) Reappointments to the Farmers Market Committee and the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission - Councilor Buhle noted these reappointments would be forwarded to the Town Council’s July 9, 2025 Agenda.

Community Relations Committee for Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Councilor Brunelle stated the Community Relations Committee for DEI next meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. She reported that the Pride Day Pizza In the Park would be held on the Town Green on Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m. She stated that they would have a Pizza, Ice Cream, Balloon Twister, and D.J. She stated that all were welcome.

Finance Committee

Councilor Saccone stated the Finance Committee cancelled their June 4, 2025 meeting; however, they have two items on tonight’s Agenda.

#### Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor St. Vil stated the LUPPW Committee met on June 2, 2025, however, he stated he did not have anything noteworthy to report for this evening.

#### Historic District Commission

Councilor Barnes stated the Commission has been working through the process to seek a Historic Designation for the Spicer Homestead Ruins which was located within the town-owned Clark Farm Property. He stated the A2 Survey was complete, which was good news, noting that they were looking at the next step in the process.

#### Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission

Councilor Barnes stated the Town received the Good News! that their 2025 STEAP Grant Application was approved in the amount of \$892,000 noting that it would require a \$179,000 town match for Playscape Improvement Projects for the following:

- \$567,588.38 - Town Green ADA Park included new equipment, installation, Poured In Place (PIP) Surfacing, R&D of existing equipment.
- \$199,113.00 - Colonel Ledyard/Blonders Park included new Playground Equipment, installation, Poured In Place (PIP) Surfacing under new equipment and under existing swings and R&D of existing equipment.
- \$141,321.42- Aljen Heights Park included new Playground Equipment and swings, installation, Poured In Place (PIP) Surfacing under new equipment and swings and R&D of existing equipment.
- \$163,865.30 – East Drive includes new Playground Equipment and swings, installation, Poured In Place (PIP) Surfacing under new equipment and swings, and R&D of existing equipment.

Councilor Barnes also noted that the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) would be stocking the Sawmill Pond with fish for no cost to the Town.

#### Conservation Commission

Councilor Barnes stated the Conservation Commission has some concern regarding invasive species in Long Pond and Bush Pond. He noted that the Conservation Commission would be working with Parks & Recreation on the invasive species, explaining that the cost to treat the invasive species was about \$2,500; and that it would need to be done every few years. He stated there was going to be some discussion regarding the Parks and potential avenues for funding to share the burden. He stated the Conservation Commission may hold a “*Fishing a Challenge*” at Long Pond and Bush Pond this year.

#### Library Commission

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Library Commission’s next meeting was scheduled for June 16, 2025. She reported the Library App, which was paid in part by the Town and in part by the Friends of the Library allowed residents to borrow 4 books a month through the *Book Cloud*. However, she explained because funding for the Library App has run out they had to stop offering books through the *Book Cloud*; but that *eBooks* were still available to patrons.

#### Board of Education

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Board of Education met on June 10, 2025 and she reported the following: (1) Teacher Workload – Teachers spoke during “*Public Comment*” about their increasing workload at the expense of their lesson planning time. They normally have an hour or so for lesson planning for grading, but sometimes they have to use that time to do other administrative work that they did not have to do in the past and that it keeps getting bigger and bigger. After their work day during the week when they go home that they keep grading papers and making lesson plans, and on Saturdays as well; (2) Recognition Ceremony for Juliet W. Long School and Gallup Hill School was scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025; and (3) Discussed the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget and other Policy Matters.

#### Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission

Councilor St. Vil noted the IWWC met on June 3, 2025 and he noted that he had no major updates to report.

#### Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilor St. Vil stated the Planning & Zoning Commission would be meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025 in the Council Chambers. He stated their Agenda included proposed text Amendments to the Zoning Regulations. He stated the Commission would be looking for feedback from the residents regarding the proposed Zoning Regulations Amendments.

### XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III, stated that he wanted to touch on a couple of things Councilor Garcia-Irizarry mentioned specifically not only here tonight, but also on her incredibly lengthy Facebook Post as follows:

- ***Staggering the Salary Increases:*** Mayor Allyn noted that Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that many Town Councilors advocated to stagger the salary adjustments until the salaries were at market rate. He reminded the Town Council that last year they began the process to stagger bringing the Administrator/Department Head salaries up to market rate with their Administrative Assistant Roxanne Maher and his Executive Assistant Kristen Chapman, noting the remaining Administrator/Department Heads whose salaries were below market rate would be increased in the upcoming budget year (fy 25/26). Therefore, he stated that they put two salaries through last year with the plan to put the remaining three salary adjustments in this coming year's budget, noting that was the "*Staggering Plan*".
- ***Salary Survey Study:*** Mayor Allyn stated that he understands that this was Councilor Garcia-Irizarry's first two-year term as an elected official, however, he was disappointed with her comments regarding Ledyard not conducting their own Salary Study when other towns were willing to share the Salary Survey Study they conducted noting that this saved Ledyard about \$30,000. He stated the \$30,000 Ledyard saved by using the Salary Survey Study that Preston conducted with Brooklyn; was about equal to the Administrators/Department Head salary adjustments required to bring them up to the mid-range of the market rate for their positions. He stated by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry advocating that Ledyard go out on their own to conduct a Salary Survey Study was senseless and pointless, noting that if all the town's did that they would be reinventing the wheel 169 times in this state.
- ***Department Head Wages in Budget Book-*** Mayor Allyn noted that Councilor Garcia-Irizarry talked about the department head wages and what appears in the budget book, and she said that she would rather see Munis printouts; which was actually shocking, because most people do not want to see Munis printouts. He stated that most would prefer to see a spreadsheet that showed a three-year history; the current year; and then the proposed budget year. He stated during the Budget Work Sessions, which was very early in the budget process it was mentioned that there were several people that were hired during the interim of the year; and that those salaries were identified as the predecessor's salary at the time.
- ***4% Salary Increases*** – Mayor Allyn stated that Councilor Garcia-Irizarry mentioned 4% raises and the "*Resolution Establishing Administrator/Department Head Benefits*" that was adopted on February 22, 2023. However, he stated the "*Resolution Establishing Administrator/Department Head Benefits*" was originally adopted on March 10, 1989; noting that the *Administrators/Department Head Resolution* has been around long before many of us. He explained that the Resolution was a long-standing five- page document that was essentially a handshake Agreement with Department Heads, as opposed to a union contract that could be 50-60 pages or more. He stated the "*Resolution Establishing Administrator/Department Head Benefits*" talks about 3% raises, which was the typical the increase that the Union Contracts received. He stated in bringing these Administrators/Department Head salaries up to the mid-range of the market rate for their positions, that giving them a 4% increase was like maxing out a credit card and then saying that they were going to make the minimum payment every year; and that they were going to catch-up. However, he stated that it would never happen,

noting with a minimum payment they would never be able to catch-up. He stated that he proposed adjusting these salaries to below the mid-range of a salary survey that was already two-years old. He stated these Administrators/Department have been underpaid for many years with the continuous promise that their salaries would be brought up to market rate, but each year that does not happen. He stated if Ledyard does not start paying these employees fairly for the work they do; the town would lose some incredibly high-quality staff; and that would turn the town upside down; however, he stated that it may be their goal. He stated that he was stunned to hear what Councilor Garcia-Irizarry was saying, and to see what she put in print, noting that they have talked about the Salary Study for the 6th or 7th time.

Mayor Allyn stated that he would yield the remainder of his time for his Report to any other Administrator/Department Heads that wanted to speak to the Town Council this evening.

Chairman Rodriguez responded to Mayor Allyn stating that this time of the meeting was for the Mayor Report, noting that the Public already had their time to speak at the beginning of the Meeting. Therefore, she stated if he would like to give his Report that the floor was his.

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) National Opioid Settlement Funding – Mayor Allyn stated the town received \$11,507 in the latest National Opioid Settlement Disbursement; (2) Gales Ferry School Roof Replacement - Mayor Allyn stated they were still having major issues with the roof, noting that more information would be coming; (3) Farmers Market Opening Day – June 4, 2025- Mayor Allyn stated he *Rang the Bell for the Opening of the 2025 Farmers Market Season*, noting they had a fantastic turn out; (4) Yale- Harvard Regatta Luncheon - June 5, 2025 – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the Luncheon noting that the Regatta Day Weekend was great; (5) Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) Legislative Breakfast – June 10, 2025 – Mayor Allyn stated that the SCCOG’s has been lobbying the State to stop putting Unfunded Mandates on the towns. He noted that there were more than 1,400+ Unfunded Mandates and that the list grows every year. He stated the Veterans Tax Exemption was one of the recent Unfunded Mandates. Mayor Allyn noted the following State Legislative Updates: (a) Farm Equipment Exemption increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000; and (b) Omnibus Housing Bill passed; (6) Town Attorney Protocol – Mayor Allyn stated in response to a number of people independently reaching out to Town Attorney Matt Ritter; that Attorney Ritter followed up with him because people should not be contacting him directly; and that they needed to go through the Mayor’s Office. He stated that if the Town Council would like Attorney Ritter to put this protocol in writing that he has offered to do so. Mayor Allyn stated that per Attorney Ritter the town would be billed for every one of the emails that Councilors sent to him because he received multiple emails. He stated this was not to say that he pulled back what Members of the Town Council could do, but that they need to go through the proper channels; (7) Organic Compost Program – Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRA) - Mayor Allyn stated Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin spoke with SCRRA today about Ledyard discontinuing their Organic Compost Program. He stated that SCRRA has agreed to continue Ledyard’s Organic Compost Program and to also pick-up the cost.

### **Questions to the Mayor**

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry addressed the Organic Compost Program with Blue Earth and she requested clarification, noting that Ledyard would discontinue the Program with Blue Earth and that Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRA) would continue the Program and pay for the cost. Mayor Allyn stated that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin and SCRRA just spoke today noting that the details still needed to be ironed out.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted Mayor Allyn’s comments regarding the Land Use Director/Town Planner’s salary being reduced and her preference to receive the Munis Printouts. She stated that she agreed with Mayor Allyn that no one wants to read the Munis Printouts because they are complicated. She stated that the Munis Printout Salary Line for Land Use Director/Town Planner said that Ms. Burdick was hired at \$105,220; that was the reason she said they should read the Munis Printout, noting that the Town Council went by the numbers in the Budget spreadsheet. She noted that the Town Council gets a lot of information,



and she stated if the Land Use Director/Town Planner's \$105,220 salary was mentioned during one of the meetings, that she does not remember that. She stated that she feels bad for Ms. Burdick because they were unaware, and unintentionally cut her salary, noting that Ms. Burdick was completely right, that was never their intention, noting that they were just following the numbers that were provided.

Mayor Allyn stated there were five Administrators/Department Heads whose salaries needed to be adjusted to bring them up to the mid-range of the Salary Survey Study that was already two-years old. He stated two Administrators/Department Head's salaries were adjusted last year (fy 24/25) and the salaries for the remaining three Administrators/ Department Heads were supposed to be adjusted in the upcoming budget year (fy 25/26). He provided clarification noting that the salaries were supposed to be "*Adjusted*" they were not talking about a "*General Wage Increase*". He stated ironically, the Land Use Director/Town Planner salary was not part of the five Administrators/Department Heads that were identified for a *Salary Adjustment*.

Chairman Rodriguez stated the Town Council received the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget on March 3, 2025 in accordance with the Town Charter. She stated the Town Council was working off the proposed budget that was submitted, noting that was the document they worked from during this whole budget cycle. She stated that she attended every Budget Work Session (March 6, 10, 18); and she took notes on every page of the budget. She stated in the Mayor's proposed budget the history provided for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 listed Land Use Director/Town Planner salary at \$98,140; noting that if there was a change that she would have written it down. Therefore, she stated the increase provided in the Mayor's submitted budget was reflecting a 10.2% salary increase for the Land Use Director/Town Planner from the current year's salary that was listed in the budget spreadsheet. She noted the current year's salary listed was \$98,140; and the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 salary was listed as \$108,150 showing a 10.2% increase.

Chairman Rodriguez went on to state in March and in April during the Finance Committee Meetings that she commented that the voters would not like to see double digit salary increases. Mayor Allyn stated during the Town Council's May 27, 2025 Special Meeting that she also said that they thought they were giving 4% salary increases for these Administrators/Department Heads. Chairman Rodriguez noted the May 19, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Handout to the residents for the May 20, 2025 Referendum that the budget history listed for the Land Use Director/Town Planner salary in the current fiscal year (fy 24/25) showed a salary of \$98,140 with a proposed fiscal Year (25/26) salary of \$105,220; reflecting a 10.2% increase, noting that this was the information the Town Council worked from and the proposed budget the voters received. She stated that she apologized to Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick, noting that it did look like a pay cut. She stated no wonder Ms. Burdick was upset, noting that it was unintentional stating that nobody wanted to do that.

Chairman Rodriguez stated immediately after the Town Council's May 27, 2025 Special Meeting that she saw Councilor Barnes, Councilor Buhle, Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, and Councilor Saccone talking about what could be done to make this right, noting that they regretted what was done. She stated that she thought about options, noting that the first person she called was the Mayor. She stated that she went to the Mayor's Office to speak to him twice, but because he was not in his Office, she later called and gave him her idea of a plan to make this right; and that he immediately agreed to her plan. She stated that she told the Mayor that she wanted to talk with the Administrators/Department Heads right away to relieve their anxiety. She stated that she first spoke to Town Clerk Patricia Riley, noting they had a heart-to-heart honest conversation, and she appreciated that. She stated she then spoke with Finance Director Matthew Bonin, noting that he had to rush off to a meeting, but he let her know how he felt about what the Town Council did. She stated because she was sick on Tuesday that she was not able to talk to anyone else until this week. She stated that she had conversations with Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick, and Human Resources Director Christine Dias about the plans that were put into place to correct what had been done.

Chairman Rodriguez noted as Councilor Dombrowski stated, they were between a rock and a hard place when it comes to this budget. She stated during the time the Town Council was working to prepare the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget in March that her husband was laid off, noting she does hear the concerns about the 31% of Ledyard residents that were included in the ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed); and therefore, she was worried. She stated that she heard that residents cannot afford a tax increase as Executive Assistant/Social Services Coordinator Kristen Chapman described earlier this evening. She stated they were in the same position and know what residents were going through. She stated the Town Council has to make some hard decisions on the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget noting that absolutely no one would be happy with whatever they decide tonight; but they have to come up with a budget by the fourth Monday in June per the Town Charter and they have to notify the State of the Town's Budget by June 30, 2025.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she did not say anything earlier this evening during the "*Councilor Comments*" portion of tonight's Agenda. She stated that she wanted to apologize for her words, explaining that they came out in a way that she did not intend. She stated in no way did she want to insult anyone's intelligence, or how hard they work. She stated that her intention was only to comment that they could not compare salaries fairly between the Town side and Public Education side. She stated that the Town Council does not have all the information, and they were not allowed to mention anything about the salaries for the Board of Education because the Board of Education handles them. She stated that she totally gets it, that the Administrators/Department Heads think that she hates them, or that she thinks that they stupid, but that was not true. She stated that anybody who knows her knows that she is a very nice person, that she likes everyone, that she was very respectful, and very appreciative of everyone. She stated that she feels really bad, because she does not like to see animosity and finger pointing and acting like someone has a hidden agenda. She stated that none of them have a hidden agenda, and they do not want to make anybody suffer, or take your money away, noting that was never the intention. She stated as many people have said the Town Council did not want to make anybody feel bad; and they did not want to make anybody feel like they were not being heard. But sometimes words are misspoken, and they come across incorrectly, and she apologizes for that. She stated that they all have to get along and work together. She stated that none of them would be sitting here if they did not care about the town. She stated it was easy to say "*You're a bad guy; You're a bad guy; I don't like you; . You're wrong. You're against this or that*". But that was not true; nobody here was against anybody, we were just trying to make the best decisions as Councilor St. Vil said. She stated that she does not agree with taking all the emotion out of their decisions because emotion was what makes us. She stated *Yes, at some point they have to be analytical; Yes, at some point they have to look at the numbers and the data; Yes, but you also have to have a heart and compassion, or you would not care about people.* She stated that she has three jobs; she grew up and went to school in Olneyville, which was an inner city in Providence, Rhode Island. She stated that she could tell them that her school was not the best funded, noting that they were lucky if they had grants once in a while that got them out of the city to do fun things, but it was very few and very far between. She stated that they did not have an excellent education system. She stated the reason she was making this comment was because she wants to encourage everyone tonight to work together because they need to make the best decision for the town. She stated unfortunately this budget was always going to be hard because there was too much that had to be funded with too little to fund it with. She stated that nobody wants to attack the General Government versus Board of Education, but that they have to make some kind of decision tonight, and that was all she wanted to say. Thank you.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated at the end of the Town Council's May 27, 2025 Special Meeting that she approached Councilor Saccone and Councilor Barnes and asked if there was any way that the Finance Committee could have a Motion that would guarantee a certain percentage increase for Administrators/Department Heads, that could be done in a period of 2 or 3 years, until their salaries were adjusted.

Mayor Allyn stated that he hears what Councilor Garcia-Irizarry was saying. However, he stated when they were talking about \$30,000 in a \$29,901,179 General Government Budget that they were splitting hairs for the minutia on this issue. Chairman Rodriguez stated at the

Town Council’s May 27, 2025 Special Meeting that she recommended doing half this year and half next year. Mayor Allyn stated that although he was nodding his head in agreement that no one made a Motion to support Chairman Rodriguez’s idea, so nothing happened. He stated that it was important to note that he has never been as vocal as he has been in these meetings, because these were critical staff people in Town Hall for the operation of the General Government and town services provided to residents. He went on to note that he has said it time and time again at least 6 or 7 times, so the Town Council knows where he stands on fairly compensating their Administrators/Department Heads for the work they do for the town.

XII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Rodriguez stated without objection that she would like to reorder tonight’s agenda to address Item #2 as the first item of business, before the Town Council gets into addressing the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget, noting that Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Chairman Ed Lynch was attending the meeting remotely via Zoom.

General Items

- 1. MOTION to grant a Bid Waiver to Groton Utilities, 295 Meridan Street, Groton, in the amount of up-to \$138,000 for emergency repairs to a water line that has impacted 10 homes in the Highlands Neighborhood.

Moved by Councilor Dombrowski, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Water Pollution Control Authority Chairman Ed Lynch, attending remotely via Zoom, explained that one of the original 10-inch cast-iron water pipes that was installed during the 1960’s on Thompson Road in the Highlands Neighborhood was falling apart. He stated every time there was a leak they have to shut down the entire Highlands Neighborhood because of the lack of valves on the system. He stated because they were actually repairing something that was not originally done properly that it would be considered “*New Construction*” and it would involve some engineering work; and Groton Utilities, as their water operations provider, would need to inspect the installation, etc., before they took on the responsibility of the water line. He stated because the engineering, inspections and other things were already included in the current Water Operations Contract the WPCA has with Groton Utilities that a Bid Waiver to Groton Utilities was being requested for several reasons, which included the cost savings for the engineering work, inspections; and other associated costs. In addition, he stated that because Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin indicated that the road needed to be paved that the WPCA thought it would be a good opportunity to get the water line repaired before the road was paved. Mr. Lynch stated that this work would include the installation of a 4”- 352-foot ductile iron pipe with a 10-inch valve to prevent them from having to shut all the water down for the entire Highlands Neighborhood in the future should they have a leak. Mr. Lynch also noted that there would also be a cost savings by doing this during the day instead of at night and having to pay overtime rates. He stated that ten homes on Thompson Road would be affected.

VOTE

**7 – 0 - 1 Approved and so declared** (St. Vil abstained)

APPROVED 7- 0- 1

MOVER: Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry Rodriguez, Saccone

ABSTAINED: St. Vil

EXCUSED: Ryan

Finance Committee

2. Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget

Chairman Rodriguez stated the Second Budget Referendum that was held on June 10, 2025 Failed. She noted in accordance with Chapter VII; Section 6 of the Town Charter, in the event that the *second referendum does not approve a budget; the Town Council shall adopt a final budget by the fourth Monday in June. Should both the referenda and the Town Council fail to adopt a final budget by the fourth Monday in June, the budget that was presented at the second referendum shall be deemed to have been adopted, and expenditures made in accordance there with for the ensuing fiscal year.* Therefore, she stated that the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget was now in the Town Council’s hands at this point in the process. She stated that while we all want to be mindful of the many competing demands in both the General Government Budget and the Board of Education Budgets that she was going to ask that tonight they focus and work to adopt a budget that the Town, Schools, and our residents can live with. She stated that they have all given their commentary at many meetings on why they each support; or do not support certain aspects of the budget; and many have made their positions known both at multiple meetings; on social media; and other venues throughout this process. Therefore, she stated that tonight she would ask that they all reserve opening statements; commentary; and posturing; and that they stay focused on the task at hand. She stated that this Year has been a long and arduous budget process; and it was time to once again roll up their sleeves; work together; and get the business of the town done by putting a budget in place for the Town to move forward with the upcoming fiscal year; in the interest of their residents.

Chairman Rodriguez noted the Budget that was presented at the Second Referendum on June 10, 2025; and failed was as follows:

**Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget in the amount of \$70,408,421; (comprised of General Government of \$29,901,179; and Board of Education of \$40,507,242)**

Chairman Rodriguez stated with that being said that she would like to put forward the following budget adjustments.

❖ MOTION to approve the following adjustments to the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget:

Account #	Title	Reinstate Salary (change from 6/10/2025)	
1011-2101-51600	Finance Director	\$133,000	\$17,083
1011-0311-51600	Town Clerk	\$ 77,400	\$ 7,639
1011-4301-51600	Land Use Director	\$108,150	\$ 6,084
1011-0205-51606	Human Resource Director	\$ 97,850	\$ 1,442
Total General Government Increase:			\$32,248

In addition, Adjust the following Accounts:

Account #	Title	Reduction	(New Amount 6/11/2025)
10110101-5879	Contingency-Town Council	\$4,000	\$ 3,000
10110201-58790	Contingency- Mayor	\$5,000	\$ 1,000
10110201-51305	Town Hall Floater	\$9,692	\$ 19,000
10120301-5611	Fire Marshall Oper	\$2,000	\$ 6,000
10140107-56301	Sand and Salt	\$10,000	\$125,000
Total General Government Operating Decrease			\$30,692

Board of Education Capital

Title	Reduction
Board of Education Capital	\$45,000
Total Board of Education Decrease	\$45,000

Moved by Chairman Rodriguez seconded by Councilor Buhle  
Discussion: Chairman Rodriguez question the mil rate increase with the budget adjustments she presented in the Motion (above)

Councilor Buhle noted that the mil rate increase would be 1.95; which was .04 mils less than the 1.99 mil rate increase that was required to support the Revised Fiscal Year 2025/2026 that was presented at the Second Referendum on June 10, 2025.

Councilor Buhle noted Chairman Rodriguez's statement asking that they hold comments this evening. However, she stated that she had some prepared comments for this evening and requested permission to provide just some of her comments. Chairman Rodriguez agreed to Councilor Buhle's request.

Councilor Buhle proceeded by stating that she has seen this budget support become ridiculously partisan. She has seen comments about this budget essentially threatening her to "*do the right thing*" or lose her seat in November.

Councilor Buhle stated that she would do the right thing; and if she loses her seat in November, that she would remind residents that she was here out of a deep love for her town and a desire to make it better, and that she does not do this for a love of power or money (certainly wouldn't choose an unpaid position if that was her intention). She stated that she was elected to this seat because of the values she shares with the voters in this town, and the experiences that makes them neighbors and a great community.

Councilor Buhle went on to state that her values were to support families like her family all around this town. While they may not all have the same experiences, privileges, lifestyles, budgets, or desires, they do share a few common goals: to live in a town that was amazing to call home, a town they were proud of, a town that values their children's education, a town that strives to be better every chance it gets.

Councilor Buhle stated that she would tell them right now that any additional cuts into this budget would take them all away from those common goals.

Councilor Buhle noted when it comes to education, Ledyard has been in the bottom 10% of funding for ten years. Per Superintendent Hartling, the 2024-2025 School Year had 35 fewer support staff than the 2014-2015 School Year with almost the same number of students. Councilor Buhle stated, "*Over the last decade, this town has continuously decided that education is not worth funding, and that she would not support that plan*".

Councilor Buhle continued by stating that she would like to take a moment to cut out of her perfectly written speech and say that her son was in the special education program through the Town of Ledyard. She stated that the answer was not to fund education less. She stated the answer was to continue to provide resources for their educators; so they have support staff to provide the necessary services their special education students need, because they do not fund the choices for outplacement or for being homeschooled. She stated unfortunately, that does not work for most people, and it was a benefit for their town; and not a benefit for their students. She stated that this was something that she certainly struggled with in her family, and that she was so disheartened that it was something that affects so many of their residents. She stated that they were certainly not going to make it better, noting that 25% of the students in the State were special education students. She stated that it was not something they could afford, so it was something that absolutely needed their attention. She stated that she had a bunch of other things that she was going to say but they were not going to be really positive; so she would stop here.

Councilor Barnes stated in his absence this evening that Councilor Ryan asked that he read his remarks as follows:

Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

Member, Ledyard Finance Committee

Submitted remarks for the 6/11/25 Town Council Meeting to be included in the official record

### **Comments for New Business Item #1**

**First**, I would like to apologize for not being able to be present tonight; I had prior familial arrangements and, quite honestly, I did not expect the budget process to continue into mid-June.

Clearly, that is not the case, as the budget again failed at a second referendum, with 710 voters opposed, and 406 in support. Nearly the same margin of failure as the first referendum – in other words, not even close. I guess this shouldn't be surprising given that municipal budgets have been failing at referendum in many surrounding municipalities.

Regardless, per the town charter, it is now up the Town Council to establish a budget that represents the will of our constituents, who clearly are not willing to accept such a large increase in taxes. As you churn through debate tonight, I will remind everyone that this is the Town Council, and we are responsible for representing the town as a whole, not just a specific subset of the population of our town.

In the interest of time, I won't delve into the forensics as to how we got here, and instead focus on the path forward, using the current budget proposed at the second referendum, compared to the current years' budget as a basis:

	24/25 Adopted	25/26 2nd Referendum	% Change	\$ Change
<b>BOE Operational</b>	\$ 38,369,823	\$ 40,507,242	5.6%	\$ 2,137,419
<b>BOE Healthcare</b>	\$ 5,768,830	\$ 6,594,790	14.3%	\$ 825,960
<b>General Government Operational</b>	\$ 22,245,770	\$ 22,183,489	-0.3%	\$ (62,281)
<b>General Government Healthcare</b>	\$ 1,046,150	\$ 1,122,900	7.3%	\$ 76,750
<b>Total</b>	\$ 67,430,573	\$ 70,408,421	4.4%	\$ 2,977,848

I've broken out healthcare, recognizing that we don't control those costs and so that we can have a fair comparison. Shockingly, as you can see, the General Government Operational budget is a net decrease from the current year, to the tune of about \$62,281, or .3%. The BOE budget is still enjoying a 5.6% increase compared to last year, even with a \$160,000 reduction from the initial proposed 25/26 budget.

First, I would recommend not decimating the General Government with any additional cuts. In fact, I would *strongly* recommend restoring market rate salary adjustments (Based on the salary survey) to town department heads, amounting to \$32,248. Note that this still puts the General Government Operational budget at \$30,033 *LESS* than the current year, or a .1% reduction, essentially a net-zero change from the current year. An exceptional achievement by the Mayor and the Town Department heads. As I've stated in past meetings, recognizing these department heads – many of which have advanced education and bring a wealth of professional experience to the table – with competitive compensation will actually save the town money, as should the council proceed with not including market rate adjustments in the budget, I would fully expect affected department heads to seek employment in a town that appreciates what they bring to the table, requiring the town to seek – and train – replacements. This aligns with Councilor Rodriguez' comments from the 2/22/23 Town Council Meeting where wage adjustments were discussed, where she stated, "if they do not hire qualified people that it would also cost the town money", and she went on to note "that having qualified employees was an investment in the town."

I will also note that these market rate adjustments actually have been phased in over the last year, with the first two adjustments occurring in the current year's budget, and the last three planned for this next year.

**Second**, the BOE Operational Budget represents an increase of \$2,137,419, which still consists of over \$500,000 in programmatic improvements. According to the BOE's presentation at the Town Meeting, these expenses are not related to contractual or inflationary increases and are additional expenses over and above what is required to maintain current services. These improvements also include several new full-time hires, which represent not just new current expenses, but new expenses in the perpetuity. I would posit that, based on the two referendum failures, this is clearly not the right year to be considering improvements of this scope, especially ones that create new recurring expenses. To that end, I would recommend a *starting point* of reducing the BOE top line budget by \$500,000. That might seem drastic, but it still represents an increase of \$1,637,419 over the current year, or 4.3%. Additionally, and according the BOE's own budget presentation, it would still maintain current services and not cause any disruption to current employment.

The aggregate effect of my recommendations has the net effect, using the 2<sup>nd</sup> Referendum Budget as a basis:

	25/26 2nd Referendum	25/26 TKR Proposed	% Change	\$ Change
<b>BOE Operational</b>	\$ 40,507,242	\$ 40,007,242	-1.2%	\$ (500,000)
<b>BOE Healthcare</b>	\$ 6,594,790	\$ 6,594,790	0.0%	\$ -
<b>General Government Operational</b>	\$ 22,183,489	\$ 22,215,737	0.1%	\$ 32,248
<b>General Government Healthcare</b>	\$ 1,122,900	\$ 1,122,900	0.0%	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ 70,408,421	\$ 69,940,669	-0.7%	\$ (467,752)

The proposed new total budget of \$69,940,669 represents an increase of 3.7%, or \$2,510,096 over the current year, with 100% of the increase due to healthcare cost increases and BOE budget increases.

Regardless of where the debate ends up, I strongly feel that we, the Town Council, owe the taxpaying citizens of Ledyard a budget that represents not only current financial and economic realities, but those that we will be facing in the very near future, including:

- **Property Revaluation:** While this does not impact the current budget, it WILL impact next year’s budget. As we have seen with revaluations in surrounding towns, the increase in assessments has rarely been uniform across all housing, with more moderate housing experiencing disproportionate increases in assessed value. The net result of this is that the housing that experiences this disproportionate increase will actually see an increase in taxes next year – even with the aggregate mill rate coming down and even if there or no budgetary changes.
- **Loss of Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation tax revenue on private business property:** Our own State Senator, Cathy Osten, included legislation into the recently passed State Budget (thereby avoiding a public hearing) that will eliminate this revenue stream for Ledyard –

creating a \$625,000 revenue hole for the town. While I have heard that this will be replaced by a \$800k stipend, that would only be for FY27 and FY28. After that, there is no guarantee of funding, nor would I expect that to change unless our state representation changes. Ledyard has to plan accordingly to eventually fill this revenue shortfall ourselves, or figure out a way to live without it.

- **Minimum Budget Requirement:** Per state statute, unless there is a reduction in enrollment or a reduction in state funds (ECS), Ledyard will be required to provide a budget to the schools that is *at least* equivalent to the prior year. In this way, we should be cautious as whatever we pass for the FY25/26 BOE budget will set the new bar.

Because of the above concerns, I would also recommend NOT utilizing additional Mill Rate Stabilization funding; it is clear we will need that not only available, but built upon, in the coming years.

In the end, I know comparisons will be made to other towns, and that is fine, but it’s what we do for taxpayers of Ledyard that matters. Let’s focus on that. Thank you.

Councilor Saccone stated as he has said at every meeting, he has begged residents to come to their Budget Work Sessions that were held on March 6, 10, 18, 2025; and to every meeting during the budget preparation process to listen to their discussion about why the budget is what it is. He stated last November, 2024 before they even began the budget preparation process that they were already looking at \$2.5 million deficit that was a result of a reduction in the Grand List; Loss of \$550,000 from the Veteran’s Tax Exemption Bill; Contractual Salary increases; and Healthcare Cost increases. He stated that this was what they were looking at before they even began to review operational expenses and how they were being impacted by inflation. He stated to help reduce the impact to the mil rate increase they were using \$1.5 million from the Mil Rate Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund). However, he stated that both he and Councilor Ryan have recommended that they not use any more money from the Mil Rate Stabilization Fund, as they heard from Councilor Ryan’s written remarks that he submitted for tonight’s meeting, that Councilor Barnes read.

Councilor Saccone stated although he does not use Facebook that he has heard that there was a lot of misinformation on the internet and social media. He stated that by attending their meetings or watching the meeting videos or reading the minutes which were all available on-line that residents would have the correct information and the truth. He stated although the Finance Committee shaved about \$500,000 off the Mayor's proposed budget, which included reductions to Capital Plans for the replacement of Fire Apparatus, Public Works Heavy Equipment, Road Restoration, and Police Vehicles, that the First Budget submitted at the May 20, 2025 Referendum was very high. He stated after the Budget was voted down at the Town Council's May 27, 2025 meeting they voted to reduce the budget by \$653,819; this was comprised of General Government reduction of \$493,819 (\$233,829-Operating; \$40,000-Capital; and \$260,000 BOE Capital); and Board of Education \$160,000 Operating.

Councilor Saccone stated he could not in good conscience cut any more funds from the Board of Education Budget. He stated that he and his wife had four kids attend Ledyard Public Schools, noting that it was a great school system. He stated nobody wanted to have taxes go up, noting when he bought his home 37 years ago, that his first tax bill was \$1,800; and now his tax bill was more than \$5,000. He stated based on the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget and projected mil rate that a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would see about a \$32.00 tax increase per month. He stated although he understands the challenges of any increase on residents who were living on social security or on a fixed income that he thought the projected tax increase was fair and reasonable.

Councilor Saccone continued by addressing the salary adjustments for the Administrators /Department Heads to bring them up to the mid-range of the market rate for their positions, stating that it would cost taxpayers about .33 cents a month to have the some of the best people in these fields in Southeastern Connecticut, noting that he thought .33 cents a month was worth it. He concluded his remarks by stating that he would vote in favor of the budget adjustments presented this evening, noting that he thought it was the best case for the town. Thank you.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she just wanted people who were not involved in the process to prepare the budget to know that it takes a lot of time. She noted the effort that all these people put in, noting that she would admit that it was far more time than she put in. She stated that they put their heart and souls into the First Budget; and into the Second Budget, and right now. She stated they sweated over the minuscule little things because they care. She stated that she feels for the people who were on the lower end of the income, noting that she was on SNAP Program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) for a while in her lifetime; and that she was homeless but that she was able to live at a family house, stating that she gets it. She stated it was really hard to sit here knowing all those things and knowing they have to have a budget. She stated that she supported this budget because as Councilor St. Vil said they have to make the best decision they can. She stated that it was a challenge because she does not want to see the town crumble, or disintegrate, or be underfunded, and fall apart; so she thought that this was the best budget they could do.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she would support the budget cuts and the budget additions that they were putting in the budget right now. She stated that it was a very difficult year, not just for Ledyard but also for many towns. She stated that she tried to give as much information as she could on social media, in person, answering questions left and right; and that she tried to be as transparent as she could. She stated a lot of times she had to say things that she did not like to say, but she said it. She noted the saying "*Sometimes you're going to make some people happy, and sometimes you're going to make some people mad*". She stated unfortunately, she felt like they were making everyone mad, and they were not going to be able to make people feel comfortable with whatever budget they have. She stated that they have to cut things that were near and dear to some people including the \$5,000 for Food Waste Compost Program, Town Council Contingency, Mayor Contingency, Winter Operations Sand and Salt, which was painful, stating that she hoped they do not get a lot of snow next winter. She stated that she supported the cuts presented in this Motion so they could try to make it work.



Councilor St. Vil stated that he agreed with the proposed Motion; and that he hoped it would bring clarity to the Administrators/Department Heads who sent emails. He stated that he wanted to address the Administrators/Departments Heads comment that they did not receive a response, noting that he verbally told some that they were working on it. He stated that he hoped that they would see that they have been working very diligently for the town and for the residents, similarly. He stated that he does not agree with removing risk and certain budget line items, but that was what they were essentially doing with reducing their Contingency Funding and other line items. He stated that he did not necessarily agree with reducing the Board of Education Capital, however, he stated that they all need to make compromises. He stated that he believed this Motion, as stated by Chairman Rodriguez was a compromise that he could back and stand behind. He stated that his final thought was that if this budget gets approved, it was not the end; that it was the beginning for many of them. He stated that he hoped and prays, because he believes in God; that they can work together to make some incremental improvements going forward; so that as a town they were better aligned on where their dollars go in the future; and that means involvement. Thank you.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that unfortunately, he did not think they were really listening to what the voters told them. He stated that he appreciated the changes in the Motion on the floor, however, he stated that he still did not think that they were listening to the voters, noting that both the May 20, 2025 Referendum; and the June 10, 2025 Referendum did not pass. Therefore, he stated that he would like to propose an amendment to the Motion on the floor:

MOTION to amend the Motion to reduce the Board of Education's proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Operating Budget by \$500,000.

Moved by Councilor Dombrowski, seconded by Councilor Barnes

Discussion: Councilor Dombrowski stated the Motion on floor restored the budget lines for the salaries for the Administrators/Department Heads; and it made some non-substantive cuts to basically equal the amount of money that was restored. Therefore, he stated that the proposed budget adjustments basically resulted in a Net -\$0- change from the Second Budget that was presented to the voters on June 10 2025. He stated then they took another \$45,000 out of the Capital Budget, noting that these budget adjustments did not move the needle on the budget, noting that they were right back to the point of a 3% budget increase that the voters rejected at the June 10, 2025 Second Referendum. He stated the reason he was proposing cutting \$500,000 from the Board of Education's Operating Budget was because they have already cut over \$500,000 from the General Government, noting that his proposed Amendment would be an equivalent cut; and would result in a reduction to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget.

Councilor Barnes stated there were a lot of people here this evening, and he noted that he has had some conversations with friends and neighbors who have asked "*How could you take a half a million dollars out of the Board of Education Budget?*". He stated although he did not know how it would affect the Board of Education, what he could say was with the Referendum vote not passing by such a wide margin; that the Town Council approving a budget with only 0.04 reduction was not acceptable. He stated that the Town Council needed to demonstrate to the voters who came out twice and broadly rejected the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget saying that it was *Too High*; that they were doing something more than a 0.4% reduction.

Councilor Brunelle stated after the First Budget Referendum on May 20, 2025 failed they all worked hard to lower the budget, and they believed that it was the best they could do; but then the Second Referendum that was held on June 10, 2025 failed. She stated it was clear from the emails and from feedback they received that there was a lot of wrong information out there. She stated they received a lot of emails in which people did not want the Board of Education Budget cut. She stated that these were our children, our town's children, our future. We want our kids to grow, raise their families here, and stay here. Just like we do not want our town employees to run to other towns; we do not want our children to run out of town. She stated that they cannot keep kicking them down the road. She stated that she would not make any more cuts.

Councilor Buhle stated that she would vote “No” on Councilor Dombrowski’s Amendment to cut the Board of Education’s Operating Budget by \$500,000. She stated that she was going to finish her comments that she began earlier, noting that Budget struggles were not a surprise, and it was not a year of reckless spending that got them here. This was a year of essentially maintaining the status quo. She stated Ledyard’s budget problems were the result of over a decade of poor planning for the financial needs of a successful town.

Councilor Buhle continued by stating that there have been years of opportunity to speak in Hartford about the underfunding of education in their town. She noted that New London Mayor Michael Passero was able to secure \$2,000,000 in added ECS funding for their School District. She stated that Ledyard could have made a healthy case to ask for additional funding from the State over the last decade, but prior administrations have found it easier to not ask and then complain about the State.

Councilor Buhle stated this 27th Town Council, was able to apply for a grant for a new CAD/RMS system through Congressionally Directed Spending. While the funding for the initial appropriation was destroyed by the “Continuing Resolution,” they remain hopeful it would be awarded in the next federal budget year. But let it be known that it was the first time Ledyard has ever applied for this program, which has left eligible capital needs on the backs of taxpayers instead of seeking external funding.

Councilor Buhle stated in 2025 this Council worked with Ledyard Parks and Recreation to apply for a \$1 million STEAP Grant, which was awarded to Ledyard in the amount of \$892,000 to replace four playscapes in town. She stated that this grant has been awarded to North Stonington 9 times, East Lyme 9 times, Montville 6 times, compared to Ledyard’s 4 applications and awards. Again, years of opportunity to seek capital funding for our town squandered.

Councilor Buhle continued by stating when they want to talk about not receiving funding appropriately, inevitably, the comment would be that Ledyard was about to lose \$625,000 from the changes in taxation on tribal lands. However, she stated that information was incorrect at best and intentionally misleading at worst. Yes, there was a Bill that prevents taxation on tribal land; Yes, it would reduce tax revenue. However, she stated what no one has mentioned yet was that the State Budget already accounts for it with an additional \$800,000 to the town to make the town more than whole. She stated let’s talk about that a bit more for one second, because she needed to express how ridiculous this complaint was with the math. She noted that \$625,000 in revenue amounts to about \$16.8 million dollars in taxable Grand List Value at the current proposed mil rate of 37.2. Considering that almost all of this taxable revenue was personal property, it would not see the increase in value that residences would be seeing in the upcoming Property Revaluation, especially because personal property was subject to a depreciation schedule. Therefore, she stated if the mil rate was reduced to, say, 27 next year (as a very conservative estimate that she think was higher than it will be), the projected revenue would only be \$453,600, not \$625,000. Regardless of that, she stated that Senator Osten has written in \$800,000 for the Town of Ledyard and the Town of Montville. She stated that it was not \$800,000 between the two towns, but \$800,000 for each town. This means the Town of Ledyard would benefit by nearly \$350,000, and the tribes would no longer be subject to *Dual Taxation*. Councilor Buhle stated that it was a great win all around, and another way Senator Osten has been doing the right things.

Councilor Buhle went on to state, but let’s get back to this year’s budget because that was what they were focusing on. This year’s budget was responsible, realistic, and representative of the needs of their town to maintain the quality of services and education that their residents deserve and moved here to Ledyard for. It has become abundantly clear to her that many of those in opposition to this year’s budget were always going to find a reason to vote “No”, regardless of the number. She stated that part of this falls on the misinformation (such as the *Dual Taxation* misinformation presented above) and the poor communication many of their voters received. The demands to slash the budget until there was no increase at all was unreasonable and unrealistic, and more information should have been provided to those voters to set their expectations better. She stated that this was never, ever, going to be a year with no increase, and they all knew it. She stated that she was disappointed in the lack of effort to inform voters responsibly to set their expectations. However, she stated that it was abundantly clear that the strategy of “*Do nothing and blame someone else for it*” was only the one playbook here.

VOTE

Councilor Saccone stated that he would be brief, noting that \$500,000 was a lot of money on the backs of the taxpayers; and \$500,000 was a lot to cut from the Board of Education Budget. He stated by leaving the \$500,000 in the Board of Education’s Budget that it would cost taxpayers about \$6 a month for a home with a \$200,000 assess value. He stated he thought it was worth it for their kids and that he thought most of their residents would say the same. Thank you.

**2 – 6 Motion Failed** (Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil, not in favor)

MOTION FAILED 2- 6	
MOVER:	Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Dombrowski
NAYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Ryan

Chairman Rodriguez called for a vote on the Motion as follows:

- ❖ MOTION to approve the following adjustments to the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget:

Account #	Title	Salary	(change from 6/10/2025)
1011-2101-51600	Finance Director	\$133,000	\$17,083
1011-0311-51600	Town Clerk	\$ 77,400	\$ 7,639
1011-4301-51600	Land Use Director	\$108,150	\$ 6,084
1011-0205-51606	Human Resource Director	\$ 97,850	\$ 1,442
Total General Government Increase:			\$32,248

In addition, Adjust the following Accounts:

Account # 6/11/2025)	Title	Reduction	(New Amount
10110101-5879	Contingency-Town Council	\$4,000	\$ 3,000
10110201-58790	Contingency- Mayor	\$5,000	\$ 1,000
10110201-51305	Town Hall Floater	\$9,692	\$ 19,000
10120301-5611	Fire Marshall Oper	\$2,000	\$ 6,000
10140107-56301	Sand and Salt	\$10,000	\$125,000
Total General Government Operating Decrease			\$30,692

Board of Education Capital

Title	Reduction
Board of Education Capital	\$45,000
Total Board of Education Decrease	\$45,000

VOTE

**6 – 2 Approved and so declared** (Barnes, Dombrowski, not in favor)

APPROVED 6 - 2	
MOVER:	S. Naomi Rodriguez, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil
NAYES:	Barnes, Dombrowski
EXCUSED:	Ryan

3. MOTION to approve to set Fiscal Year 2025/2026 a Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.16 and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Buhle

VOTE

**6 – 2 Approved and so declared** (Barnes, Dombrowski, not in favor)

APPROVED 6 - 2  
MOVER: S. Naomi Rodriguez, Town Councilor  
SECONDER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor  
AYES: Brunelle, Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil  
NAYES: Barnes, Dombrowski  
EXCUSED: Ryan

\*\*\***POST MEETING NOTE**\*\*\*: 6/18/2025 Town Council Meeting: Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate was corrected to **37.14**.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

**VOTE:** Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry.  
**8 - 0 Approved and so declared.** The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

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

I, S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council,  
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and  
correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Town Council  
Meeting held on June 11, 2025.

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



TOWN OF LEDYARD  
CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

MINUTES  
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025; 6:00 PM  
HYBRID FORMAT  
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

DRAFT

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

Chairman Pro-tem Barnes welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the members of the Town Council and the Public who were participating via video conference that the remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town’s Website – Granicus-Legistar Meeting Portal.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- III. ROLL CALL –

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

- IV. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

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

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

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

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

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Saccone

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

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

❖ MOTION to Amend the Motion to make the following Budget Allocation Adjustments:

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

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

Board of Education	<b>Change from Capital Budget ( 6/11/2025) To Operating Budget</b>
Reduce the Board of Education Operational Budget by \$45,000	

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

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

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

APPROVED	5 - 3
MOVER:	Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Saccone; St. Vil
NAYES:	Barnes, Dombrowski, Ryan
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPROVED	5 - 3
MOVER:	Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Saccone; St. Vil
NAYES:	Barnes, Dombrowski, Ryan
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

**Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Mil Rate**

2. MOTION to rescind the Town Council’s action of June 11, 2025 setting the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.16; and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.  
Moved by Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Saccone  
Discussion: None.

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

VOTE 8 – 0 Approved and so declared to Rescind

APPROVED	8- 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Buhle, Dombrowski Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone; St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Brunelle

- ❖ MOTION to set the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.14; and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.  
Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Saccone  
Discussion: None.

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

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

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

APPROVED 5 - 3  
MOVER: Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor  
SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor  
AYES: Buhle, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Saccone; St. Vil  
NAYES: Barnes, Dombrowski, Ryan  
EXCUSED: Brunelle

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Saccone.  
**VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared.** The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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

I, William Barnes, Chairman Pro-tem of the Ledyard Town Council,  
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and  
correct copy of the minutes of the Special Town Council  
Meeting held on June 18, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Barnes, Chairman Pro-tem





TOWN OF LEDYARD  
CONNECTICUT  
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

MINUTES  
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025; 6:00 PM  
HYBRID FORMAT  
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

DRAFT

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:01 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
William Barnes	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Present	Remote
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	Remote
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Present	Remote

- IV. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

CONSENT CALENDER

- \*1. MOTION to reappoint Mr. Ethan Foltz (D) 894 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, as a regular member to the Ledyard Farmers’ Market Committee, for three (3) year term ending May 9, 2028.
- \*2. MOTION to reappoint the following Members to the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission for a three (3) year term ending June 28, 2028.

- Ms. Lauren Hawes, (U) 8 Warbler Way, Gales Ferry, as an Regular Member
- Ms. Paula Crocker (U) 1500 Route 12, Gales Ferry, as a Regular Member
- Ms. Stephanie Bacon (D) 6 Patricia Court, Gales Ferry, as an Alternate Member

Moved by Councilor Dombrowski, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

VOTE

9 - 0 Approved and so declared

APPROVED 9 - 0

MOVER: Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Buhle, Brunelle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil

3. MOTION to adopt the proposed “Resolution Supporting the Town’s Continued Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program And Establishing A Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee” as contained in the draft dated June 11, 2025.

DRAFT: 6/11/2025

TOWN OF LEDYARD  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THEIR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION  
IN THE SUSTAINABLE CT MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM  
AND ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE CT AD HOC COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020 the Ledyard Town Council adopted a “*Town of Ledyard Resolution Supporting the Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program*”; recognizing that Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: “*Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking*”.

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

WHEREAS, the Town of Ledyard continues to embrace an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT; and

WHEREAS; The Town of Ledyard has implemented a number of programs which included a streetlight assessment that resulted in the purchase of the streetlights from Eversource and converting them to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs saving both energy and taxpayer dollars; constructed the Multi-Use Pathway from Ledyard High School to Ledyard Center to expand safe, connected, active transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists; extending the sewer line providing infrastructure for both affordable housing and business development; improvements to the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry providing an equitable community food action plan to ensure that all community members can access sustainable, nutritious food; improvements to the Town Green providing handicap access to one of the best Farmers’ Markets in the State for residents to purchase fresh produce from local farmers and featuring many community organizations providing information to residents regarding fuel assistance, mental health services, public safety services, and many other commodities and programs; regionalization of shared services with the Town of Preston by providing Emergency Dispatch Communication Services, Tax Assessor Services, Public Works Mechanic Services, and the shared purchase of a streetsweeper to maintain the required MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Permit Certifications.

WHEREAS, the Director of Land Use & Planning is authorized to serve as the Town of Ledyard’s Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorizes him/her to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of the Town of Ledyard;

WHEREAS: it is recognized that the town is minimally staffed; and supplemental support is needed to continue efforts to reach the Sustainable CT Goals of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to focus attention and effort within the Town of Ledyard on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, the Ledyard Town Council establishes a Ledyard Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee to be comprised of five members appointed by the Ledyard Town Council.

Those members shall, as much as possible, be representative as follows:

- One member from the Planning & Zoning Commission or Inland Wetlands & Water Courses Commission
- One member from the Economic Development Commission or Conservation Commission
- One member from the Town Council Land Use Committee
- Two members from the Community-at-Large

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, each member shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Members shall commence to serve their terms immediately upon appointment and shall serve until their successor has qualified or they have been reappointed or removed by the Town Council.

Any vacancies on said committee shall be filled by the appointment of the Ledyard Town Council, with priority given to maintaining as much as possible the structure above; and

Any member of the Committee who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings and any intervening duly called special meetings shall be considered to have resigned from the Commission and the vacancy shall be filled as hereinbefore provided, except that the Commission

may vote to waive the requirements of the section in each case where illness or other extenuating circumstances make it impossible for a member to meet the attendance requirements of this action. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Committee to notify the Town Council when a member has not properly performed his/her duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Ledyard Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee is authorized to:

- (1). Work with the Land Use Director and the Mayor to engage staff; and or, contract with consultants, or a Sustainable CT Fellow through Southeastern Connecticut Council of Government (SCCOG) Program.
- (2). Review the Sustainable CT Tool Kit and Guidelines; and to oversee the preparation and submission of Application at the appropriate time.
- (3). Develop initiatives, goals, and recommendations to achieve Points required to complete the process to obtain the Sustainable CT Certification to include:
  - Building our community and our local economy;
  - Equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents;
  - Encourage and participate in regional collaboration and other forms of partnership.
  - Improve the services and quality of life for our residents, while focusing on sustainability, efficiencies, and reducing the impact of inflationary costs for residents.
- (4). Work with the Public Works Director on Food Waste Composting and other waste management initiatives.
- (5). Work with the Planning & Zoning Commission to ensure the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development supports the proposed Sustainable CT Initiatives.
- (6). Work with the Board of Education to ensure that Ledyard’s educational facility needs are considered and met in developing a plan and implementing Sustainable CT initiatives.
- (7). Prepare and present to the Town Council for approval a Capital Improvement Plan to support and move the Sustainable CT Plan forward.
- (8). Identify funding sources, including grant funding, and other grassroots funding options such as *In Our Backyard* (IOB) Grants, to support the goals and initiatives; complying with the town’s Grant Policy.
- (9). Work with the Finance Director on the application and administration of any grant funding received; and the preparation of bid specifications and advertisement for Requests for Proposals to facilitate approved Sustainable CT Initiatives, in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 “*Purchasing Ordinance for the Town of Ledyard*”.

RESOLVED, that the first meeting of the Sustainability CT Ad Hoc Committee must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly; and shall select a Chairman, Recording Secretary, and Fiscal Officer from its body.

RESOLVED, that the Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee shall report annually to the Ledyard Town Council on the progress of its activities toward the Sustainable CT Certification, with reports and presentations being publicly available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the adoption of this Resolution reaffirms the Town of Ledyard’s March 11, 2020 initial desire and commitment to continue their work in achieving the Sustainable Development CT Certification.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: June 25, 2025

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
The above is a certified a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Town of Ledyard at a meeting of its Town Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has affixed his signature and corporate seal on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

(SEAL)

\*\*\*\*\*

Revision: “*Town of Ledyard Resolution Supporting the Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program*” Adopted: March 11, 2020

History:

Due to other competing demands on staff the Town of Ledyard was unable to continue their Application process to obtain the Sustainable CT Certifications. However, the Town has continued to take on and has completed a number of initiatives that have contributed to building its community and our local economy; to equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents; and has developed, fostered and participated in regional collaboration and other forms of partnership with other communities in the area.

The 2025 adoption of this Resolution reaffirms the Town of Ledyard’s desire and interest to achieve the Sustainable CT Certification to continue to improve the services and quality of life for its residents, while focusing on sustainability, efficiencies, and reducing inflationary costs for its residents.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski

Discussion: Councilor Buhle provided some background explaining in 2020 the Town Council adopted a “*Town of Ledyard Resolution Supporting the Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program*”; with the hope to boost their local economy, help reduce costs with initiatives to provide for more efficient municipal operations, and to obtain grants and other programs to help support their community. However, she stated due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and limited staff this initiative stalled. She went on to note that because Ledyard has continued to implement a number of Sustainable CT initiatives designed to create a resilient, collaborative, and a forward-looking community; the Administration Committee felt that it was appropriate to continue its efforts to obtain the *Sustainable CT Municipal Certification*. Therefore, she stated the Administration Committee drafted the proposed “*Resolution Supporting the Town’s Continued Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program And Establishing A Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee*” as presented this evening. .

Councilor Buhle continued by noting in speaking with Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick she explained that other towns used town staff to serve as their Sustainable CT Committee. However, Councilor Buhle stated after more consideration the Administration Committee agreed that they did not want to overburden the town’s limited staff with additional work. Therefore, she noted the Ad Hoc Committee would be comprised of five members, noting as proposed in the Resolution that the Director of Land Use & Planning was named as the Town’s contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorizes her to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of the Town of Ledyard. She stated that the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee would be a short-term two-year or less assignment the Administration Committee agreed to ask their knowledgeable and experienced members of the Town’s Land Use and Development Commissions; as well as members from the Community to participate on the Committee, noting that the Committee members was listed in the proposed Resolution (see above).

Councilor Ryan requested clarification, noting that the proposed Resolution included language regarding Grant Applications related to Sustainability initiatives; and he questioned whether the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee would coordinate all the grant applications. Councilor Buhle replied “Yes”. Councilor Ryan stated in reading the background information that it appeared that almost anybody within the community could apply for these grants. Therefore, he stated that those community organizations would be made aware that any type of grant application related to Sustainability would need to be funneled through the Ad Hoc Committee. Councilor Buhle stated that Councilor Ryan’s statements were correct.

VOTE

9 - 0 Approved and so declared

APPROVED 9 - 0

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Buhle, Brunelle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil

4. MOTION to approve Mechanic II job description as presented in the draft dated May 16, 2024.

Moved by Councilor Dombrowski, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Human Resources Director Christine Dias explained that the Mechanic II was a new job description that was added to provide the shared services support to Preston.

Chairman Rodriguez asked whether a person has been hired for this position. Human Resources Director Dias noted that the individual was hired under a draft job description.

VOTE

9 - 0 Approved and so declared

APPROVED 9 - 0

MOVER: Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Buhle, Brunelle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil

5. MOTION to approve proposed updates to the Fiscal Assistant II Finance and Human Resources job description as presented in the draft dated November 15, 2023.

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Human Resources Director Christine Dias explained Fiscal Assistant II for the Finance Department and Human Resources Department job description has been updated to reflect the current duties of the position.

VOTE

9 - 0 Approved and so declared

APPROVED 9 - 0

MOVER: April Brunelle, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Buhle, Brunelle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil

6. MOTION to approve proposed updates to Fiscal Assistant II Finance Department position as presented in the draft dated February 19, 2025.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski

Discussion: Councilor Dombrowski stated that this Job Description was also updated to reflect the current duties of the position.

Human Resources Director Christine Dias explained when a position becomes vacant that they update the job description, noting that some employees have been in the position for 20+-years; and therefore, the job description may be outdated.

Ms. Dias went on to explain that in accordance with the town's labor contracts that vacancies must be posted internally for 10-days before they seek outside Applications. She stated the Fiscal Assistant II for the Finance Department was filled internally. Therefore, she stated when this occurs that other positions then become vacant, noting that it was a good opportunity review those job descriptions and also update them.

VOTE

9 - 0 Approved and so declared

APPROVED 9 - 0

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Buhle, Brunelle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil

7. MOTION to approve proposed updates to the Assistant to the Tax Collector Job Description as presented in the draft dated May 2025.

Moved by Councilor Dombrowski, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

Discussion: Councilor Dombrowski stated that this Job Description was also updated to reflect the current duties of the position; as Human Resources Director Christine Dias explained for the previous items.

VOTE

9 - 0 Approved and so declared

APPROVED 9 - 0

MOVER: Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Buhle, Brunelle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil

Finance Committee

8. MOTION to authorize the submission of a grant application to the *Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program* in the amount of up-to \$10,000 to purchase rescue and general equipment.

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Saccone stated that State Farm Insurance and the National Volunteer Firefighters Council have formed a partnership and were offering up-to \$10,000 in Grant Funding to assist Fire Departments with the purchase of safety equipment. He stated this was more of a donation type of program, noting that there was no local funding required.

Councilor Saccone went on to note that Administrator of Emergency Services Steve Holyfield attended the Finance Committee's June 18, 2025 meeting and explained that Gales Ferry Fire Chief Jeff Erhart and Assistant Fire Chief Nick Bozym approached him for assistance to obtain the town's authorization to submit this Grant Application to upgrade some of their rescue equipment

Councilor Saccone continued by explaining by seeking and receiving these types of grants funding that it saves the taxpayers money to replace needed equipment that would have been paid for by tax dollars.

VOTE

9 - 0 Approved and so declared

APPROVED 9 - 0

MOVER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

AYES: Barnes, Buhle, Brunelle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone, St. Vil

9. MOTION to authorize the transfer of the \$60,000 from Account # 10114301-53300 ("Professional Services") to Account #21014301-53306 ("*Plan Conserve & Development*") to engage professional services for the updating of the Ledyard Plan of Conservation & Development and its Affordable Housing Plan.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Mr. Nathaniel Woody, 777 Long Cove Road, Gales Ferry, Planning & Zoning Commission Member, stated because Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick had a prior commitment this evening that she asked him to attend tonight's meeting to provide information regarding the Planning & Zoning Commission's request to transfer the \$60,000 remaining in their Operating Budget for Professional Consulting Services to their Capital Budget to be used to engage Professional Services to assist with their update to the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and Affordable Housing Plan (AHP).

Mr. Woody explained that House Bill #5002 (Public Act #2549) was a 91-page Bill that would provide sweeping changes regarding housing throughout the State of Connecticut, and that all municipalities would have to comply with provisions of the Bill by 2027; by having an Affordable Housing Plan (AFP) in place. He also noted that every ten-years municipalities were required to update their Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) which was last updated in 2020.

Mr. Woody continued by addressing the importance of the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) stating that it takes everything into account that was going to happen in the town, such as land infrastructure, utilities, open space, public works and facilities improvements, etc. He stated it was necessary to have an updated Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) in place for the town to be eligible to apply for and receive grant funding. He explained that updating these Plan Documents involved more time and work than one may think. He stated during the time he previously served on the Planning & Zoning Commission that the work to update the Plan of Conservation & Development was completely done in-house by Commission, which was the reason they were not able to update all of the Sections. Therefore, he stated the Planning & Zoning Commission was looking to engage Professional Consulting Services to assist with this process and to help with the requirements of House Bill #5002 (Affordable Housing Plan). He stated that because the process to update the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) could take 18-months or longer; by having these funds in their Capital Account to engage Professional Services the funds would be used over a period of time, explaining that the Capital Funds roll over from one year to the next.

Chairman Rodriguez stated prior to tonight's meeting that she spoke to Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Marty Wood and Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick. She stated the town was required to update the Plan of Conservation & Development every ten-years, noting that because it was updated in 2020 that the next update was not due until 2030. Therefore, she questioned when the Affordable Housing Plan needed to be done. Mr. Woody stated he believed that the Affordable Housing Plan needed to be done by 2027 per House Bill #5002. Chairman Rodriguez went on to note that during her conversation with Ms. Burdick that she stated although the Planning & Zoning Commission was not going to immediately start the work to update these Town Plan Documents that they would need to transfer the money from their Professional Consultant Services Operating Budget to their Capital Budget by June 30, 2025; which was the reason the Town Council had to have tonight's Special Meeting. She stated because the Town Council had previously cancelled this meeting as part of their Summer Meeting Schedule, that she was grateful that all of the Town Councilors were able to make it tonight.

Chairman Rodriguez went on to note that Ms. Burdick explained that it would take some time to prepare and solicit Request for Proposal/Request for Qualifications (RFP/RFQ) for Professional Consulting Services; however, the money needed to be in-place to start the process. Mr. Woody agreed with Chairman Rodriguez's comments, and he stated that once the funding was in-place that the Land Use Office would prepare and solicit the Requests for Proposals for Professional Consulting Services to assist with updating the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AFP). He stated in reaching out to neighboring towns who recently updated their Plan Documents that the Town of Stonington's cost for a third-party consultant to update their Plan Documents was \$150,000. However, Mr. Woody stated the Planning & Zoning Commission was hoping by doing some of the work themselves that they could reduce costs.

Chairman Rodriguez stated in speaking to Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Marty Wood that he indicated that at the Commission's May 8, 2025 meeting that they voted to approve to request the Town Council transfer the \$60,000 from their Professional Consultants Operating Budget to their Plan of Conservation & Development Capital Budget; and she questioned the current balance of the Capital Budget. Mr. Woody stated he believed the Plan of Conservation & Development Capital Account's current balance was about \$17,000. He also noted in addition to approving the funds be transferred; that the Planning & Zoning Commission also authorized Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick to begin the process to prepare and solicit Requests for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/RFQ) to engage a Professional Consultant to assist with updating these Plan Documents. He stated by having the work in-progress to update the Plan of Conservation Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) that it would allow Ledyard to incorporate and comply with the requirements and any changes contained in House Bill #5002 (Affordable Housing Plan).

Councilor Barnes questioned what would happen if they did approve to transfer the funds before June 30, 2025. Chairman Rodriguez stated if the Town Council does not act tonight to transfer the \$60,000 from the Professional Consulting Services to the Capital Account for POCD Professional Consulting Services to assist with updating the Plan of Conservation &

Development that the funding would be swept along with any other remaining funding into the Undesignated Fund at year end. Councilor Barnes stated he supported updating the Plan of Conservation & Development and the Affordable Housing Plan; however, he stated that he thought allowing the funding to be swept into the Undesignated Fund would provide the town with more flexibility.

Chairman Rodriguez questioned whether Mayor Allyn, III, had any comments regarding Councilor Barnes' suggestion to allow the \$60,000 to be swept into the Undesignated Fund. Mayor Allyn explained that if they do not transfer the \$60,000 from the Land Use Department's Professional Consultant Services Operating Budget to their Capital Account at this point in the fiscal year, that the funds would be swept into the Undesignated Fund as Chairman Rodriguez stated. He went on to explain that the process to move the funds from the Undesignated Fund to the Land Use Capital Account would be the same process the Town Council was considering this evening. He stated next fiscal year (fy 25/26) which would commence on July 1, 2025; that several transfers would be needed to move the funds from the Undesignated Fund into the Land Use Capital Account to facilitate the work to update the Plan of Conservation & Development and the Affordable Housing Plan.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned what if they do not spend all of the money for Professional Consultant Services to update the Town's Plan Documents. Mayor Allyn stated that the funds would either remain in the Capital Account or in the Undesignated Fund, noting that they do not have to spend all of the money. However, he explained the funding in the Undesignated Fund are not earmarked for any specific purpose.

Councilor Buhle stated that she had the same thought as Councilor Barnes, which was to do nothing and allow the remaining \$60,000 in the Land Use Professional Consulting Services Operating Budget to get swept into the Undesignated Fund.

Councilor Buhle went on to state that she had concerns regarding this request because the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 was a contentious budget, noting that they looked at every single penny. She stated the Planning & Zoning Commission did not request funding in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget to update the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP). Therefore, she stated that it appears this work was an afterthought, because the Commission had money left-over and so they now decided to take on this project.

Councilor Buhle continued by stating that she understands that House Bill #5002 was going to be approved by the State Legislature and the Governor; and that she would like to see the Town's Plan Documents updated. However, she stated that this request felt like it was unplanned, especially because the Planning & Zoning Commission did not take action to start the process to address the Plan of Conservation and the Affordable Housing Plan until May 8, 2025.

Chairman Rodriguez stated when she heard about the need to schedule a Special Meeting to address the transfer of these funds before June 30, 2025; that she questioned why this was not brought up sooner, noting that the Town Council held multiple meetings since the Planning & Zoning Commission's May 8, 2025 Meeting. She stated that her first thought was the same as Councilor Barnes's question, which was "*Why do we have to do this now?*"; noting that in the back of her head was Councilor Dombrowski's words which were "*Something always happens when thing are done at the last minute, and we have to jump over hoops to get it done*"; and she commented that the Town Council has had to do that many times lately.

Mr. Woody stated when Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick looked at the previous calendar; there was a Town Council meeting scheduled for June 25, 2025 and so they thought that they would go through the process to present their request at the Finance Committee's June 18, 2025 and then move onto the Town Council's agenda on June 25, 2025.

Councilor Barnes noted that there were a few Town Council meetings where they had to make some tough decisions regarding the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. Therefore, he questioned had they known that this \$60,000 was available, whether they would they have cut some of the things they cut, or whether they would have taken as much funding from the Mil Rate



Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund); noting that this would have been consistent with Councilor Ryan's comments. He stated to be transparent that his preference would be to not approve the \$60,000 and let the funds go into the Undesignated Fund at year end and then allow the Mayor to make a decision on how best to use those funds in the coming year.

Mayor Allyn responded to Councilor Barnes' comments stating that he did not have any plans to use funding from the Undesignated Fund. He explained once the funding goes into the Undesignated Fund that as unanticipated expenses arise the funding could be appropriated from the Undesignated Fund using this very same process through another special meeting, or perhaps a regular meeting, noting the appropriation of funding from the Undesignated Fund would require Town Council action.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned how the update to the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) would be affected if the Town Council does not approve to transfer the \$60,000 from the Land Use Professional Consulting Services Operating Budget to the Land Use Capital Account. Mayor Allyn stated that they would not be able to solicit Requests for Proposals for Professional Consultants to engage services to begin the process to update these Town Plan Documents, noting that the work would be delayed until the funding was in-place.

Mr. Woody explained that because updating the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) was a long process, that the objective was to have the funding available for when it was needed, noting the time involved to prepare, solicit and review the Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/RFQ).

Councilor Saccone stated if the Town Council does not approve to transfer the \$60,000 from the Land Use Department's Operating Budget to their Capital Account this evening that the Planning & Zoning Commission would have to wait until next fiscal year's budget. Therefore, he stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission would not be able to even start the process (prepare and solicit Request for Proposals/Qualifications) until July of 2026; noting that with the approval of House Bill #5002 that the town would need to have their Affordable Housing Plan in place by 2027. He stated every year the town continues to kick the can down the road, and he noted that delaying the process to update these required Town Plan Documents would not only cost the town more, but that it would also impact the amount of time they would have to conduct their work.

Chairman Rodriguez stated it was her understanding that although the Legislature has approved House Bill #5002 that they were going to make some adjustments to the Bill and reconsider it in September, 2025. Mayor Allyn stated they may have a Special Session; therefore, he stated that House Bill #5002 could move along quickly because the Legislature would be primarily focused on that Bill. He noted during his Press Conference that Governor Lamont stated that he has spoken to House and Senate Leaders, so they know exactly what they needed to do. Therefore, Mayor Allyn stated in September, 2025 that they would make a couple of changes and that he thought the House Bill would pass.

Councilor Dombrowski noted as Chairman Rodriguez alluded to earlier this evening, that he does not like it when they rush to get things done at the last minute, without following the process. He stated that he 100% supported updating the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the thought process to address Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) concurrently so they could comply with House Bill #5002. However, he stated because this request to transfer the \$60,000 from the Land Use Department's Operating Budget to their Capital Budget did not seem to follow the process that he thought a better route would be for these funds to go into the Undesignated Fund, and then the Planning & Zoning Commission could submit a request to the Finance Committee to transfer the funds from the Undesignated Fund to the Land Use Capital Budget to support this work.

Councilor Ryan, attending remotely via Zoom, stated at the Finance Committee's June 18, 2025 meeting they voted 2-0 to recommend the Town Council approve the request to transfer this \$60,000 from the Land Use Department's Professional Consulting Operating Budget to their Capital Account to be used to engage Professional Consultants to assist with updating the Town's Plan Documents. He stated the reason he supported the request was because there

was a need for professional services to assist the Land Use Director with everyday expectations, as well as long term strategic items such as updating the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) which he has been a part of in other communities. He stated that it was a very long and arduous process, noting that was the reason it was only updated every 10-years; and the reason it was important to begin the process early.

Councilor Ryan continued by noting during the Finance Committee's June 18, 2025 meeting they also talked about House Bill #5002 "Affordable House Plan". He stated because the intended use of the \$60,000 was to engage the needed professional services to assist the Land Use Department to execute its mission that he supported the transfer of these funds from the Land Use Department's Operating Budget to the Land Use Capital Budget.

Councilor Ryan went on to address the point regarding the current budget year and the next budget year in terms of the finances. He noted Councilor Saccone's comments this evening about things not getting cheaper. Therefore, he stated it was important to have the funding available right now to update the Plan of Conservation & Development because they may not have the funding available in future budget cycles to comply with the State's requirements to update these Town Plan Documents. He stated as far as the clarity and the cleanliness of how they transfer money, that he was open to considerations on how to do that. He concluded his comments by stating that this was a valid use of the funds.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned whether they thought they may need more than \$60,000 to update the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP). Mr. Woody stated that he could not answer Councilor Garcia-Irizarry's question, noting that the advantage of having the money set aside in the Capital Account was that they would have funding in place to engage an outside Consultant to assist the Planning & Zoning Commission with their work. He explained that the Request for Proposals/Qualification (RFP/RFQ) would be to engage Professional Consultant Services.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned whether they thought they may need to engage more than one outside Consultant or need other Experts, and whether the Planning & Zoning Commission would come back to the Town Council for more money in the future. Mr. Woody explained the work to update the Plan of Conservation & Development would be a more controlled spend than it might be for professional services to assist with an Application, because they would know going-in what they could ask for. Therefore, he stated that they would be able to scale that request for the outside consultants by telling them what they wanted to get done, and the amount of money they had to spend. He went on to explain that updating the Plan of Conservation & Development was the type of work where the Planning & Zoning Commission could do as much work as they could; and then outside Consultant could step-in and do the work that the Commission cannot do, therefore, he thought that it was a low risk.

Councilor Brunelle, attending remotely via Zoom, stated that she thought the planning and conservation for affordable housing was very important. She stated that she has listened to all pros and cons; and she stated that it was important, and was good planning to put money aside. However she stated that she did not feel comfortable with moving the money now because "*It is a nice to have*"; noting that "*It was not a must have*" right now. She stated as of right now this was not a "*Must have emergency*". She stated she was tempted to say "*No, for now*", because it could always go into Undesignated, and when it was needed and necessary, they could get the money from the Undesignated Fund.

Councilor Saccone stated the Land Use Department has \$60,000 left in their Operating Budget that they want to transfer to their Capital Budget for a specific use, which was to update the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP), which was a state requirement; and he noted that there were only a few days left before June 30, 2025 for this fiscal year. He stated that he understands this process noting that as the former Fire Chief of the Gales Ferry Fire Company he has done this same thing several times. He stated that next year's budget was already set and because there was no funding to update the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) that they were going to have to find the money from somewhere. Therefore, he stated made sense to transfer these funds to the Capital Account to be used to update the Plan of Conservation (POCD) and that he was in-favor of the request, noting that the money was not going to be used foolishly.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned: (1) Who the Land Use Department was going to hire?; (2) When was that going to happen?; (3) Do we broadcast to the world so firms will respond to the bid inquiry?; and (4) They would most likely interview the companies and then select one. She stated the reason she was asking these questions was because if they were going to hire somebody next week; then she could see the point of moving the money; and not to postponing it, because it would cost more in the long run. However, she stated that since they do not have a plan yet of who they were going to hire, and when it was going to be done, then they really do not know if it was going to cost more. She stated once the Planning & Zoning Commission decided that they need these people to help them out that they could come here and ask for the money; which would probably take a period of maybe a month or two. However, she stated if the Planning & Zoning Commission was not going to need the money for two or three years that the money would be sitting there for a while not doing anything. She stated that she thought the Land Use Department's intent was to move forward with the Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/RFQ) relatively soon. Therefore, she stated the question was what the timeline was from when they put that RFP/RFQ out to getting and evaluating the Bids.

Mr. Woody stated that he did not know what that timeline would look like, and therefore, he could not answer Councilor Garcia-Irizarry's questions. However, he stated from his past experience in serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission and working on the Plan of Conservation & Development Committee (POCD) that he could tell her that it was a long process with many meetings and workshops. He stated what he was concerned about was the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) because the town was going to be required to have Plan in-place by 2027 in accordance with House Bill #5002; which was sooner than the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD). He went on to explain that with House Bill #5002 that he did not know what future holds for them, which was the reason Planning & Zoning Commission made a motion to bring this request forward to the Town Council. He stated it would have been nice to know more about the details of House Bill #5002 a head of time; however, he commented that was neither here nor there.

Chairman Rodriguez stated because of her background and experience in previously serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission that she would vote "Yes" on this request to transfer the \$60,000 from the Land Use Operating Budget to their Capital Budget to allow them to move forward with the process to address these required Town Documents (Plan of Conservation (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP)).

Councilor Buhle stated that this would be her last comment, noting as she previously said, that she would feel a lot better about transferring the \$60,000 if the Land Use Department had requested funding in their 2025/2026 Capital Budget to update these Town Plan Documents; and if the Town Council had cut the money during the budget process, and now there was money remaining from the Land Use Department's 2024/2025 Budget, that could be used for this work.

Councilor Buhle stated that she definitely agreed with Councilor Saccone that when they do not do these things they cost more money later. But she said that it also feels weird to say, that they were telling police officers to drive cruisers for one more year, and they were putting off fire trucks for another year, and they were putting off a bunch of other things to save money, and then they were looking for funding to update the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) five years early, noting that she understands that it takes time. However, she stated that it feels like it does not line up with the others cuts and changes that were made around town. She stated that she was having a hard time balancing *"How much of a need this was; versus how much of a want this was to get this started now; and could it wait until next year?"*.

Councilor Buhle stated that she understands the idea that they have to fund updating the Plan of Conservation (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP). However, she stated that this was not free money, noting that the funding would go into the Undesignated Fund which could serve different purposes that may come up for the town. She stated that she was having a hard time balancing the idea that updating the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) was suddenly an absolute Capital Need; versus why it was not requested in March, 2025 when they were preparing the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. Therefore, she stated that transferring these funds does not line up with the budget they worked on.

Mr. Woody apologized that the Land Use Department did not start this process earlier, and therefore, he stated that he respected the Town Council’s concerns. However, he stated that updating the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) was not a “*Nice to Have*”; stating that this was something the Town was “*Required to do per State Statute*”. He stated whether or not there was a benefit to put this work off for a year was the Town Council’s decision. However, he stated that updating these Town Plan Documents was something that they will have to do; and he explained that there was no downside to starting this process earlier; except for the questions the Town Council raised about where the money would come from; and when they choose to decide to allocate the money to facilitate updating these Town Plan Documents to comply with state requirements.

VOTE                    3 – 6 Motion Failed (Barnes, Brunelle Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, St. Vil not in favor)

MOTION FAILED 3 - 6	
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
AYES:	Rodriguez, Ryan, Saccone
NAYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, St. Vil

XV.    ADJOURNMENT

VOTE:                    Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry.  
9 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m.

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

I, S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council,  
hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and  
correct copy of the minutes of the Special Town Council  
Meeting held on June 25, 2025.

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



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2184

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:**

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AGENDA ITEM  
CORRESPONDENCE

**Subject:**

Communications List - July 9, 2025

**Correspondence List:**

(type text here)

## COMMUNICATIONS LISTING FOR JULY 9, 2025

### INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) ltr dated 6/25/2025 re: Action Ltr Meeting of June 24, 2025
2. Human Resources Director ltr dated 6/14/2025 re: Town Council 6/11/2025 Action reduce Floater Salary – Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget
3. Retirement Board ltr dated 6/17/2025 re: Actions Meeting of June 17, 2025
4. Mr. Hosey email dated 6/17/2025 re: Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget
5. Ms. Merando email dated 6/14/2025 re: Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget
6. DTC email dated 6/23/2025 re: Endorse Appointment Philopena- Board of Assessment Appeals
7. Social Services Coordinator/Councilor Garcia-Irizarry email thread dated 6/26/2025 re: Op Ed Article – The New London Day Newspaper -Request Correction
8. Permanent Municipal Building Committee ltr dated 6/30/3035 re: Resignation Peterson – Per Ordinance #100-015 “*An Ordinance Creating a Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Town of Ledyard*”
9. Ms. Venkateswaran/Tax Assessor email thread dated 7/1/2025 re: Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Tax-Mil Rate Increase
10. Ms. Venkateswaran/Representative Howard email thread dated 7/1/2025- 7/7/2025 re: Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Tax-Mil Rate Increase
11. Ms. Cili email dated 7/5/2025 re: Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Tax-Mil Rate Increase
12. Ms. Greco email dated 7/8/2025 re: Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget – Board of Education
13. Agricultural Cmt & RTC dated 7/87/2025 re: Reappointment Recommendation
14. Beautification Cmt-DTC-RTC dated 7/7/2025 re: Request Reappointment Recommendation
15. Mayor ltr dated 7/9/2025 re: Reappointment Recommendation – Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)
16. Board of Education Chairman ltr dated 7/8/2025 re: Request Bid Waiver Emergency Replacement Chiller -Gales Ferry School
17. Board of Education Member Graber email dated 7/7/2025 re: Town Council Chairman Rodriguez Resignation
18. Councilor Barnes email dated 7/7/2025 re: Town Council Chairman Rodriguez Resignation

### OUT GOING CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 6/12/2025 re: Action ltr. Town Council Regular Meeting of June 11, 2025
- 2 Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 6/19/2025 re: Action ltr. Town Council Sp. Meeting June 18, 2025 – Finalize & Approve Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget
- 3 Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 6/19/2025 re: Action ltr. Town Council Sp. Meeting June 18, 2025 – Mil Rate Fiscal Year 2025/2025 37.14.
- 4 Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 6/26/2025 re: Action ltr. Town Council Special Meeting of June 25, 2025
- 5 LTC ltr to Bacon dated 6/26/2025 re: Reappointment to Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission
- 6 LTC ltr to Hawes dated 6/26/2025 re: Reappointment to Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission
- 7 LTC ltr to Crocker dated 6/26/2025 re: Reappointment to Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Commission
- 8 LTC ltr to Foltz dated 6/26/2025 re: Reappointment to Farmers Market Committee

- 9 Admin Asst ltr to Farmers Market Cmt. dated 6/24/2025 re: Request Reappointment Recommendation
- 10 Chairman Memo dated 6/13/2025 re: Out of Town Assignment of Duties-Chairman Pro-tem Barns 6/15- 6/18/2025
- 11 Admin Asst ltr to Agricultural Cmt & RTC dated 6/24/2025 re: Request Reappointment Recommendation
- 12 Admin Asst ltr to Beautification Cmt-DTC-RTC dated 6/24/2025 re: Request Reappointment Recommendation
- 13 Admin Asst ltr to Mayor dated 6/24/2025 re: Request Reappointment Recommendation – Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)
- 14 LTC email to Board of Education dated 7/7/2025 re: Councilor Buhle to attend Ledyard Teachers Association Negotiations
- 15 Chairman Rodriguez email dated 7/7/2025 re: Resign from Town Council

#### NOTICE OF AGENDAS

1. Public Safety Committee Agenda 6/16/2025
2. Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Agenda 6/17/2025
3. Agricultural Commission Agenda 6/17/2025
4. Retirement Board Agenda 6/16/2025
5. Zoning Board of Appeals 6/18/2025 Cancelled
6. Historic District Commission Agenda 6/16/2025
7. Library Commission Agenda 6/16/2025
8. Water Pollution Control Authority Agenda 6/24/2025
9. Permanent Municipal Building Committee Sp. Agenda 7/7/2025
10. Permanent Municipal Building Committee Agenda 7/7/2025
11. Ledyard Beautification Cmt Agenda 7/1/2025
12. Economic Development Commission Agenda 7/1/2025
13. Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission Agenda 7/1/2025
14. Farmers Market Committee Agenda 7/3/2025- Cancelled
15. Conservation Commission Agenda 7/8/2025
16. Planning & Zoning Agenda 7/10/2025
17. Finance Cmt Agenda 7/2/2025- Cancelled
18. LUPPW Cmt Agenda 7/7/2025
19. Administration Cmt Agenda 7/9/2025
20. Town Council Sp. Agenda 6/18/2025
21. Town Council Agenda 6/25/2025 - Cancelled
22. Town Council Sp. Agenda 6/25/2025
23. Town Council Agenda 7/9/2025

#### MINUTES

1. Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Minutes 5/20/2025
2. Agricultural Commission Minutes 5/20/2025
3. Retirement Board Minutes 5/20/2025

4. Historic District Commission Minutes 5/19/2025
5. Library Commission Minutes 5/19/2025
6. Water Pollution Control Authority Minutes 5/27/2025
7. Permanent Municipal Building Committee Sp. Minutes 6/2/2025
8. Permanent Municipal Building Committee Minutes 6/2/2025
9. Ledyard Beautification Cmt Minutes 6/3/2025
10. Economic Development Commission Minutes 6/3/2025
11. Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission Minutes 6/3/2025
12. Conservation Commission Minutes 6/10/2025
13. Planning & Zoning Minutes 6/12/2025
14. LUPPW Cmt Agenda 6/2/2025
15. Administration Cmt Agenda 6/11/2025
16. Town Council Minutes 6/11/2025
17. Town Council SP. Minutes 6/18/2025
18. Town Council Sp. Minutes 6/25/2025
19. Town Council Sp. Minutes 5/27/2025
20. Public Hearing Minutes 6/4/2025
21. Town Council Sp. Minutes 6/49/2025

## REFERRALS

### Administration Committee

1. DTC email dated 6/23/2025 re: Endorse Appointment Philopena- Board of Assessment Appeals
2. Permanent Municipal Building Committee ltr dated 6/30/3035 re: Resignation Peterson – Per Ordinance #100-015 “*An Ordinance Creating a Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Town of Ledyard*”
3. Agricultural Cmt & RTC dated 7/87/2025 re: Reappointment Recommendation
4. Beautification Cmt-DTC-RTC dated 7/7/2025 re: Request Reappointment Recommendation
5. Mayor ltr dated 7/9/2025 re: Reappointment Recommendation – Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA)





# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Chairman Ed Lynch

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3220  
E-Mail Address:  
[wpcaledyard@ledyardct.org](mailto:wpcaledyard@ledyardct.org)

June 26, 2025

Mayor Fred B. Allyn, III  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn:

At its Regular Meeting held on June 24, 2025, the WPCA took the following actions. Please feel free to contact Chairman Lynch should you have any questions regarding this meeting.

- Approved payment to Groton Utilities Invoice #1173, dated November 30, 2024, in the amount of \$4143.36, for Police overtime on November 24, 2024.
- Approved payment to Groton Utilities Invoice #0024119, dated July 30, 2024, in the amount of \$235.00, for diversion permits.
- Approved payment to Groton Utilities invoice #0028309, dated May 30, 2025, in the amount of \$701.06, for lead inventory.
- Approved hydraulic model calibration, field verification, and water age analysis by Wright-Pierce Engineering, not to exceed \$9,500.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Hostetler  
Town Hall Assistant

cc: Mayor  
Director of Finance  
Treasurer/Assistant Director of Finance  
Town Council

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Anita Merando <armerando@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 14, 2025 2:03 PM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher; Town Council Group  
**Subject:** Regarding the budget process

Dear Mayor and Members of the Ledyard Town Council,

I attended the meeting following the second defeat of the Town and BOE budgets, and was dismayed by the level of disrespect that I observed. I truly believed Ledyard to be a kind and caring community. But, the words I heard used toward Council members were disheartening and chilling.

I am a woman who owns her own home, and lives primarily on social security. I can not afford a tax increase. But I am also a woman who has been a teacher and mother, and I know that what makes a town a community is the way we take care of one another, with honesty and integrity. The services that a town affords low-income and senior residents is a statement of a town's values. Serving the needs of all children is the mandate of a caring community.

What I heard at that meeting was disregard for facts, and a lot of finger pointing and blame. We can't fix what happened during this entire budget process, but I can make requests as we move forward.

First of all, I want to thank everyone for the hard work involved in governance. It can at times seem thankless, but I want you to know that your work is seen and appreciated.

I suggest that all information that comes before the Town Council, especially in areas of budgeting, be accurate and confirmed. I will never believe that anyone on the Council would have intentionally cut the salary of any administrator. Once misinformation seeps into the community it breeds division. This is fair to no one. I don't know who is responsible for the accuracy of information presented in a budget, but I now believe there needs to be someone on Council who will double check the information.

The delay of building upgrades is unfortunate. I know from my own experience that delayed maintenance leads to additional costs.

There seems to be an antagonistic relationship between Republicans and Democrats, and I believe it leads to more misunderstandings and misinformation on social media. We elect our government officials to collaborate and cooperate, and it is my desire to see better and timely communication between the Mayor and Town Council.

I will say again that I have great admiration for the work that all parties put into the budget and overall governance. Please, consider working together for the benefit of all of us.

Sincerely,  
Anita Merando  
67 Homestead Rd  
Ledyard, CT 06339  
(845)891-9303



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

HUMAN RESOURCES  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3226  
FAX (860) 464-1126

June 12, 2025

Dear Mayor Allyn:

After reviewing the change made to the Town Hall Floater line item at the Town Council meeting on June 11, 2025, I wanted to alert you to the impact to that position. The Town Hall Floater is part of the Town Hall and Library collective bargaining unit, which has a 3% contractual increase for FY2026. The line item, 1011-0201-51305, has been reduced to \$19,000 and the hourly rate has increased to \$19.58 per the collective bargaining unit for that position. In order to stay within the new budgeted line item amount, the position would need to be cut to 18.66 hours per week. To qualify for health insurance, employees within this union must work a minimum of 20 hours per week.

Please let me know how if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Christine Dias  
Director of Human Resources



Chairman John Rodolico

# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## CONNECTICUT

### RETIREMENT BOARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3220

June 17, 2025

Mayor Fred B. Allyn, III  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn:

At its Regular Meeting held on June 17, 2025, the Retirement Board took the following actions.

- Authorized payment of invoice #609\_06302025, to Fiducient Advisors, dated June 10, 2025, in the amount of \$12,849.65, for consulting costs for the Town of Ledyard Defined Benefit Pension Plan for the billing period April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Hostetler  
Town Hall Assistant

cc: Director of Finance  
Director of Human Resources  
Treasurer  
Town Council

**Roxanne Maher**

---

**From:** George Hosey <ghosey924@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 3:36 PM  
**To:** Town Council Group  
**Cc:** Jay Hartling; Fred Allyn, III; BOE  
**Subject:** Budget

Dear TC and BOE members,

I'll start by saying I do not envy you the task before you as you attempt to finalize the town budget. Never an easy process, but seems to be especially contentious this year.

As usual, the diverse factions of the town are in vehement disagreement. It's certainly understandable that those with means and/or with kids in the schools would wholeheartedly support the budget, while those on fixed incomes or without kids would feel differently. It's also reasonable that some want an expanded tax base while others prefer to keep Ledyard a "bedroom community".

What is, I'm sure, exasperating for you all is that small but loud faction that thinks we can have it both ways when we cannot. We cannot continue to chase economic development opportunities out of town AND then turn around and complain that we have no economic development. That's simply ridiculous.

As the Council weighs the options and tries to balance the various points of view, I would ask the following:

- Those of you playing party line politics (you know who you are), please stop. The town needs a budget, so it's time to put that crap aside and get the work done in the best interest of the town. Quibbling endlessly over a fraction of a mil is not really productive.
- Please pass the budget with a minimum of additional cuts. Make no mistake, I fully understand that that is easy for me to say as one of those folks with a kid in the schools

and for whom a couple hundred bucks a year will not make or break my family and me. That said:

- As has been discussed at length, Ledyard has for a long time, been on the low end of per-student funding for its schools.
- It is not the town or schools' fault that inflation from 2021-2024 was a cumulative 21%, and whether we like it or not, we're playing catch-up. It's easy when inflation is ~2% to say budget increases should be in line with inflation, but I don't recall any of those same voices clamoring to be "in line with inflation" when inflation was 9% three years ago.
- Good schools are still the number 1 thing people thinking of moving to Ledyard are going to look for.

My 2 cents (adjusted to \$1.38 for inflation and increased to \$3.25 for unfunded mandates) ☺

Thank you for your attention.

**George Hosey**

**Roxanne Maher**

---

**From:** So Rodriguez <ledyarddtcncnaomi@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 9:17 AM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** Vacancy on Board of Assessment Appeals - Mr. James Philopena

Good Morning Roxanne,

The DTC Nominating Committee has voted on 6/20/25 regarding endorsement of Mr. James Philopena (D) to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals to fill an empty regular seat (D).

Respectfully,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chair  
Ledyard DTC Nominating Committee

## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** Carmen Garcia Irizarry  
**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** Kristen Chapman  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** Re: Op Ed - Social Services Department Closure

Hi Kristen,

Yes, I am aware of the Ordinance as it came through the Administration Committee when I was the Chair. I am also aware that the Ordinance was modified to change the “Youth and Social Services Board” to only “Social Services Board”. At the time, it was explained to us that one of the reasons to make the changes was because the majority of the Youth services were already provided by the schools. Unfortunately, GFS/JWL had a period of time in which they didn’t have any counselors/clinicians from the Child & Family Agency as the state had stopped the program for that school. Thankfully, there were ARPA funds available that were used for this purpose and GFS/JWL was able to get the clinician again.

I will email The Day to ask them to change the word “Social” for “Youth” so there’s no confusion and as that’s really the only thing that is mentioned in the Op-Ed about these type of services.

Since I don’t know how long will it take for The Day to make any updates to the article, before you replied to my email, I had already wrote some information in the comments section of the article to make sure that residents that read the Op-Ed knew of the type of services the town provides and who to contact for those. Below is the link to the Op-Ed in case you have any doubts.



Thank you for your prompt reply to my email. Have a great weekend and 4th of July since that’s next week and Town Council doesn’t have any meetings scheduled.

Respectfully,



Carmen N. Garcia-Irizarry

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 27, 2025, at 11:50 AM, Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org> wrote:

Good morning Carmen,

The Social Services Department consists of myself as the Social Services Coordinator and Mayor Allyn serves as the Director of Social Services. For your understanding the only changes that have occurred was with the restructuring of Youth Counseling Services to the Child & Family Agency School-Based Health Centers which prompted amending Ordinance #100-011 (rev 2) "An Ordinance Establishing a Social Services Board for the Town of Ledyard" which was revised on October 22, 2024 to remove references to the Youth Services Department. The Social Services Department has remained intact with no change or reduction to any programming or services offered for our residents. You are correct there are no funds allocated in the budget for the Social Services Department as all programs are funded through community donations and grants.

Thank you for reaching out for clarification, I trust that you will submit a correction to your OP Ed that was published on June 26, 2025 to clarify that "The Ledyard Social Services Department has not closed and all programs and services remain intact. With regards to the Youth Services Department, youth counseling services are now provided through the Child & Family Agency School-Based Health Centers. All services are still being provided."

It is critically important to eliminate the confusion for our residents that currently rely on and/or are seeking these essential services. Should you or any residents have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-464-3222 or visit our website.

[Social Services | Ledyard, CT - Official Website](#)

Kind Regards,  
Kristen

---

**From:** Carmen Garcia Irizarry <CGIri@ledyardct.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2025 9:43 AM  
**To:** Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org>  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Op Ed - Social Services Department Closure

Hi Kristen,

Thank you for emailing me. I just have a couple of questions. My understanding is that we don't have a Social Services Department with counselors, supervisors, etc. The Town provides certain services with your help. When looking at the approved budgets for FY 2025 and FY 2026, there's no money allocated for a Social Services Department (counselor, supervisors, operating expenses, pantry expenses). Perhaps the correction should be to say that "the Youth & Social Services Department was eliminated and

replaced with the Social Services Coordinator located at the Town Hall". Let me know what you think and I will contact The Day ASAP.

Thank you for your help with this. Very much appreciated. I hope you have a great weekend!!

Respectfully,  
Carmen

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 26, 2025, at 3:14 PM, Kristen Chapman  
<[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org)> wrote:

Good afternoon Carmen,

It was brought to my attention that the Op Ed in The Day Newspaper today stated the that Social Services Department closed. The Social Services department did not close, I believe you may be referring to the Youth Services department closure as counseling services are now offered through Child & Family Agency within the schools. I am concerned as I do not want residents to be alarmed or think that we no longer offer Social Services through the Town. We are providing the same programs and level of services. Would you like me to contact The Day to make this correction or would you prefer to contact them yourself.

Kind Regards,  
Kristen

*Kristen Chapman*

<IMAGE001.PNG>

Executive Assistant to the Mayor/  
Social Services Coordinator  
Town of Ledyard  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339  
860-464-3222  
[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org)

**Town Hall Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**  
**CLOSED FRIDAYS**



**TOWN OF LEDYARD  
CONNECTICUT  
PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

741 Colonel Ledyard Hwy  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339  
860-464-3222

Chairman Joseph Gush

June 3, 2025

Ms. Elizabeth Peterson  
15 Browns Crossing  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Dear Ms. Peterson:

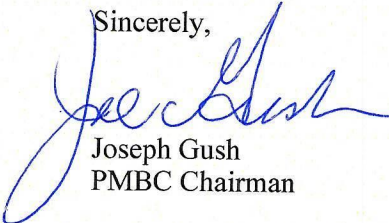
I suspect this is a time when it is just not possible for you to attend the monthly Permanent Municipal Building Committee meeting and participate as fully as I'm sure you would like.

Section 4 of Ordinance #100-015 "*An Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Town of Ledyard*" states: Any member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings and any intervening duly called special meetings shall be considered to have resigned from the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for volunteering. Your donation of time will always be greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any issues that need to be discussed.

Sincerely,



Joseph Gush  
PMBC Chairman

Cc: Town Clerk  
Town Council  
Permanent Municipal Building Committee

## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** kala venkateswaran <kala.venkateswaran@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 2:55 PM  
**To:** Naomi Rodriguez; greg.howard@cga.ct.gov; brian.lanoue@cga.ct.gov; kevin.ryan@cga.ct.gov; chris.marino@cga.ct.gov  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher; William Barnes; April Brunelle; Jessica Buhle; Carmen Garcia Irizarry; Kevin J. Dombrowski; Timothy Ryan; Tony Saccone; Gary St. Vil  
**Subject:** Ledyard Property Tax increased way more than the inflation rate - Why this burden on the community

Hello Naomi/ Greg/ Brian/ Kevin/ Chris,

I am Kala venkateswaran, the owner of 14 Capt Amos Stanton Drive, Ledyard CT. I am sending this note to you because I noticed that the property tax for this year has been increased by 5.48% in my case. The inflation rate last year was 2.9% . I would like to understand why there is a 5.48% increase in property taxes and how the State and Ledyard representatives are able to justify such a huge raise. With such high cost for groceries and daily essentials and wages being stagnant/ reduced for the past 5 years and high unemployment, how does your department not take that into consideration ? I really need to understand this as I am unemployed and every dollar counts for me.

When I sent a note to the Ledyard tax assessor, Adrianna Hedwall; she directed me to you all. In her note she has stated that "the determination of the mill rate is at the discretion of the finance department, with oversight from the Mayor and final approval by the Town Council. I can assure you that the current budget was thoughtfully prepared, considering the decrease in state funding, increased state mandated exemptions, and inflation. "

I would sincerely appreciate it if you can acknowledge the receipt of this e-mail and give me guidance on how to get it reduced. This increase is NOT justifiable because it is definitely WAY MORE than the inflation rate. It shows a total lack of empathy for the community at large. I have NOT had any increase in my salary in the last 5 years.

Yours sincerely,  
Kala.

## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** kala venkateswaran <kala.venkateswaran@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 10:50 AM  
**To:** Rep. Howard, Greg  
**Cc:** Naomi Rodriguez; Rep. Lanoue, Brian; Rep. Ryan, Kevin; Marino, Chris; Roxanne Maher; William Barnes; April Brunelle; Jessica Buhle; Carmen Garcia Irizarry; Kevin J. Dombrowski; Timothy Ryan; Tony Saccone; Gary St. Vil  
**Subject:** Re: Ledyard Property Tax increased way more than the inflation rate - Why this burden on the community

Thanks a lot Tony Saccone and Rep Greg Howard for getting back to me. I will reach out to Tony Saccone to discuss this further.

On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 7:01 AM Rep. Howard, Greg <[Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Kala,

Thanks for the email, I was on vacation last week and just going through my emails now.

From my perspective as a State Rep, I would say that the town budget, as noted by Adrianna, is determined by town officials, ultimately the Town Council. She is correct that state funding plays a role on the revenue side and unfunded state mandates play a role on the appropriation side. I can speak for myself and Fred Allyn in that I make every attempt to block and unfunded mandates, and Fred has been in Hartford advocating for the same on behalf of his residents. I certainly try to get as much funding as I can to the three municipalities that I represents, and will note that the other two (Stonington and North Stonington) approved budgets with around a 4% increase.

I would say that you should hold every elected person accountable for any vote that increased taxes for you that was taken at the state level or at the local level and determine if those expenditures were necessary.

This year in Hartford, we fully funded Education Cost Share funding for Ledyard and passed a sweeping bill that will lower the cost of Special Education which should help on both sides of the budget.

Thanks,  
Greg

*Rep. Greg Howard*

Representative Greg Howard  
Ranking Member, Public Safety & Security Committee  
Member, Judiciary Committee, Education Committee  
43<sup>rd</sup> House District, CT  
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106

**From:** kala venkateswaran <[kala.venkateswaran@gmail.com](mailto:kala.venkateswaran@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 2:55 PM

**To:** [naomir@ledyardct.org](mailto:naomir@ledyardct.org) <[naomir@ledyardct.org](mailto:naomir@ledyardct.org)>; Rep. Howard, Greg <[Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Greg.Howard@cga.ct.gov)>; Rep. Lanoue, Brian <[Brian.Lanoue@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Brian.Lanoue@cga.ct.gov)>; Rep. Ryan, Kevin <[Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov)>; Marino, Chris <[Chris.Marino@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Chris.Marino@cga.ct.gov)>

**Cc:** [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org) <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)>; [wbar@ledyardct.org](mailto:wbar@ledyardct.org) <[wbar@ledyardct.org](mailto:wbar@ledyardct.org)>; [abru@ledyardct.org](mailto:abru@ledyardct.org) <[abru@ledyardct.org](mailto:abru@ledyardct.org)>; [jbu@ledyardct.org](mailto:jbu@ledyardct.org) <[jbu@ledyardct.org](mailto:jbu@ledyardct.org)>; [cgiri@ledyardct.org](mailto:cgiri@ledyardct.org) <[cgiri@ledyardct.org](mailto:cgiri@ledyardct.org)>; [kjdom@ledyardct.org](mailto:kjdom@ledyardct.org) <[kjdom@ledyardct.org](mailto:kjdom@ledyardct.org)>; [tryan@ledyardct.org](mailto:tryan@ledyardct.org) <[tryan@ledyardct.org](mailto:tryan@ledyardct.org)>; [tsac@ledyardct.org](mailto:tsac@ledyardct.org) <[tsac@ledyardct.org](mailto:tsac@ledyardct.org)>; [gsvil@ledyardct.org](mailto:gsvil@ledyardct.org) <[gsvil@ledyardct.org](mailto:gsvil@ledyardct.org)>

**Subject:** Ledyard Property Tax increased way more than the inflation rate - Why this burden on the community

Hello Naomi/ Greg/ Brian/ Kevin/ Chris,

I am Kala venkateswaran, the owner of 14 Capt Amos Stanton Drive, Ledyard CT. I am sending this note to you because I noticed that the property tax for this year has been increased by 5.48% in my case. The inflation rate last year was 2.9% . I would like to understand why there is a 5.48% increase in property taxes and how the State and Ledyard representatives are able to justify such a huge raise. With such high cost for groceries and daily essentials and wages being stagnant/ reduced for the past 5 years and high unemployment, how does your department not take that into consideration ? I really need to understand this as I am unemployed and every dollar counts for me.

When I sent a note to the Ledyard tax assessor, Adrianna Hedwall; she directed me to you all. In her note she has stated that "the determination of the mill rate is at the discretion of the finance department, with oversight from the Mayor and final approval by the Town Council. I can assure you that the current budget was thoughtfully prepared, considering the decrease in state funding, increased state mandated exemptions, and inflation. "

I would sincerely appreciate it if you can acknowledge the receipt of this e-mail and give me guidance on how to get it reduced. This increase is NOT justifiable because it is definitely WAY MORE than the inflation rate. It shows a total lack of empathy for the community at large. I have NOT had any increase in my salary in the last 5 years.

Yours sincerely,  
Kala.

--

"Ayurveda is to free the mind which is trapped in the body. Yoga is to free the soul which is trapped in the mind." ~Baba Hari Dass

## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** Roxanne Maher  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 5, 2025 9:01 PM  
**To:** Town Council Group; Adrianna Hedwall  
**Subject:** Fwd: Property tax question

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Andi Cili <ancili31@gmail.com>  
**Date:** July 5, 2025 at 5:45:17 PM EDT  
**To:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** Property tax question

Hi

My name is Andi Cili

I own a property in Ledyard CT at 678 Colonel Ledyard Highway

My property tax it is currently a

little over 10000 dollars a year. It is very high and I don't know why.

Can you please send me a method of calculating my property tax. I have spoken over the phone with the Tax collector office but I will like to have something in writing if it is possible.

Their office doesn't have an email address and this is the only email address that I found for the Town of Ledyard.

I will very much appreciate your response.

Thank you

Andi Cili

## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** Naomi Rodriguez  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 10:41 AM  
**To:** Anthony Favry  
**Cc:** BoE Members; Jay Hartling; Town Council Group  
**Subject:** Re: Ledyard BoE Notice of LEA Negotiations 2025

Good Morning Chairman Favry,

Thank you for your prior email regarding LEA negotiations commencing. Councilor Buhle will be present during the Ledyard Education Association negotiations process commencing 7/28/25. Councilor Buhle will be a positive and valued consultant to the negotiations team.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council

---

**From:** Anthony Favry <afavry@ledyard.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 8:24 AM  
**To:** Naomi Rodriguez <NaomiR@ledyardct.org>  
**Cc:** BoE Members <boemembers@ledyard.net>; Jay Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>; Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** Ledyard BoE Notice of LEA Negotiations 2025

Good Morning Chairman Rodriguez,

I am attaching a communication for your reference to provide notification of the upcoming LEA negotiations.

Should you have any questions, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,

Anthony Favry  
Chair, Ledyard Board of Education



## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** mj.cherry@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 10:31 AM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** RE: Reappointment Request - SCWA

Happy to continue  
Thanks

---

**From:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:38 AM  
**To:** Mike Cherry <mj.cherry@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** Reappointment Request - SCWA



Good Morning Mike:

Please find attached a request for your interest in continuing to serve as  
One of the Town's Representatives on SCWA.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I sent you a Word doc & PDF, Not sure which is easier for you.

Thank you,  
Roxanne

*Roxanne M. Maher*  
Administrative Assistant to  
The Ledyard Town Council  
(860) 910-6679  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Town Hall Hours:  
Monday – Thursday 7:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Closed on Friday



## Disclaimer

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**TOWN OF LEDYARD**  
**CONNECTICUT**  
**TOWN COUNCIL**

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
FAX (860) 464-1485  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 24, 2025

Ms. S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman  
Democratic Nominating Committee  
6 Saint Peters Court  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06359

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

Members of the Ledyard Beautification Committee are due for re-appointment as listed below. The Administration Committee of the Town Council would like your recommendations.

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office at [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

**Ledyard Beautification Committee**

**3 Year Term**

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Commission Recommendation	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Ms. Carol Christenson 129 Quakertown Road Ledyard, CT 06339	R	10/26/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor
Ms. Carol Ann Schneider 101 Incheliffe Drive Gales Ferry, ,CT 06225	D	10/26/2025	Y N	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y N	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Board's Comments:

The DTC Nominating Committee highly recommends Ms. Carol Schneider for re-appointment. She is an asset to the Beautification Committee.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council



**Roxanne Maher**

---

**From:** So Rodriguez <ledyarddtcncnaomi@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 6:13 AM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** Re-Appointment of Carol Schneider

Hello Roxanne,

The DTC Nominating Committee has voted on 7/2/25 to forward/recommend Ms. Carol Schneider to be re-appointed to the Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizens Commission. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chair  
DTC Nominating Committee

**Roxanne Maher**

---

**From:** So Rodriguez <ledyarddtcncnaomi@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 9:17 AM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** Vacancy on Board of Assessment Appeals - Mr. James Philopena

Good Morning Roxanne,

The DTC Nominating Committee has voted on 6/20/25 regarding endorsement of Mr. James Philopena (D) to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals to fill an empty regular seat (D).

Respectfully,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chair  
Ledyard DTC Nominating Committee



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
FAX (860) 464-1485  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

June 24, 2025

Mr. Bruce Garstka, Chairman  
Agricultural Commission  
10 Pleasant View  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mr. Garstka:

Members of the Ledyard Agricultural Commission are due for re-appointment as listed below. The Administration Committee of the Town Council would like your recommendations.

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office at [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

## Agricultural Commission

3 Year Term

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Commission Recommendation	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Ms. Allison Angelini 193 Iron Street Ledyard, CT 06339	U	9/24/2025	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Y <input type="radio"/> N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Ms. Katie Yuhas 34 Meetinghouse Lane Ledyard, CT 06339	U	9/24/2025	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Y <input type="radio"/> N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Mr. Steve Martic (Alternate) 59 R- 2 Long Pond South Ledyard, CT 06339	R	9/24/2025	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Y <input type="radio"/> N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor

Commission's Comments:

EACH MEMBER BRINGS A UNIQUE POSITION IN DISCUSSIONS  
WHICH IS VALUABLE FOR OUR MISSION.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council







# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
FAX (860) 464-1485  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

June 24, 2025

Mr. Cory Watford, Chairman  
Republican Nominating Committee  
429 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mr. Watford:

Members of the Ledyard Beautification Committee are due for re-appointment as listed below. The Administration Committee of the Town Council would like your recommendations.

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office at [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

## Ledyard Beautification Committee

3 Year Term

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Commission Recommendation	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Ms. Carol Christenson 129 Quakertown Road Ledyard, CT 06339	R	10/26/2025	Y N	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Ms. Carol Ann Schneider 101 Inchcliffe Drive Gales Ferry, CT 06225	D	10/26/2023	Y N	Y N	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor

Board's Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

*Cy Watford*  
7/7/25

Sincerely,  
*Roxanne M. Maher*

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council



## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** Caitlyn Greco <cgreco4229@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 8, 2025 6:23 PM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher; boardmembers@ledyard.net  
**Subject:** Ledyard BOE & Town Council

Dear Ledyard Town Council, BOE and District Administration,

Despite town council voting to pass this year's outrageous budget, our councilors continue to point back to the BOE for this feedback. Ironically, last time my family spoke to the BOE we were told to speak to Town Council. It seems like you'd prefer not to hear any feedback from your constituents and former voters so I'm confident that Ledyard will not be making the same mistakes on our ballots this year.

I have much more feedback to provide than can fit in the three minutes you allow for public comment. Many of it has to do with the lack of professionalism and accountability from our public servants. This entire debacle of a budget was unacceptable and embarrassing for our town, but for today I will skip that and focus more on my highest priority – our schools.

I am a parent of three young boys who will all attend Ledyard Public Schools, with two currently enrolled. We have much love for each teacher we have met that is currently employed in our schools and find Mr. Westkott to be an exceptional principal. However; our district level administration is not efficient or effective and this budgeting process confirmed it.

While administration would like to blame COVID for a drop in test scores, historical data from EdSight points back to 2016 when test scores truly began to slide. This corresponds directly with Mr. Hartling's employment date. The year prior to Mr. Hartling's appointment (2015) the performance index was 64.4 for Math and 68.9 for English. By 2018 we had dropped Math and English scores to 62.9 and 65.7 respectively. Post pandemic these numbers dropped further, however; it's quite clear we had an issue with performance far before 2020.

When our administration is asked to do something – like implement STEM at an elementary level or manage their own health insurance budget, the response should be “yes, absolutely, that is my job. I make over \$200,000 annually and would like to stay in this role.” But instead, we receive an unprofessional tirade, with a million reasons why it can't be done and how doing just about anything will cost no less than \$200,000.

On the health insurance budget – our district has a well-compensated Director of Human Resources and she has not one, but two Administrative assistants associated with the department listed on the website. Beneath the Director of Human Resources job description is the bullet, “insurance and benefits” describing the job that they are hired to do. So, there should never at any time have been an additional cost pertaining to managing the benefits that should already be managed by the district's Human Resources department.

I have experience that includes working for one of the largest investment firms in the U.S., one of the largest childcare providers in the U.S., and a few smaller tech related companies. Never once have I seen a company with just a few hundred employees need three people working Human Resources, especially if they aren't handling anything related to health insurance. In fact, one of my jobs has me speak with HR executives regularly, and none of them would consider health insurance something they aren't responsible for. We can point fingers all day that it wasn't addressed by town leadership correctly, but

when it comes down to it – my boss asks me to do my job in whatever way she would like and when I’m asked to do it, I get it done without pushback or complaint because I like my job and prefer to keep it. Any sort of outburst like what our town saw in the BOE meeting would be met with a performance improvement plan at best, with termination much more likely. As the superintendent role pays more individually than over 80% of Connecticut households earn annually and the BOE was quite pleased with the quality of applicants in 2016 (a dozen total with about half interviewed), it certainly doesn’t appear that administrators are in short supply as some would have us believe. In fact, state regulations point to our ability to combine district level administration with another town for cost savings. Plenty of districts have more students with less administrative bloat, so I think our BOE would be wise to consider this as a future cost saving measure if we don’t see notable improvements in attitude and test scores by the time the contract ends.

Additionally, on STEM programming, I’d be happy to present many options to the BOE that are no cost or low cost to ensure we can roll out proper STEM in our schools. It was quite bold to ask for \$200,000 and then transition it to an elective block that students will only attend once per week. This is clearly the lowest effort option at the highest cost possible. My 7-year-old can explain basic budgeting and topics like insurance, types of insurance and how they work. He did not learn that in school, but at home sitting in front of our personal budgeting app and an Excel spreadsheet. If he can learn that from someone with zero experience teaching students, I’m confident our certified elementary educators can implement STEM as a part of daily learning. I’m willing to bet that if implemented properly, it will be enjoyable for our educators and students.

On that same note – Ledyard taxpayers have many more questions on the budget than answers. When the administration and BOE request additional funding, the taxpayers should be provided with a detailed plan with what you will do with it. Even saying that \$200,000 will cover three STEM teachers is not enough information. STEM is massive, so what will the teachers be teaching? How will this be implemented and how will we measure success? I would like to request our Board of Education to do more to see what is happening in our schools, shadow teachers, shadow administrators, fact check what you are told and stop blindly believing things based on the testimony of one administrator and a clearly corrupt political party who did not listen to their voters.

Thank you,

Caitlyn Greco

9 Stone Court



# Ledyard Public Schools

Administrative Offices

July 8, 2025

Mrs. Naomi Rodriguez  
Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Chairman Rodriguez:

On behalf of the Ledyard Board of Education, I am writing to formally notify you that at our meeting this evening, the Board voted to request a bid waiver for the replacement of the Gales Ferry School chiller. The request is specific to utilizing Tradesmen of New England, the district's current HVAC service provider, for this project.

This bid waiver request is based on the urgent need to replace the failed chiller prior to the start of the school year and the unique cost and logistical advantages provided by this vendor:

- **Cost Savings:** The replacement chiller unit from this vendor is being offered at cost, saving approximately 20% compared to market pricing. Additionally, as part of ongoing contract negotiations, the vendor has agreed to credit the Town a minimum of \$30,000. This brings the total project cost well below the \$380,000 bonding authorization approved in this year's budget.
- **Timeline:** The selected unit can be delivered in two weeks, whereas the only other viable option has a delivery lead time of 19 weeks. With school starting in late August, this accelerated timeline is critical to ensure a safe and functional learning environment for students and staff.
- **Budget Compliance:** The funding for this project was approved as part of the current fiscal year's capital bonding allocation, and the proposed solution keeps us within the approved budget.

We appreciate your consideration of this time-sensitive request and respectfully ask for your support in approving the bid waiver to ensure we can proceed without delay.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if additional documentation is required.

Sincerely,



Anthony Favry

Chair, Ledyard Board of Education

cc: Jay Hartling, Superintendent of Schools  
AF/jsh

## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** Brandon Graber <bgrab@ledyard.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 5:19 PM  
**To:** Naomi Rodriguez  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher; Fred Allyn, III; Patricia A. Riley; Kristen Chapman; Jason S. Hartling; Anthony Favry; BOE@ledyard.net; Town Council Group  
**Subject:** Re: Resignation from Town Council

Farewell and thank you for filling a civic duty. Safe travels.

On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 2:03 PM 'Naomi Rodriguez' via BoE Members <[boemembers@ledyard.net](mailto:boemembers@ledyard.net)> wrote:  
Dear Fellow Town Councilors and BOE Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that I will be stepping down from the Town Council as Chairman and Deputy Mayor. My husband will begin a new position in New Jersey and we need time to search for a new home. Before this happened it was my full intention to finish my term and run again for elected office, but life had other plans and threw us a curveball. I did inform Mayor Allyn last month. With that being said, this Wednesday, July 9, 2025 will be my last Town Council meeting and I will step down officially sometime in July. It has been an honor and a privilege to not only serve the residents of Ledyard, but to serve along with all of my fellow Town Councilors. It is with regret that I will not be able to finish my term. Thank you for the memories and it was wonderful to see everyone's passion for Town Government. Please be kind to each other.

With Sincere Respect,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council

### Disclaimer

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## Roxanne Maher

---

**From:** William Barnes  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 7:26 PM  
**To:** Brandon Graber; Naomi Rodriguez  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher; Fred Allyn, III; Patricia A. Riley; Kristen Chapman; Jason S. Hartling; Anthony Favry; BOE@ledyard.net; Town Council Group  
**Subject:** Re: Resignation from Town Council

Naomi,

As with so many situations events occur that are beyond our control. Thank you for your years of service to the Town of Ledyard. Cari and I wish you and Miek the very best as you set out on an exciting new life adventure.

Regards,  
Bill

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Brandon Graber <bgrab@ledyard.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 5:19:06 PM  
**To:** Naomi Rodriguez <NaomiR@ledyardct.org>  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>; Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>; Patricia A. Riley <town.clerk@ledyardct.org>; Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org>; Jason S. Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>; Anthony Favry <afavry@ledyard.net>; BOE@ledyard.net <boe@ledyard.net>; Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Resignation from Town Council

Farewell and thank you for filling a civic duty. Safe travels.

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Dear Fellow Town Councilors and BOE Members,

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With Sincere Respect,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

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# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 18, 2025

Mayor Fred Allyn, III  
Town of Ledyard  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn:

At its Special Meeting held on June 18, 2025 the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved to amend the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget with the following Allocation Adjustments:

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

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

Board of Education	<b>Change from Capital Budget ( 6/11/2025) To Operating Budget 6/18/2025</b>
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Reduce the Board of Education Operational Budget by \$45,000

- Adopted a Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget in the amount of \$70,364,977 comprised of:
  - ✓ General Government: \$29,902,735
  - ✓ Board of Education: \$40,462,242
- Rescinded the Town Council's action of June 11, 2025 setting the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.16 and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.
- Approved to set the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.14; and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.

At its Regular Meeting held on June 11, 2025 the Town Council took the following actions:

- Grant a Bid Waiver to Groton Utilities, 295 Meridan Street, Groton, in the amount of up-to \$138,000 for emergency repairs to a water line that has impacted 10 homes in the Highlands Neighborhood.

- Approved the following adjustments to the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget:

Account #	Title	Reinstate Salary	(change from 6/10/2025)
1011-2101-51600	Finance Director	\$133,000	\$17,083
1011-0311-51600	Town Clerk	\$ 77,400	\$ 7,639
1011-4301-51600	Land Use Director	\$108,150	\$ 6,084
1011-0205-51606	Human Resource Director	\$ 97,850	\$ 1,442
Total General Government Increase:			\$32,248

In addition, Reduced the following Accounts:

Account #	Title	Reduction	(New Amount 6/11/2025)
10110101-58790	Contingency-Town Council	\$4,000	\$ 3,000
10110201-58790	Contingency- Mayor	\$5,000	\$ 1,000
10110201-51305	Town Hall Floater	\$9,692	\$ 19,000
10120301-56100	Fire Marshall Oper	\$2,000	\$ 6,000
10140107-56301	Sand and Salt	\$10,000	\$125,000
Total General Government Operating Decrease			\$30,692

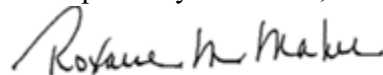
#### Board of Education Capital

Title	Reduction
Board of Education Capital	\$45,000
Total Board of Education Decrease	\$45,000

- Did not approve the Amendment to reduce the Board of Education Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Operating Budget by \$500,000.
- Approved to set Fiscal Year 2025/2026 a Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.16 and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.  
**(6/18/2025 Meeting: Mil Rate was corrected to 37.14)**

Please feel free to contact Chairman Rodriguez should you have any questions regarding this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council

cc: Director of Finance  
Treasurer  
Board of Education  
Fire Marshall  
Public Works Director/Town Engineer  
Town Clerk  
Water Pollution Control Authority





# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
[towncouncil@ledyardct.org](mailto:towncouncil@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

DATE: June 13, 2025  
TO: Mayor Fred Allyn, III  
Ledyard Town Councilors  
FROM: Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez  
  
Re: Assignment of Duties – Chairman Pro-tem

I will be out of town beginning Sunday, June 15, 2025 and returning on Wednesday June 18, 2025. Councilor Bill Barnes is next on the Pro-tem listing and will act in my place during my absence as Chairman Pro tem.

cc: Dispatch  
Chairman BOE



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 11, 2025

Mayor Fred Allyn, III  
Town of Ledyard  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn:

At its Regular Meeting held on June 11, 2025 the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved the following adjustments to the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget:

Account #	Title	Salary	(change from 6/10/2025)
1011-2101-51600	Finance Director	\$133,000	\$17,083
1011-0311-51600	Town Clerk	\$ 77,400	\$ 7,639
1011-4301-51600	Land Use Director	\$108,150	\$ 6,084
1011-0205-51606	Human Resource Director	\$ 97,850	\$ 1,442
Total General Government Increase:			\$32,248

In addition, Adjusted the following Accounts:

Account #	Title	Reduction	(New Amount 6/11/2025)
10110101-5879	Contingency-Town Council	\$4,000	\$ 3,000
10110201-58790	Contingency- Mayor	\$5,000	\$ 1,000
10110201-51305	Town Hall Floater	\$9,692	\$ 19,000
10120301-5611	Fire Marshall Oper	\$2,000	\$ 6,000
10140107-56301	Sand and Salt	\$10,000	\$125,000
Total General Government Operating Decrease			\$30,692

Board of Education

Title	Reduction
Board of Education	\$45,000
Total Board of Education Decrease	\$45,000

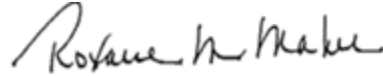
And adopted the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget in the amount of **\$70,364,977** comprised of:

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

- Approved to set Fiscal Year 2025/2026 a Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.14 and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.
- Grant a Bid Waiver to Groton Utilities, 295 Meridan Street, Groton, in the amount of up-to \$138,000 for emergency repairs to a water line that has impacted 10 homes in the Highlands Neighborhood.

Please feel free to contact Chairman Rodriguez should you have any questions regarding this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council

cc: Director of Finance  
Treasurer  
Board of Education  
Town Clerk  
Water Pollution Control Authority



Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

June 12, 2025

Mayor Fred Allyn, III  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn:

At its regular meeting held on June 11, 2025 the Town Council approved to set Fiscal Year 2025/2026 a Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.14; and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.

Should you have any questions regarding this action please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Town Council

cc: Director of Finance  
Treasurer  
Town Clerk  
Tax Collector



Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT TOWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

June 18, 2025

Mayor Fred Allyn, III  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn:

At its special meeting held on June 18, 2025 the Town Council approved to set Fiscal Year 2025/2026 a Real Estate and Personal Property Mil Rate of 37.14; and a Motor Vehicle Mil Rate of 32.46.

Should you have any questions regarding this action please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Town Council

cc: Director of Finance  
Treasurer  
Town Clerk  
Tax Collector



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
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FAX (860) 464-1485  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 24, 2025

Mr. Bruce Garstka, Chairman  
Agricultural Commission  
10 Pleasant View  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mr. Garstka:

Members of the Ledyard Agricultural Commission are due for re-appointment as listed below. The Administration Committee of the Town Council would like your recommendations.

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office at [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

## Agricultural Commission

## 3 Year Term

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Commission Recommendation	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Ms. Allison Angelini 193 Iron Street Ledyard, CT 06339	U	9/24/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor
Ms. Katie Yuhas 34 Meetinghouse Lane Ledyard, CT 06339	U	9/24/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor
Mr. Steve Martic (Alternate) 59 R- 2 Long Pond South Ledyard, CT 06339	R	9/24/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Commission's Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

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Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
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Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 24, 2025

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Agricultural Commission  
10 Pleasant View  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

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## 3 Year Term

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Mr. Steve Martic (Alternate) 59 R- 2 Long Pond South Ledyard, CT 06339	R	9/24/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Commission's Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

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Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
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E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 24, 2025

Mr. Cory Watford, Chairman  
Republican Nominating Committee  
429 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mr. Watford:

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## Agricultural Commission

## 3 Year Term

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Mr. Steve Martic (Alternate) 59 R- 2 Long Pond South Ledyard, CT 06339	R	9/24/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Commission's Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council





# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
FAX (860) 464-1485  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 24, 2025

Ms. Kathrine Khors, Chairman  
Ledyard Beautification Committee  
19 Winthrop Road  
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06335

Dear Ms. Khors:

Members of the Ledyard Beautification Committee are due for re-appointment as listed below. The Administration Committee of the Town Council would like your recommendations.

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office at [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

## Ledyard Beautification Committee

3 Year Term

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Commission Recommendation	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Ms. Carol Christenson 129 Quakertown Road Ledyard, CT 06339	R	10/26/2025	Y N	Y N	{ }Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor
Ms. Carol Ann Schneider 101 Inchcliffe Drive Gales Ferry, CT 06225	D	10/26/2025	Y N	Y N	{ }Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Board's Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council





# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
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E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 24, 2025

Ms. S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman  
Democratic Nominating Committee  
6 Saint Peters Court  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06359

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

Members of the Ledyard Beautification Committee are due for re-appointment as listed below. The Administration Committee of the Town Council would like your recommendations.

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office at [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

## Ledyard Beautification Committee

3 Year Term

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Commission Recommendation	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Ms. Carol Christenson 129 Quakertown Road Ledyard, CT 06339	R	10/26/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor
Ms. Carol Ann Schneider 101 Inchcliffe Drive Gales Ferry, CT 06225	D	10/26/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Board's Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT OWN COUNCIL

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
FAX (860) 464-1485  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

June 24, 2025

Mr. Cory Watford, Chairman  
Republican Nominating Committee  
429 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Dear Mr. Watford:

Members of the Ledyard Beautification Committee are due for re-appointment as listed below. The Administration Committee of the Town Council would like your recommendations.

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office at [council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

## Ledyard Beautification Committee

3 Year Term

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Commission Recommendation	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Ms. Carol Christenson 129 Quakertown Road Ledyard, CT 06339	R	10/26/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor
Ms. Carol Ann Schneider 101 Inchcliffe Drive Gales Ferry, CT 06225	D	10/26/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Board's Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Ledyard Town Council



# TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1551  
(860) 464-3203  
FAX (860) 464-1485  
E-Mail Address:  
[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)

June 24, 2025

Mr. Michael Cherry  
5 Whippoorwill Drive  
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06335

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Your term on the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority will end on August 31, 2025.  
Please respond with your interest to continue to serve as the Town's Representative

Please complete the shaded areas of each Commission members block and kindly return to the Town Council Office.

**Southeastern CT Water Authority**

**2 Year Term**

Member's Name	Party Affiliation	Term Expiration	Member's Response	Town Committee Endorsement	Attendance
Mr. Michael Cherry 5 Whippoorwill Drive Gales Ferry, CT 06335	U	8/31/2025	Y N	Y N	{ } Excellent { } Good { } Fair { } Poor

Committee Comments:

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Roxanne M. Maher  
Administrative Assistant

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Naomi Rodriguez  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 10:41 AM  
**To:** Anthony Favry  
**Cc:** BoE Members; Jay Hartling; Town Council Group  
**Subject:** Re: Ledyard BoE Notice of LEA Negotiations 2025

Good Morning Chairman Favry,

Thank you for your prior email regarding LEA negotiations commencing. Councilor Buhle will be present during the Ledyard Education Association negotiations process commencing 7/28/25. Councilor Buhle will be a positive and valued consultant to the negotiations team.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council

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**From:** Anthony Favry <afavry@ledyard.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 8:24 AM  
**To:** Naomi Rodriguez <NaomiR@ledyardct.org>  
**Cc:** BoE Members <boemembers@ledyard.net>; Jay Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>; Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** Ledyard BoE Notice of LEA Negotiations 2025

Good Morning Chairman Rodriguez,

I am attaching a communication for your reference to provide notification of the upcoming LEA negotiations.

Should you have any questions, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,

Anthony Favry  
Chair, Ledyard Board of Education

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Naomi Rodriguez  
**Sent:** Monday, July 7, 2025 2:04 PM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher; Fred Allyn, III; Patricia A. Riley  
**Cc:** Kristen Chapman; Jason S. Hartling; Anthony Favry; 'BOE@ledyard.net'; Town Council Group  
**Subject:** Resignation from Town Council

Dear Fellow Town Councilors and BOE Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that I will be stepping down from the Town Council as Chairman and Deputy Mayor. My husband will begin a new position in New Jersey and we need time to search for a new home. Before this happened it was my full intention to finish my term and run again for elected office, but life had other plans and threw us a curveball. I did inform Mayor Allyn last month. With that being said, this Wednesday, July 9, 2025 will be my last Town Council meeting and I will step down officially sometime in July. It has been an honor and a privilege to not only serve the residents of Ledyard, but to serve along with all of my fellow Town Councilors. It is with regret that I will not be able to finish my term. Thank you for the memories and it was wonderful to see everyone's passion for Town Government. Please be kind to each other.

With Sincere Respect,

Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2156

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:** 1.

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## REPORT

**Staff/Committee Report: Administration Committee Reports Fiscal Year 2025/2026**  
Administration Committee Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025





# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2157

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:** 2.

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## REPORT

### **Staff/Committee Report: Community Relations -DEI Reports Fiscal Year 2025/2026**

Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - Report- Sical Year 2025/2026



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2159

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:** 3.

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## REPORT

**Staff/Committee Report: Finance Committee Reports Fiscal Year 2025/2026**  
Finance Committee Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2160

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:** 4.

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## REPORT

**Staff/Committee Report: LUPPW Committee Reports Fiscal Year 2025/2026**  
LUPPW Committee Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2161

**Agenda Date:** 7/9/2025

**Agenda #:** XIII.

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## REPORT

**Staff/Committee Report: Mayor Reports Fiscal Year 2025/2026**  
Mayor Report Fiscal Year 2025/2025

# Mayor's Report

7-9-25

**Tax Assessor signed Grand List. Includes 95 Veteran's Exemptions (State legislators said 19)**

Surety Bond meeting 6/25 re: GFS. Issues with moisture, delivery time, solar not yet started. Project is one year behind schedule as of 8/20/24- the "Substantial completion date".

**Attended Sub Base Compatible Use Plan meeting 6/26. This is follow on to JLUS 2018 for adjacent communities to the Sub Base New London.**

STEAP Kickoff meeting 6/27. Once contract signed, workflow will be through P&R.

**Received interim notice of new opioid settlement w/ Perdue Pharma and Sackler Family Trust. More to come on this, no \$ value assigned to State of CT or subdivisions.**

Housekeeping note: Town Council and Subcommittees- If you host/co-host an event on the Town green, you are responsible for cleaning up, incl. decorations. We charge others a deposit and withhold said deposit if this isn't done.

**Curbside trash changeover ongoing. Stray carts are being picked up by PW now.**

America 250 ad-hoc on 7/8. Good progress with no budget. Had planned to fund using Mayors Contingency line but that line was decimated as part of the late budget actions. Thank you, Kate Kohrs in securing a \$1,000 Rotary grant to provide a bit of money to do a few small events. Also, thank you to Pete Hary for designing the logo for us for free!

**LOTICIP 2020 Grant (multi-use path) of \$3.2M now deemed "Substantially Complete". Last is setting curb stops to grade (these are public water connection sites).**

Congrats to Avalonia Land Conservancy in moving their headquarters to Ledyard!

**Congrats to LFM, named best farmers market by CT Magazine for 2025!**



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

**File #:** 25-2199

**Agenda Date:** 7/23/2025

**Agenda #:** 1.

## FINANCIAL BUSINESS REQUEST (FBR)

### **Motion/Request:**

MOTION to grant a Bid Waiver in the amount of up-to \$390,782 to Tradesmen of New England, Bloomfield, Connecticut, to address the emergency replacement of the Chiller at the Gales Ferry School.

### **Background:**

#### **Board of Education July 8, 2025 Meeting:**

At their July 8, 2025 meeting the Board of Education requested the Town Council grant a Bid Waiver to their current HVAC service provider (Tradesmen of New England) to replace the Chiller at the Gales Ferry School that recently failed

The Board of Education requested \$380,000 in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Capital Budget to replace the Chiller at the Gales Ferry School. Recently the Chiller failed and based on the urgent need to replace the Chiller before the start of the new school year the Board of Education has requested a Bid Waiver to use their current HVAC service provider the *Tradesmen of New England* to do this work. (please see attached Letter, Proposal, and equipment cost)

In his letter dated July 8, 2025 BOE Chairman Anthony Favry noted the cost and logistical advantages provided by this vendor as follows:

- **Cost Savings;** The replacement chiller unit from this vendor is being offered at cost, saving approximately 20% compared to market pricing. Alao, as part of their ongoing contract negotiations, the vendor has agreed to credit the Town a minimum of \$30,000. This would bring the total project cost below the bond bonding authorization approved in this year's budget.
- **Timeline:** The selected unit can be delivered in two weeks, whereas the only other viable option has a delivery lead time of 19 weeks, With school starting in late August, this accelerated timeline is critical to ensure a safe and functional learning environment for students and staff.
- **Budget Compliance:** The funding for this project was approved as part of the current fiscal year's capital bonding allocation, and the proposed solution keeps us within the approved budget.

### **Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)

**Finance Director Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)

**Mayor Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)



# Ledyard Public Schools

Administrative Offices

July 8, 2025

Mrs. Naomi Rodriguez  
Chairman  
Ledyard Town Council  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Chairman Rodriguez:

On behalf of the Ledyard Board of Education, I am writing to formally notify you that at our meeting this evening, the Board voted to request a bid waiver for the replacement of the Gales Ferry School chiller. The request is specific to utilizing Tradesmen of New England, the district's current HVAC service provider, for this project.

This bid waiver request is based on the urgent need to replace the failed chiller prior to the start of the school year and the unique cost and logistical advantages provided by this vendor:

- **Cost Savings:** The replacement chiller unit from this vendor is being offered at cost, saving approximately 20% compared to market pricing. Additionally, as part of ongoing contract negotiations, the vendor has agreed to credit the Town a minimum of \$30,000. This brings the total project cost well below the \$380,000 bonding authorization approved in this year's budget.
- **Timeline:** The selected unit can be delivered in two weeks, whereas the only other viable option has a delivery lead time of 19 weeks. With school starting in late August, this accelerated timeline is critical to ensure a safe and functional learning environment for students and staff.
- **Budget Compliance:** The funding for this project was approved as part of the current fiscal year's capital bonding allocation, and the proposed solution keeps us within the approved budget.

We appreciate your consideration of this time-sensitive request and respectfully ask for your support in approving the bid waiver to ensure we can proceed without delay.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if additional documentation is required.

Sincerely,

Anthony Favry  
Chair, Ledyard Board of Education

cc: Jay Hartling, Superintendent of Schools  
AF/jsh





# Tradesmen

of New England, LLC

21 East Dudley Town Road

Bloomfield, CT 06002

CT MEC.0001200, CT S1-393302, MA RC-107562, MA PMU-002277, MA SMB-858, MA SMM-7883, RI RM/PFM 00008468

An HVAC Mechanical Services & Controls Contractor

[www.tradesmenofne.com](http://www.tradesmenofne.com)

July 3, 2025

Wayne Donaldson  
Facility Manager  
Gales Ferry School  
24 Gallup Hill Road  
Ledyard, Connecticut, 06339

O-(860) 464-9255  
C-(203) 627-3817

Re: GalFerSc-Replacement Chiller - Carrier  
Proposal: Q-7405-092724

Dear Wayne:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this proposal. A detail of this proposed project scope and the project's value are shown below. Please review those confirming they meet your facility's needs, and contact me with any questions.

### **Project Intent:**

Address Life-Cycle issues associated to the facility's primary cooling system.

### **Project Scope:**

Recover refrigerant and prep existing machine for removal  
Remove existing machine  
Interconnect piping, reusing existing piping where possible, & insulate  
Interconnect electrical, reusing existing electrical where possible  
Reconnect existing controls  
Confirm system glycol concentration is correct and non-corrosive. Report result  
Start-up and commission new chiller and related system  
Alter piping, electrical, and controls, as needed, to accommodate two machines

### **Perform the following Procedures:**

Refrigerant Recovery  
Motor Load Profile Log  
Heat Cool Performance  
Glycol/Water Solution Refraction  
Air-Gas-Water System Pressure Test

### **Furnish the Following Materials**

Carrier Chiller - ALS155 Chiller  
Piping & insulation between ground and new machines  
Controls & instruments  
Electrical disconnects and wiring for both machines  
Concrete Pad by others

{W3493790}

Glycol, if needed, shall be by client  
Supply & Return Isolation & Balancing Vales for each machine

**Procure the Following Sub-Contractors:**

Controls  
Electrical  
Rigging

**Contract Price:** \$390,731.83

**Financial Approach:** Like for Like

Financial Approach Options:

- Broadest Scope/Greatest Cost
- Best Value
- Like for Like
- Minimum Recommended
- Least Cost

Should you wish to proceed on a “Time and Material” basis, contact me, and we’ll produce a Service Request, and schedule the technician accordingly. Please do not consider this a “Not to Exceed” proposal if you choose the “Time and Material” option.

**Clarifications:**

- Price does not include the following:
  - Any and all engineering expenses unless identified above
  - Cost for off-shift work or overtime
  - Delays due to lack of access
  - Asbestos Abatement
  - Additional work not within the body of this proposal
- Client to provide reasonable located parking for Trade Vehicles at no cost to TNE
- Price is valid for 10 days

**Scheduling Terms:**

Our Operations Team will review this Project Proposal once it is booked and contact you for scheduling.

Thank you for this opportunity and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

John Audet  
President / Principal  
Telephone: (860)-243-3475  
Cell: +1 8607524776  
Fax: (860) 243-3207  
Email: [john@tradesmenofne.com](mailto:john@tradesmenofne.com)  
[www.Tradesmenofne.com](http://www.Tradesmenofne.com)

## PROJECT AGREEMENT

THIS CLIENT AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”), entered into as of July 3, 2025, (the “Effective Date”) is by and between TRADESMEN OF NEW ENGLAND, LLC, a Connecticut limited liability company with offices at 21 East Dudley Town Road, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002 (“We,” “Us,” or “Our”) and Gales Ferry School  
24 Gallup Hill Road  
Ledyard, Connecticut, 06339  
(“You”).

You and We agree as follows:

1. Services and Materials. This Agreement covers the provision of the services and materials described in Proposal No. **Q-7405-092724** accompanying and hereby made a part of this Agreement (the “Work”).
2. Payment. You will pay for the Work as follows:
  - a. The total contract price is (the “Contract Price”)  
**\$390,731.83**
  - b. We will invoice you for payment of the Contract Price as follows, and your payment of each of the invoiced amounts is due upon Your receipt of Our invoice:
    - i. On the Effective Date: 30% of the Contract Price;
    - ii. Upon Our deployment of field labor and/or delivery of major project equipment: 30% of the Contract Price; and
    - iii. Upon substantial completion (greater than or equal to completion of 90% of the man hours allocated to the Work): 40% of the Contract Price.
  - c. The Contract Price does not include any changes to the Work, including but not limited to, changes to the Work:
    - i. that are made via a Change Order;
    - ii. that are made via a Field Change Directive; and/or
    - iii. that result from any other changes to or deviations from the initial Proposal or design drawings on which We based our Proposal (and therefore the Contract Price).
  - d. The Contract Price does not include, and You are responsible to pay, any permit fees, taxes (on services and/or materials), assessments, or other charges imposed by any governmental department, agency, or entity, on or before the date that the Work is substantially complete.
  - e. We will invoice you for amounts not included in the Contract Price within a reasonable time or as agreed in a Change Order, and Your payment of all such invoiced amounts is due upon Your receipt of Our invoice.
  - f. If We do not receive payment of any invoiced amount within thirty (30) days of Your receipt of Our invoice(s), the entire Contract Price shall become due and payable immediately upon demand.

If any invoiced amount is not paid within thirty (30) days of when it is due, you agree to pay a monthly interest charge at the rate of 18% per annum on all unpaid principal and interest.

- g. The Contract Price and all other invoiced amounts are payable by cash, check, wire, direct debit, or credit card. If You pay with a credit card, you agree to pay at that time as part of that payment transaction the following applicable processing charge:
  - i. American Express: 5.0%;
  - ii. Visa: 3.75%; or
  - iii. Master Card: 3.75%.

3. Insurance. You shall purchase and maintain insurance covering all of Our interests in the Work, naming Tradesmen of New England, LLC as an additional insured and loss payee and entitling Tradesmen of New England, LLC to receive payment including the total unpaid balance of the Contract Price in the event of loss or damage including, but not limited to, loss or damage caused by fire, theft, vandalism or other perils. You shall bear all costs of such insurance including, but not limited to, premiums, administrative expenses, and deductibles.

4. Rescission. This Agreement is contingent upon Our review of Your credit and background, and We may rescind this Agreement on or before fifteen (15) business days after the Effective Date, in our sole and unconditional discretion.

5. Termination. We may terminate this Agreement: (a) immediately, if You violate any term of this Agreement (including failure to make payments when due), become insolvent or file for bankruptcy protection; or (b) on five (5) days' notice for Our convenience, provided that if We terminate for convenience, You will be entitled to a refund of the portions of the Contract Price already paid, less the value of the materials and services already provided to You.

6. Right to stop work and to withhold payment on labor and materials. If any payment is not made to Us as required by this Agreement, We shall have the right to stop work and keep the job idle until all past due payments are received. You excuse Us from paying any material, equipment and/or labor suppliers or any subcontractors, during the period that You are in arrears in making payments due to Us during that same period.

7. Warranties. We warrant that the workmanship hereunder shall be free from defects for one (1) year from date of installation. If any replacement part or item of equipment proves defective, We will extend to You the benefits of any Warranty We have received from the manufacturer. Removal and reinstallation of any equipment or materials repaired or replaced under a manufacturer's warranty will be at Your expense and at Our rates then in effect. We warrant the title to the materials and equipment furnished to You pursuant to this Agreement. The warranties provided under this Agreement are conditioned upon You properly operating and maintaining the relevant systems/equipment, which operation and maintenance You agree to perform according to industry accepted standards and practices and in consideration of Our recommendations (if any). The warranties provided under this Agreement are conditioned upon You performing all of Your obligations under this Agreement, including paying all amounts due hereunder at or before the due date(s) for such payments. **IN THE EVENT YOU BREACH THIS AGREEMENT, BY NON-PAYMENT, LATE PAYMENT OR OTHERWISE, WE DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES OF ANY TYPE, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WORKMANSHIP WARRANTIES, MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTIES, AND WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.**

8. Performance of Work. We have the right to sub-contract any part of, or all of, the Work.

9. Changes to the Work. The Work is limited to that which is described in the Proposal and as specified in the design drawings in our possession at the time We created the Proposal, whether those design drawings were provided

by You or created by Us. You and We agree that changes to the Work may be requested by You or identified as necessary by Us. If such changes are requested or identified as necessary, they will be made via a Change Order or a Field Change Directive, described below, which shall become a part of this Agreement and are subject to its terms. The Contract Price does not include changes or additional work performed pursuant to a Change Order or Field Change Directive.

- a. Change Orders. A Change Order is a written request to make a change to the Work or perform services or provide materials in addition to those within the scope of the Work substantially in the form of the "Change Order". All Change Orders must be agreed to by You and Us before they are effective. You agree to pay Us for such changes or additional work as specified in the applicable Change Order(s).
- b. Field Change Directives. A Field Change Directive is a request by You for Us to make a change to the Work or perform services or provide materials in addition to those within the scope of the Work that is not captured in a Change Order. You agree to pay Us on a time and material basis (at Our then prevailing rates) for all changes and/or additional work required by any Field Change Directive(s).

10. Your Responsibilities. You are responsible for the following: (1) to see that all necessary water, electrical power, access to premises, and safe access to equipment are provided on the premise prior to Our arrival; (2) to provide a storage area on the premise for equipment and materials. (3) to provide and permit reasonable means of access to all covered equipment, and to relocate and protect any item that prevents Us from having free access to the work areas; and in the event that You fail to relocate such items, We may relocate these items as required but in no way are We responsible for damage to these items during their relocation and during the performance of the Work; (4) to obtain permission from the owners' of adjacent property(ies) that We must use to gain access to the work areas, and You agree to indemnify and hold Us harmless for any claims or damage resulting from Our use of adjacent property(ies); (5) to correct any existing defects which are recognized during the course of the Work, and you agree that We shall have no responsibility to or liability for correcting any existing defects such as, but not limited to, dry rot, structural defects, or code violations absent a change order adding such extra work to this Agreement; (6) to maintain property insurance with fire, course of construction, all physical loss with vandalism and malicious mischief clauses attached, in a sum at least equal to the value of the property, prior to and during performance of this Agreement, and You agree that if the project is destroyed or damaged by an accident disaster or calamity, or by theft or vandalism, any work or materials supplied by Us in restoring the project shall be paid for by You as extra work.

11. Permission to Start and Stop Equipment / Timing of the Work. You grant Us permission to start and stop equipment as necessary to perform the Work. To the extent you impose restrictions on when We can start and stop equipment or otherwise perform the Work that were not included in the Proposal and not submitted to and agreed to by Us in a Change Order, such restrictions will be considered to be a Field Change Directive.

12. No Responsibility for Design Deficiencies. Unless expressly included as an element of the Work, We do not have, and expressly disclaim, any responsibility for (a) system design deficiencies, such as, but not limited to, poor air distribution, water flow, imbalances, etc.; and/or (b) system, equipment and component obsolescence, electrical failures, unserviceable equipment, and operating the system(s).

13. Risk of Loss. You shall bear the risk of loss, destruction, or damage to all materials and equipment upon arrival of such materials and equipment at Your premises. You shall also bear the risk of any loss, destruction, or damage to the work performed by the Company

14. Surplus Materials and Salvage. Unless otherwise specified in the Proposal, any surplus materials left over or uninstalled after the Work has been completed are Our property and will be removed by Us. No credit is due to You for any surplus materials. All salvage resulting from work under this contract is Our property.

15. Concealed Damage and Non-Conforming Conditions. We will inform You of any concealed damage or other deterioration or non-conforming conditions (“Conditions”) that We discover during the course of the Work. We are not responsible to repair any such discovered Conditions. You may request Us to remedy such Conditions via a Change Order.

16. Termites, Pests and Hazardous Substances. You understand that We are not an inspector or abatement contractor for hazardous materials (as defined by the government), or for pests (including termites). Should any such hazardous substances or pests be suspected to be present on the premise, it is Your responsibility to arrange and pay for inspection and abatement. We cannot and do not certify or warrant your building to be free of hazardous substances or pests.

17. Equipment Removed from Service. Unless specifically identified in the Proposal or agreed to in a Change Order, the Work does not include removal of equipment that has been removed from service and, therefore, You are responsible for the removal of all equipment removed from service.

18. Limitation of Liability. In the unlikely event of Our performance of the Work not complying with Our obligations under this Agreement, Our liability and Your sole remedy is limited to repair or replacement, at our option. The maximum amount to which We and Our affiliates, members, managers, officers, employees, agents, and third-party vendors may be liable to You in any circumstance shall not exceed the amount of the Contract Price You paid to Us under this Agreement. No claim, action, arbitration, or suit arising from or related to this Agreement, or the performance of this Agreement, shall be started by either party against the other more than two years from either the date of completion or the date of cessation of Work under this Agreement. The limitation applies to all actions of any character. Negligent misrepresentation or unintentional concealment shall not extend this limitation. Under no circumstances will We be responsible for the loss of use, loss of profits, increased operating or maintenance expense, claims of Your tenants or clients, or any special, indirect or consequential damages.

19. Our Designs and Drawings. Design and as-built drawings prepared by Us and proposal information including scope of work/specifications, as defined by Us, (the “Information”) are intended for Our exclusive use. If any of the Information is used by any person or business entity other than Us, We disclaim all warranties on the use of such Information, either express or implied or otherwise, including but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular use, and non-infringement. Under no circumstances, will We be liable to any person or business entity for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, punitive, or other damages based on the use of the Information, including, without limitation, any lost profits, or business interruption. This is a comprehensive limitation of liability that applies to all losses and damages of any kind. If You are dissatisfied with the Information, Your sole and exclusive remedy is to discontinue using the Information.

20. Notices. All notices to Us under this Agreement must be in writing and addressed to Us at Our address set forth above (or to such other address that We may designate in writing from time to time). Notices to You must be in writing and addressed to You at Your address set forth above and/or to the e-mail address you provided to us.

21. Relationship of the Parties. The relationship between Us and You is that of independent contractors. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as creating any agency, partnership, joint venture or other form of joint enterprise, employment or fiduciary relationship, and We have no authority to contract for or bind You in any manner whatsoever.

22. Entire Agreement. This Agreement sets forth the entire Agreement and understanding between You and Us on its subject matter and supersedes and replaces any prior discussions and negotiations. With the sole exception of changes to or additions to the Work via Field Change Directives, this Agreement may not be modified or amended except in a signed writing. Any waiver of any right or interest under this Agreement will not imply the waiver of any other right or interest, or any subsequent waiver. You may not assign or transfer Your rights under this Agreement without Our prior written consent. We may freely assign this Agreement.



23. Choice of Law and Forum; Severability; Non-Waiver; Conflicts. This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Connecticut without regard to conflicts of law rules that would apply the substantive law of any other jurisdiction. You will not commence any action, litigation or proceeding of any kind against Us arising from or relating to this Agreement in any forum other than the Connecticut Superior Court or the Federal District Court for the District of Connecticut and You submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of such court. If any provision of this Agreement is deemed illegal or unenforceable, such provision will be deemed separable and will not affect any other provision of this Agreement or its validity. No delay or omission on Our part in exercising any rights hereunder shall operate as a waiver of such right or any other rights; a waiver on one occasion shall not be a bar to or waiver of any rights on any other occasion. To the extent any term included in the Proposal conflicts with a term in these terms and conditions, these terms and conditions control.

24. Delay. Contractor shall not be responsible for any damage occasioned by delays resulting from: work done by other of Your (sub)contractors, work pursuant to a Field Change Directive or a Change Order, Your acts or Your agent's acts (including your failure to make timely payments or timely payments for work pursuant to a Field Change Directive or a Change Order), shortages of materials and/or labor, bad weather, fire, strike, war, governmental regulations or executive orders, or any other contingencies unforeseen by Us or beyond Our reasonable control.

25. Force Majeure Our failure to perform any obligations under this Agreement will be excused if occasioned in whole or in part by act of God or of the public enemy, fire, explosion, perils of the sea, flood, drought, war, riots, civil insurrection, sabotage, accident, embargo, governmental priority, requisition, internet service provider outages, lockout, freezing, unavailability of material, or any occurrence, act, cause, or thing beyond Our control.

26. Non-Delegation of Work. Only Our personnel, agents, or subcontractors are authorized to perform the Work under this Agreement, and We may, at our option, terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section 5(a) should non-authorized individuals or entities perform any aspect of the Work.

27. Collection and Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Expenses. You agree to pay all collection fees and charges including but not limited to all attorney fees, expenses, and costs that result should You default in payment of this contract. In the event You (or your agent or subrogate or anyone on Your behalf) commence legal action against Us, related to this Agreement or the Work, in which You do not prevail, You agree to reimburse Us for all costs and expenses of our defense of such legal action, including reasonable attorney's fees.

28. Counterparts and E-Signatures. This Agreement may be executed electronically and in counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement. A signed or electronically signed copy of this Agreement delivered by facsimile, email, or other means of electronic transmission is deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, You and We have entered into this Agreement, as of the Effective Date.

TRADESMEN OF NEW ENGLAND, LLC

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_







# Tradesmen

of New England, LLC

21 East Dudley Town Road  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

An HVAC Mechanical Services & Controls Contractor

[www.tradesmenofne.com](http://www.tradesmenofne.com)

CT MEC.0001200, CT S1-393302, MA RC-107562, MA PMU-002277, MA SMB-858, MA SMM-7883, RI RM/PFM 00008468

July 3, 2025

Wayne Donaldson  
Facility Manager  
Gales Ferry School  
24 Gallup Hill Road  
Ledyard, Connecticut, 06339

O-(860) 464-9255  
C-(203) 627-3817

Re: GalFerSc-Replacement Chiller - Carrier  
Proposal: Q-7405-092724

Dear Wayne:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this proposal. A detail of this proposed project scope and the project's value are shown below. Please review those confirming they meet your facility's needs, and contact me with any questions.

**Project Intent:**

Address Life-Cycle issues associated to the facility's primary cooling system.

**Project Scope:**

Recover refrigerant and prep existing machine for removal  
Remove existing machine  
Interconnect piping, reusing existing piping where possible, & insulate  
Interconnect electrical, reusing existing electrical where possible  
Reconnect existing controls  
Confirm system glycol concentration is correct and non-corrosive. Report result  
Start-up and commission new chiller and related system  
Alter piping, electrical, and controls, as needed, to accommodate two machines

**Perform the following Procedures:**

Refrigerant Recovery  
Motor Load Profile Log  
Heat Cool Performance  
Glycol/Water Solution Refraction  
Air-Gas-Water System Pressure Test

**Furnish the Following Materials**

Carrier Chiller - ALS155 Chiller  
Piping & insulation between ground and new machines  
Controls & instruments  
Electrical disconnects and wiring for both machines  
Concrete Pad by others

{W3493790}

Glycol, if needed, shall be by client  
Supply & Return Isolation & Balancing Vales for each machine

**Procure the Following Sub-Contractors:**

Controls  
Electrical  
Rigging

**Contract Price:** \$390,731.83

**Financial Approach:** Like for Like

Financial Approach Options:

- Broadest Scope/Greatest Cost
- Best Value
- Like for Like
- Minimum Recommended
- Least Cost

Should you wish to proceed on a “Time and Material” basis, contact me, and we’ll produce a Service Request, and schedule the technician accordingly. Please do not consider this a “Not to Exceed” proposal if you choose the “Time and Material” option.

**Clarifications:**

- Price does not include the following:
  - Any and all engineering expenses unless identified above
  - Cost for off-shift work or overtime
  - Delays due to lack of access
  - Asbestos Abatement
  - Additional work not within the body of this proposal
- Client to provide reasonable located parking for Trade Vehicles at no cost to TNE
- Price is valid for 10 days

**Scheduling Terms:**

Our Operations Team will review this Project Proposal once it is booked and contact you for scheduling.

Thank you for this opportunity and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

John Audet  
President / Principal  
Telephone: (860)-243-3475  
Cell: +1 8607524776  
Fax: (860) 243-3207  
Email: [john@tradesmenofne.com](mailto:john@tradesmenofne.com)  
[www.Tradesmenofne.com](http://www.Tradesmenofne.com)

## PROJECT AGREEMENT

THIS CLIENT AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”), entered into as of July 3, 2025  
, (the “Effective Date”) is by and between TRADESMEN OF NEW ENGLAND, LLC, a Connecticut limited liability  
company with offices at 21 East Dudley Town Road, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002 (“We,” “Us,” or “Our”) and  
**Gales Ferry School**  
**24 Gallup Hill Road**  
**Ledyard, Connecticut, 06339**  
(“You”).

You and We agree as follows:

1. Services and Materials. This Agreement covers the provision of the services and materials described in  
Proposal No. **Q-7405-092724** accompanying and hereby made a part of this Agreement (the “Work”).
2. Payment. You will pay for the Work as follows:
  - a. The total contract price is (the “Contract Price”)  
  
**\$390,731.83**
  - b. We will invoice you for payment of the Contract Price as follows, and your payment of each of the  
invoiced amounts is due upon Your receipt of Our invoice:
    - i. On the Effective Date: 30% of the Contract Price;
    - ii. Upon Our deployment of field labor and/or delivery of major project equipment: 30% of  
the Contract Price; and
    - iii. Upon substantial completion (greater than or equal to completion of 90% of the man hours  
allocated to the Work): 40% of the Contract Price.
  - c. The Contract Price does not include any changes to the Work, including but not limited to, changes  
to the Work:
    - i. that are made via a Change Order;
    - ii. that are made via a Field Change Directive; and/or
    - iii. that result from any other changes to or deviations from the initial Proposal or design  
drawings on which We based our Proposal (and therefore the Contract Price).
  - d. The Contract Price does not include, and You are responsible to pay, any permit fees, taxes (on  
services and/or materials), assessments, or other charges imposed by any governmental  
department, agency, or entity, on or before the date that the Work is substantially complete.
  - e. We will invoice you for amounts not included in the Contract Price within a reasonable time or as  
agreed in a Change Order, and Your payment of all such invoiced amounts is due upon Your receipt  
of Our invoice.
  - f. If We do not receive payment of any invoiced amount within thirty (30) days of Your receipt of  
Our invoice(s), the entire Contract Price shall become due and payable immediately upon demand.

If any invoiced amount is not paid within thirty (30) days of when it is due, you agree to pay a monthly interest charge at the rate of 18% per annum on all unpaid principal and interest.

- g. The Contract Price and all other invoiced amounts are payable by cash, check, wire, direct debit, or credit card. If You pay with a credit card, you agree to pay at that time as part of that payment transaction the following applicable processing charge:
  - i. American Express: 5.0%;
  - ii. Visa: 3.75%; or
  - iii. Master Card: 3.75%.

3. Insurance. You shall purchase and maintain insurance covering all of Our interests in the Work, naming Tradesmen of New England, LLC as an additional insured and loss payee and entitling Tradesmen of New England, LLC to receive payment including the total unpaid balance of the Contract Price in the event of loss or damage including, but not limited to, loss or damage caused by fire, theft, vandalism or other perils. You shall bear all costs of such insurance including, but not limited to, premiums, administrative expenses, and deductibles.

4. Rescission. This Agreement is contingent upon Our review of Your credit and background, and We may rescind this Agreement on or before fifteen (15) business days after the Effective Date, in our sole and unconditional discretion.

5. Termination. We may terminate this Agreement: (a) immediately, if You violate any term of this Agreement (including failure to make payments when due), become insolvent or file for bankruptcy protection; or (b) on five (5) days' notice for Our convenience, provided that if We terminate for convenience, You will be entitled to a refund of the portions of the Contract Price already paid, less the value of the materials and services already provided to You.

6. Right to stop work and to withhold payment on labor and materials. If any payment is not made to Us as required by this Agreement, We shall have the right to stop work and keep the job idle until all past due payments are received. You excuse Us from paying any material, equipment and/or labor suppliers or any subcontractors, during the period that You are in arrears in making payments due to Us during that same period.

7. Warranties. We warrant that the workmanship hereunder shall be free from defects for one (1) year from date of installation. If any replacement part or item of equipment proves defective, We will extend to You the benefits of any Warranty We have received from the manufacturer. Removal and reinstallation of any equipment or materials repaired or replaced under a manufacturer's warranty will be at Your expense and at Our rates then in effect. We warrant the title to the materials and equipment furnished to You pursuant to this Agreement. The warranties provided under this Agreement are conditioned upon You properly operating and maintaining the relevant systems/equipment, which operation and maintenance You agree to perform according to industry accepted standards and practices and in consideration of Our recommendations (if any). The warranties provided under this Agreement are conditioned upon You performing all of Your obligations under this Agreement, including paying all amounts due hereunder at or before the due date(s) for such payments. **IN THE EVENT YOU BREACH THIS AGREEMENT, BY NON-PAYMENT, LATE PAYMENT OR OTHERWISE, WE DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES OF ANY TYPE, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WORKMANSHIP WARRANTIES, MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTIES, AND WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.**

8. Performance of Work. We have the right to sub-contract any part of, or all of, the Work.

9. Changes to the Work. The Work is limited to that which is described in the Proposal and as specified in the design drawings in our possession at the time We created the Proposal, whether those design drawings were provided

by You or created by Us. You and We agree that changes to the Work may be requested by You or identified as necessary by Us. If such changes are requested or identified as necessary, they will be made via a Change Order or a Field Change Directive, described below, which shall become a part of this Agreement and are subject to its terms. The Contract Price does not include changes or additional work performed pursuant to a Change Order or Field Change Directive.

- a. Change Orders. A Change Order is a written request to make a change to the Work or perform services or provide materials in addition to those within the scope of the Work substantially in the form of the "Change Order". All Change Orders must be agreed to by You and Us before they are effective. You agree to pay Us for such changes or additional work as specified in the applicable Change Order(s).
- b. Field Change Directives. A Field Change Directive is a request by You for Us to make a change to the Work or perform services or provide materials in addition to those within the scope of the Work that is not captured in a Change Order. You agree to pay Us on a time and material basis (at Our then prevailing rates) for all changes and/or additional work required by any Field Change Directive(s).

10. Your Responsibilities. You are responsible for the following: (1) to see that all necessary water, electrical power, access to premises, and safe access to equipment are provided on the premise prior to Our arrival; (2) to provide a storage area on the premise for equipment and materials. (3) to provide and permit reasonable means of access to all covered equipment, and to relocate and protect any item that prevents Us from having free access to the work areas; and in the event that You fail to relocate such items, We may relocate these items as required but in no way are We responsible for damage to these items during their relocation and during the performance of the Work; (4) to obtain permission from the owners' of adjacent property(ies) that We must use to gain access to the work areas, and You agree to indemnify and hold Us harmless for any claims or damage resulting from Our use of adjacent property(ies); (5) to correct any existing defects which are recognized during the course of the Work, and you agree that We shall have no responsibility to or liability for correcting any existing defects such as, but not limited to, dry rot, structural defects, or code violations absent a change order adding such extra work to this Agreement; (6) to maintain property insurance with fire, course of construction, all physical loss with vandalism and malicious mischief clauses attached, in a sum at least equal to the value of the property, prior to and during performance of this Agreement, and You agree that if the project is destroyed or damaged by an accident disaster or calamity, or by theft or vandalism, any work or materials supplied by Us in restoring the project shall be paid for by You as extra work.

11. Permission to Start and Stop Equipment / Timing of the Work. You grant Us permission to start and stop equipment as necessary to perform the Work. To the extent you impose restrictions on when We can start and stop equipment or otherwise perform the Work that were not included in the Proposal and not submitted to and agreed to by Us in a Change Order, such restrictions will be considered to be a Field Change Directive.

12. No Responsibility for Design Deficiencies. Unless expressly included as an element of the Work, We do not have, and expressly disclaim, any responsibility for (a) system design deficiencies, such as, but not limited to, poor air distribution, water flow, imbalances, etc.; and/or (b) system, equipment and component obsolescence, electrical failures, unserviceable equipment, and operating the system(s).

13. Risk of Loss. You shall bear the risk of loss, destruction, or damage to all materials and equipment upon arrival of such materials and equipment at Your premises. You shall also bear the risk of any loss, destruction, or damage to the work performed by the Company

14. Surplus Materials and Salvage. Unless otherwise specified in the Proposal, any surplus materials left over or uninstalled after the Work has been completed are Our property and will be removed by Us. No credit is due to You for any surplus materials. All salvage resulting from work under this contract is Our property.

15. Concealed Damage and Non-Conforming Conditions. We will inform You of any concealed damage or other deterioration or non-conforming conditions (“Conditions”) that We discover during the course of the Work. We are not responsible to repair any such discovered Conditions. You may request Us to remedy such Conditions via a Change Order.

16. Termites, Pests and Hazardous Substances. You understand that We are not an inspector or abatement contractor for hazardous materials (as defined by the government), or for pests (including termites). Should any such hazardous substances or pests be suspected to be present on the premise, it is Your responsibility to arrange and pay for inspection and abatement. We cannot and do not certify or warrant your building to be free of hazardous substances or pests.

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25. Force Majeure Our failure to perform any obligations under this Agreement will be excused if occasioned in whole or in part by act of God or of the public enemy, fire, explosion, perils of the sea, flood, drought, war, riots, civil insurrection, sabotage, accident, embargo, governmental priority, requisition, internet service provider outages, lockout, freezing, unavailability of material, or any occurrence, act, cause, or thing beyond Our control.

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28. Counterparts and E-Signatures. This Agreement may be executed electronically and in counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement. A signed or electronically signed copy of this Agreement delivered by facsimile, email, or other means of electronic transmission is deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, You and We have entered into this Agreement, as of the Effective Date.

TRADESMEN OF NEW ENGLAND, LLC

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

