



Chairman Gary St. Vil

TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES
LEDYARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

DRAFT

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

Chairman St. Vil 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	Present	In-Person
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Excused	
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Ty (Earl) Lamb	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Adrienne Parad	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
James Thompson	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

- IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Board of Education’s Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

School Superintendent Jason Hartling thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to present the Board of Education’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He began by introducing Board of Education Director of Facilities Mr. Wayne Donaldson, who has been with them for about nine-years; and has been instrumental in putting their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)together. He also noted that Board of Education Chairman Jennifer Reguin was attending tonight’s meeting remotely via Zoom. He stated the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has been a topic of discussion for quite a while and that he appreciated Chairman St. Vil and Chairman Reguin working together to set up tonight’s meeting so they could have this conversation directly.

Mr. Harting proceeded by reviewing a PowerPoint of the Board of Education’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as follows:



Why Facilities Matter

Schools are the town's largest long-term capital assets. Protecting them is a matter of safety, reliability, and law.



Statutory Obligation

Compliance with CGS § 10-220(a) mandates the Board of Education to provide "safe and properly-maintained" learning environments. This is a legal requirement, not a choice.



Operational Reliability

A breakdown in HVAC, plumbing, or power stops the school day. We focus on preventing catastrophic system failures that disrupt learning and force emergency closures.



Asset Preservation

Shifting from reactive emergency repairs (expensive) to proactive lifecycle management (predictable). This strategy extends the useful life of the Town's infrastructure.

Financial Stewardship & Funding Sources

Matching the right funding mechanism to the project scope.

Bondable Projects

Large-scale infrastructure (Boilers, Windows, Roofs). Eligible for State Reimbursement.

Capital Non-Recurring (CNR)

Medium-scale projects exceeding annual operating capacity (Gym upgrades, Vehicles).

Operating Budget

Routine maintenance preventing decay. HVAC service contracts (\$140k/yr), Curbing repairs (\$4k/yr).

Ag Science (ASTI) Fund

Restricted State funds for the Ag Science program. No impact to Town tax levy.

Current State of District Facilities

Condition assessment based on age of infrastructure and date of last major renovation.

Ledyard High School (LHS)
Status: Critical. Built 1962/1966. Major mechanical systems (Boilers, Windows, Roof) are at end-of-life. 90% of current capital needs are concentrated here.

Gales Ferry / Juliet Long School
Status: Aging. Built 2001 / 1961. Finishes reaching 26+ years. Specific system replacements needed (PA systems, Playground surfaces, Windows).

Ledyard Middle School / Gallup Hill School
Status: Good. Renovated 2019. Limited capital needs; currently in maintenance mode.

Board of Education / District
Status: Operational. Routine maintenance only.

The Primary Challenge: Ledyard High School

Infrastructure from the 1960s is reaching total system failure.

Main Roof
Reaches end of life in 2032. Media Center roof currently leaking.

Original Windows
Inefficient single-pane. Drafty, difficult to operate. Prerequisite for HVAC upgrade.

Boilers (63 Years Old)
Original to building (1962). Metal pitting observed. Tubes failing. Service parts obsolete.

Accessibility
Lower level lacks elevator access. ADA compliance risk.

90% of major capital needs are concentrated at LHS due to infrastructure age and deferred modernization.

The Facilities Conditions Assessment (FCA): A Physical Exam for Our Schools

THE FOUNDATION OF THE FCA

An Expert Observational Audit
Licensed architects perform a non-invasive "deep dive" into the existing physical plant.

Purely Physical Evaluation
Focuses on identifying structural deficiencies rather than programmatic or educational layouts.

Thermal Scanning for Efficiency
Includes infrared scanning of the building envelope to detect air, heat, and cooling leakage.

THE BUILDING ENVELOPE

Rigorous review of the roof, windows, doors, and masonry integrity.

LIFE SAFETY & CODE COMPLIANCE

Ensures all building systems meet current safety standards and legal requirements.

OUTCOMES & PRIORITIZATION

Severity-Based Ranking
Deficiencies are prioritized based on the urgency of physical repair.

Applied Cost Estimates
Each identified issue is assigned a cost to provide a clear financial roadmap.

ASSESSMENT & APPLICATION ROLES

ASSESSMENT PHASE	PRIMARY FOCUS	EVALUATED BY
Expert FCA	Physical Condition & Code	Professional Consultants
Local Knowledge	Educational Needs & Programs	District Administrators
Financial Plan	Cost Application & Scheduling	Town & Board of Education

The Road to Renewal: Ledyard Public Schools Facility Decision Process

Structured assessment framework to move from initial building observations to final infrastructure decisions, ensuring facility improvements align with physical plant requirements and modern educational standards.

Phase 1: Data Gathering & Needs Assessment

Facility Conditions Assessment (FCA)
A comprehensive, observation-based review of the building envelope, mechanical systems, and life safety codes.

Enrollment & Space Projections
Calculating 5-year high enrollment to determine the required system footage and state reimbursement eligibility.

Educational Specifications (Ed Specs)
Defining the specific classrooms and programs needed to meet modern learning standards regardless of construction type.

Phase 2: Evaluation & Final Decision

Renovation Status Analysis
A licensed architect evaluates regulatory systems from building footprints for state renovation status.

Comparing Solution Paths
Weighing the FCA and Ed Specs against three options: Repair, Renovate, or Build New.

Option: Repair

Primary Trigger: Localized deterioration or aging finishes
Financial Impact: Targeted operating or non-recurring capital funds

Option: Renovate

Primary Trigger: Significant physical deficiencies/code needs
Financial Impact: Renovable project; requires state "Renovation Status"

Option: Build New

Primary Trigger: Low enrollment/space standard mismatch
Financial Impact: Renovable project; focus on right-sizing the facility

LMS Cafeteria Expansion

Expanding the Middle School cafeteria to accommodate entire grade levels and alleviate overcrowding.

Total Estimated Cost: **\$600,000**

Net Cost to Ledyard (Est.): **\$227,160**

JWL Window Replacement

Replacing aged windows at Juliet W. Long to meet energy standards and reduce heat loss.

Total Estimated Cost: **\$1,200,000**

Net Cost to Ledyard (Est.): **\$454,320**

JWL Parking Lot Repave

\$500,000 **\$500,000** No Grant

FY2027 Critical Capital Priorities

Emergency Communication Overhaul

Critical PA system replacements at LHS (\$100k), JWL (\$6k), and GFS (\$6k) for emergency safety.

LHS Modernization Foundation

\$75,000 allocated for a comprehensive modernization study to plan the high school's future.

Classroom Renewal (\$140,000)

Continuing renovations at Juliet W. Long School to meet modern learning environment standards.

High-Priority Non-Recurring FY27 Requests

Replacement Maintenance Truck	\$80,000	District-Wide
GHS Turf Playground Installation	\$47,000	Gallup Hill School
Ag-Science Restroom Upgrades	\$20,000	Ledyard High School

- High School Facilities Needs Assessment Study**
Superintendent Hartling stated at their February 10, 2026 meeting the Board of Education provided authorization for him to move forward with preparing and soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) a Facilities Assessment Study for the High School (built 1963-1966); and authorized the use of \$75,000 from their Capital Funding to pay for the Facilities Assessment Study. He stated the Study would not be about programmatic spaces, explaining that it was about the physical plan of the High School as it exists today such as: Thermal Scanning for efficiency; Building Envelope; Roof, Windows, Masonry Integrity; Life Safety; Code Compliance, and Walls. He noted when the bathrooms were renovated they had to open the walls because the cast iron piping had rotted out, The Study would provide an idea regarding the prioritization, overall cost, and the extent of what they were looking at. They expect the Study to be completed around the June/July, 2026.

Mr. Hartling explained the Facilities Needs Assessment Study would help them determine the following:

- Price Tag and how that investment should move forward:
 - Repair
 - Renovate
 - Build New
- State Grant Reimbursement would require the following:
 - Enrollment Study
 - Ten-year look at enrollment projections
- State Grant Reimbursement could dictate a number of things such as:
 - Whether they would support repairs
 - Whether they would support Renovate-As-New
 - New Construction – Size
- Agricultural Science High School
Mr. Hartling explained because Ledyard was an Ag-Science School they may be eligible for additional State Grant Reimbursement, noting that instead of looking at 62% state grant reimbursement, they may be looking at 82% state grant reimbursement. However, he stated that more work was needed to investigate the options.

Councilor Lamb addressed the importance to have an overall Community Capital Improvement Plan that included a time phase, and he questioned whether the Board of Education has prioritized their needs. Mr. Hartling stated that the Board of Education has prioritized their Capital Needs. However, he stated the \$75,000 for the *Facilities Needs Assessment Study* would only address the High School. He stated the idea of a Community Capital Improvement Plan was something they could all talk about; however, he stated that it was out of his purview. He stated the *Facilities Needs Assessment Study* for the High School was their first step to plan any path forward. He stated that he did not want to use community resources to make significant spot repairs to only realize 5-6-years down the road that the short-term BanAides were not going to work for the long term.

Councilor Parad stated that she went through the process and saw the Renovate-As-New improvements to the Gallup Hill School and the Middle School. She stated that there seemed to be a miscalculation regarding the student enrollment numbers for the school facilities, noting the kids were packed in; and there was not enough room in the Middle School Cafeteria. She questioned how they would plan for an influx in the number of students that would be attending their schools. Mr. Hartling explained the Student Enrollment Study for the Gallup Hill School and Middle School was done as part of the Project(s) Referendum process; working through all of the stages, and had assumptions which he could not speak to because all that work was done before his arrival in Ledyard. He stated they did have a space challenge at the Middle School, noting that he thought that it was less dictated by the Enrollment Study; and more dictated by the decisions that were made relative to the State Grant Reimbursement Funding, explaining that the State would provide reimbursement funding on certain spaces; and not provide reimbursement funding on other spaces. He stated spaces that were not eligible for State Grant Reimbursement; or for a lesser amount of Grant Reimbursement, were sized down to keep the project within the approved Referendum amount. He stated because the Middle School Cafeteria was sized for about 152 kids, that they cannot fit one grade level in the Cafeteria, which meant that the Middle School was running 4-5 Lunch Waives to accommodate the school population, noting that it creates operational havoc. He stated the Middle School Auditorium was also sized down, noting that they cannot fit two-grades let alone the entire school; and that the Gymnasium was also sized down, explaining that those decisions were not dictated by the *Enrollment Study*, but rather by the hard choices the community had to make between reimbursable items; the approved referendum dollar amount of \$65,835,000 ; and cost of what the *Schools Consolidate - Renovate-As-New Project(s) (Middle School and Gallup Hil School)* came in at. He stated at the time he arrived in Ledyard, in 2016, they were getting ready to go out to Bid; and he explained because the budget was so tight they removed the Air Conditioning from the School(s) Projects, noting that the Bid Request included an “*Add Alternate with Air Conditioning*”.

School Superintendent Hartling went on to state for the High School that the Enrollment Study was going to be challenging because they have to take into account the 13 towns who feed into the Ledyard Agriculture Science Program. (Ag-Science). He stated every school in the State has seen a decline in Student Enrollment. He stated although they do not have a crystal ball, that he wanted to make sure that they had an open and transparent process as they work through all of the required steps, to allow them to make the best long-term and short-term challenge points, in making the best decision for their community.

Chairman St. Vil stated as stewards of the town resources that the most cost prohibited thing they could do was wait for something to break before they decided to fix it. He stated that he applauded the Board of Education and Superintendent Hartling’s efforts to identify the critical path forward for the School District’s Capital Expenditures. He stated that *High School Facilities Needs Assessment Study* appeared to be Step One in that critical path. Therefore, he questioned what the Town Council and/or the Mayor could do to support them in conducting the Needs Assessment; and when could they expect to hear more on the process. Mr. Hartling stated that his hope was to advertise the Request for Proposals for the *High School Needs Assessment Study* early, so they could potentially contract a Firm before the summer. He stated the work for the Town Council and Mayor would begin once they receive the *High School Facilities Needs Assessment Study*. He explained at that they would then need to have an open and honest dialogue about the path forward; what that would mean for the students, what that would mean to the community; and what that would mean to taxpayers in a broader sense. He stated that the Board of Education has had Capital Improvement Plan with Projects projected out for ten-years. However, he stated that the community has not had the resources to address many of the projects, and therefore, they continued to get kicked-down-the-road. He stated they were now at that critical place particularly with the High School.

School Superintendent Hartling continued to note the following two Bondable Projects in the Board of Education’s Capital Improvement Plan:

• ***Middle School Cafeteria Expansion \$600,000 (Bondable Project)***

Mr. Harting stated he hoped that through State Legislative Action that Ledyard could receive State Grant Reimbursement for this project; which would leave an estimated projected town-share of \$227,160 for the taxpayers. He noted that State Grant Reimbursement was not a given, and that he has been working with State Senator Cathy Osten.

• ***Juliet W. Long School Window Replacement \$1,200,000 (Bondable Project)***

Mr. Harting stated he hoped that through State Legislative Action that Ledyard could receive State Grant Reimbursement for this project; which would leave an estimated projected town-share of \$454,320 for the taxpayers.

• ***Juliet W. Long School Pavement Projects – \$1,000,000 (Bondable Project)***

Mr. Hartling stated the estimated cost for the Juliet W. Long School Parking Lot Repavement was \$500,000 and estimated cost to pave other areas around the school was \$500,000. He stated that these pavement projects have been included in the Bondable Capital Projects and that ***State Grant Funding would not be available for these pavement projects.***

• ***Critical Capital Improvement Projects – Tax Levy***

- Safety & Security Plan
 - ✓ Public Address (PA) System Replacements - Systems were antiquated and parts to repair them were no longer available.
 - High School \$10,000
 - Juliet W. Long School \$6,000
 - Gales Ferry School \$6,000
- Juliet W. Long School Classrooms Infrastructure Renewal \$140,000
- Maintenance Truck Replacement - \$80,000

- Gallup Hill School Artificial Surface - \$47,000- Mr. Hartling stated the kids do not have enough space to play outdoors, noting the grassy area has become a dirt pit and after it rains it's a mud pit. He stated an artificial surface would enable the 600 students at the Gallup Hill School to have a place to play, even after it rains.
- High School Ag-Science Bathrooms \$20,000

Mr. Hartling concluded his presentation by stating the Board of Education's Capital Improvement Plan was a living document and changes from year to year, noting as an example things such as Gallup Hill School Playground Replacement was not on their radar two-years ago. He stated for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 the Board of Education's Tax Levy Capital Projects were in the total amount of \$269,000. He provided each member of the Town Council with the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Capital Needs Report noting that it was divided into the following four categories noting that it included a full description, ranking, funding source, evaluation; and projected escalation cost for each project as follows:

- Bondable – Escalation costs not built into the Bondable Projects
- Capital
- Operating
- Ag-Science

Councilor Ryan thanked Mr. Hartling for his presentation and the detailed Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Capital Needs Report. He noted in comparing some of the Bondable Projects to prior year cost projections that a number of them have significantly increased by tens of millions of dollars; such as the Roof Replacements, and the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems, noting in last year's (fy 25/26) Capital Plan the High School Heating System Replacement was listed as \$5 million; and for the coming fiscal year (26/27) the same project was estimated to cost \$20 million. He asked Superintendent Hartling to explain why the numbers have increased so much since last year. Board of Education Director of Facilities Wayne Donaldson explained as they get closer to the year for those projects that he would contact architects and engineers to see if the cost estimates were still good or whether they needed to be updated due to inflationary costs; noting that he does not worry about projects that were slated for 2036, etc. Councilor Ryan stated that he appreciated the escalations which were about 3% per year. However, he stated that they needed to do a better job estimating costs, noting that they have discussed this issue with their Operating Budgets and that they also need to have a serious conversation about better estimating Capital Expenses for a Facilities Master Plan for future years; if they were going to take the High School Facilities Needs Assessment seriously, and they were going to bond the project that they needed to have better cost estimates, especially if the town was going to take on the interest costs that come with bonding (borrowing money) to facilitate the projects. Mr. Hartling stated that Councilor Ryan's comments supported the need to fund hiring professional engineers to prepare an assessment and cost estimates. He stated as the town has seen costs for fire apparatus escalate that the same type of cost escalations have occurred for things such as boilers. He stated that he would appreciate the Town Council's support and resources for the Board of Education to obtain professional cost estimates for the replacement of the High School Boiler.

Councilor Ryan addressed Mr. Hartling's comment regarding the replacement of the fire apparatus explaining that the difference between the Fire Departments and the Board of Education was that the Fire Departments fund their Capital Plan every year; and the Town Council supports that funding request. Therefore, he stated when the Fire Departments have large expenses they had a significant amount of funding available to support those capital costs. He stated the reason he brings up the Fire Departments, and the Police Department was because they were great examples for Long-Term Planning for Capital Expenses. He stated that he would go on the record this evening stating that when the Facilities Capital Plan comes out, that if it was a sound Plan that he would commit himself to finding a way for them to continuously fund budget lines to feed this Capital Account in a responsible way for the taxpayers and responsible for the schools; to start to build up a Capital Fund; so that they were not dealing with huge expenses that surprise them a year out.

Superintendent Hartling stated that the Town Council has been exceptional at making sure that \$300,000 in Capital Funding goes to fire apparatus each year, and they did the same thing with public works trucks, stating that it was smart to have those sinking funds. However, that level of funding resources has not been assigned to the Board of Education for a variety of reasons. He thought it would be great to establish that level of investment to permit the smoothing of capital expenses. However, he stated that they cannot allocate \$200,000 a year into a Capital Sinking Fund and expect to smooth a \$50 million hole for something such as replacing the boilers at the High School before the units were completely gone. Councilor Ryan stated that there had to be a way to blunt those costs. He went on to note that the Capital Projects using the Tax Levy did not seem to follow the same level of escalation as the

Bondable Projects did; stating that he wanted to make sure that they were dealing with accurate numbers.

Councilor Lamb addressed the importance to get serious with the development of a Strategic Capital Improvement Plan for both the School Facilities and the Town Facilities. He addressed the Board of Education's February 10, 2026 approval to use \$75,000 from their Capital Account to pay for the *High School Facilities Needs Assessment Study*. Therefore, he questioned the reason the Board of Education has included \$75,000 in their Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Capital Improvement Plan, and he asked whether they were looking for the Town Council to allocate \$75,000 to reimburse the Board's Capital Account. Superintendent Hartling stated the Board of Education made a decision to use their Capital Non-Recurring Funds to move the High School Facilities Needs Assessment Study forward. He stated the Board of Education has not discussed asking the Town Council to reimburse those funds, noting that they have asked for a number of capital items that needed to be addressed.

Councilor St. Vil thanked Superintendent Hartling for his time and for presenting the Board of Education's proposed Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. Mr. Hartling stated that he appreciated the conversation. He left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

V. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Chairman St. Vil stated before they moved into *Residents and Property Owners Comments* that he wanted to acknowledge what has been happening over the past week. He stated many of them have read the Article, comments, and emails that followed. He stated that he has received messages from residents who were proud of members of this Town Council, and also received messages from residents who were frustrated or disappointed with members of this Town Council. He stated that both perspectives were real and both come from people who care deeply about Ledyard. He stated they were a community with different viewpoints, but what was important was how they handled those differences. He stated as Chairman that his role was not to take sides in political disagreements; and that his responsibility was to run meetings fairly, follow their Rules of Procedure, follow the Town Charter, and to make sure every resident is heard. He stated if residents support the actions of certain Town Councilors that they would be heard; and if residents disagreed strongly with the actions of certain Town Councilors that they would be heard. He stated equal voices matter in this Chamber; and that he would set the following expectations: This was a Public Meeting of a Local Governing Body, it was not a debate period; the Town Council would not engage back and forth during Public Comment; this was the Residents time to speak and the Town Council's time to listen. He also asked that everyone maintain decorum, noting that strong opinions were welcome, passion was understandable, however, he would not allow profanity in this Chamber, including reading profanity from Social Media posts, or other communications written outside of this room. He stated that he believed that they could express themselves clearly and firmly without crossing that line.

Chairman St. Vil continued by stating that he wanted to address an idea to remove Elected Officials which was raised in several emails. Chairman St. Vil stated under Ledyard's system of government the Town Council does not have the authority to remove a duly elected member because of their speech or their political expressions. Councilors were elected by the voters; and they remained accountable to those voters. He stated tonight that he would ask residents to speak honestly, and clearly, but remember the person they disagree with was still their neighbor.

Mr. Steve Munger, 12 Nutmeg Drive, Gales Ferry, noted as he says every time he addressed the Town Council, that he appreciated all of their efforts, noting that he was always polite to everyone; and he always thanked everybody. However, he stated that tonight he was only going to thank six members of the Town Council. He continued by addressing the following:

- Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Munger noted the comments that members of the Town Council had the right not to stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance*, noting as town representatives that they did not have that right. He stated if they were residents sitting in the audience at a Town Council meeting that they had the right not to stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance*. He stated by not standing for the *Pledge of Allegiance* at an official meeting was a form of *protest*, explaining that they could not *protest* at an official meeting. He stated that if they allowed one person to protest at an official meeting then they would have to allow everyone to protest at an

official meeting. He stated hundreds of thousands of people have died since this country was founded defending the American Flag. He asked that members of the Town Council show respect to the military members and everyone that defend the American Flag. He stated that they should at least stand up, if they do not want to recite the *Pledge of Allegiance* that was on them. However he stated he was asking, as a resident, that they show some respect toward the American Flag and that they stop protesting during a Town Council official meeting.

- Social Media Post – Mr. Munger noted that he agreed that everyone had the Freedom of Speech to say what they want to say. However, he stated that there were consequences in what they say, noting that a formal apology should be made.

Mr. Munger concluded his comments by stated that both of these were serious issues; and he would like a response as to whether the protest at Town Council meeting was going to be allowed to continue.

Mr. Jeff Eillenberger, 2 Village Drive, Ledyard, submitted a written response regarding a Social Media post from Pastor Kyle Dykes of the Gallup Hill Baptist Church.

Ms. Karyn Collins, 37 Chriswood Trace, Ledyard, stated that she was a long time resident of Ledyard and that her family members were all Veterans. She stated that she was proud of every one of them. She stated that she was present this evening to comment on the following:

Pledge of Allegiance – Ms. Collins stated that Ledyard had roughly 6,500 active duty military members; 1,200 Veterans; and more than 12,000 military family members spread throughout New London County. This area's military presence goes back to the American Revolutionary War, most notable the 1781 Battle of Groton Heights. This Town was named from Colonel William Ledyard who died defending Fort Griswold. Their School Mascot was the Colonels; service was in their DNA. She stated when members of the Town Council chose not to stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance* it does not come across as *thoughtful protest*; noting that it comes across as a *rejection of the people of who defend the freedoms they enjoy*. She stated standing for the American Flag was not about blind politics, it was about respect, unity, and honoring those who serve, and those who never came home. She noted that Councilor Brunelle and Councilor Thompson stated that they refused to stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance* in protest because of the Immigration Policy. She stated town hall meetings were not the place for symbolic virtue signaling. She stated they were not Federal Policy makers, noting that they were local representatives and their job was to serve all residents of Ledyard, not just the ones that agree with them. She stated when they stay seated during the *Pledge of Allegiance* they were not speaking for the town; they were speaking only for themselves. She asked that they act appropriately when representing the entire town.

- Social Media Post – Ms. Collins stated although Councilor Buhle did not sit for the *Pledge of Allegiance* that her recent Social Media Post caught the attention of the New London Day Newspaper and other media platforms. She stated that Councilor Buhle's post was filled with profanity stating that she had no interest in speaking to or engaging with constituents or anyone who did not agree with her. She openly dismissed accountability and told residents who thought differently to essentially go away. Ms. Collins stated that this was not leadership, it was not service; it was not representation; and it was an embarrassing moment for Ledyard. She stated that leadership required maturity, emotional discipline, and the ability to listen, engage, and to serve across differences. For these reasons Ms. Collins stated that she was formally calling for the resignation of Councilor Jessica Buhle, because her actions demonstrated that she was unwilling to represent the entire town of Ledyard with the dignity, seriousness and the respect that this office required.

Ms. Collins concluded her comments by stating that they deserve leaders that stand for our American Flag, our history, our service members, and for all of Ledyard.

Mr. Drew Chappelle, 14 Sherwood Trace, Ledyard, stated that he appreciated the work, time, and efforts the members of the Town Council do for their town. He stated that he understands that they had a lot of military service members in their town and in their country; and that he appreciated them standing by the values that their country and what their *Pledge of Allegiance* was about. He stated when they see that twisted and changed into something that it was never

meant to be; and when members of the Town Council was called out in hatred because of their skin or their accent that it was hurtful. He stated that he loved this town, and he appreciated their leadership and passion; however, he stated he hated the divineness that he was seeing. Thank you.

Mr. Dave Collins, 37 Chriswood Trace, Ledyard, stated he served in the United States Navy for thirty-years and he chose to live Ledyard in 2000; when he could afford to buy a house, noting that he retired in 2013. He stated all of his children attended Ledyard schools and graduated from Ledyard High School. He stated that he only learned today that serving on the Town Council was a voluntary commitment and they were not paid Elected Officials. He noted that many of the members on the Town Council had careers outside of the work they do for the town; and he thanked them for their public service to the town. He stated Public Service means serving everyone they represent, noting that when he was in the military that meant serving the 360,000,000 people in the United States; and for the members of the Town Council that was everybody in Ledyard. He asked the Veterans in Chambers this evening to raise their hand, and he noted that the show of hands was a lot of people. He noted in public service that they have to put their personal opinions aside in order to serve those they worked for, which for the Town Council was the residents in Ledyard. He stated that he was a fervent advocate for both the First and Second Amendment; however, he stated when they serve on the Town Council that they represented their residents and not themselves. He stated although he did not know the words of the Oath of Office the Town Council takes that he could bet that it did not say they could choose when to serve, and when not to serve. He stated that he wished Councilor Buhle was present this evening, because he would have liked to impart some words of wisdom. He stated if Councilor Buhle thought her actions would not affect her husband's job, that it might, relative to security clearance, which was about trust worthiness and being able to rely on not only the Service Person, but the people that affect the Service Person.

Mr. Collins concluded his comments by stating the American Flag represented 360,000,000 people in the United States, noting the colors were important to him; and hopefully important to everybody here. He asked that they please honor the America Flag.

Ms. Wendy Hellenkenson, 14 – L-Lakeside Drive, Ledyard, noted her February 9, 2026 email to the Town Council. She stated that there was nothing that Councilor Brunelle or Councilor Thompson could have done that everyone in the room would have agreed with. She stated if they had worn pins, or if they had put magnets on their cars; that would have affirmed their right to protest, that there were some that would have disagreed with their protest. She stated that she did not think there was anything they could have done that people would not have complained about. She stated that she appreciated what they did, because this country was in a lot of trouble.

Mr. Jacob Hurt, 6 Nugget Hill Drive, Gales Ferry, stated that he was speaking for himself this evening; and that he wanted to address the following procedural items:

- Roberts Rules of Order relative to an elected official speaking in a personal capacity; and even during the public comment portion. Mr. Hurt stated that Mr. Chair talked about using the rules and that he thought that this one may be worthwhile.
- Elected Officials made a principled stance on something others did not agree with. Mr. Hurt stated that they recently witnessed a manufactured controversy over something that affected the entire community when some of their Elected Officials made a principled stance on something others did not agree with. He noted that he was referring, of course, to last year's Budget Vote (fy 25/26).
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – Mr. Hurt thanked the Councilors for calling attention to the recent issues and events of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, even if they did it in a way that others might not agree with. He stated that this was a town issue and he asked the Town Council use the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to help residents understand how their police and schools were dealing with that organization; what policies were in place, or what should be put in place; to make sure their police can continue to do their jobs with the trust and confidence they enjoy today; and that their educators and students have the safest educational environment they can. He stated if

the stories that broke today were true, noting that ICE was looking to build warehouses in this state and elsewhere, that this was probably something they should look into.

- Oath of Office – Mr. Hurt stated in the last couple weeks he has also seen and heard some things that made him need to address those who took an Oath to the Constitution; and who were either piling on this manufactured controversy, or failing to speak out in hopes it would benefit them somehow. He stated anyone who recently confused dissent with disloyalty should go home, and reread that Oath of Office; or read it if they had not read it before. He stated the Oath of Office was to the Constitution, the country whose course it directs, and the rights that are spelled out; including those in the Bill of Rights. He stated the Flag was nowhere in the Oath of Office, noting that the Flag was a symbol. He stated that people use the Flag everywhere, as a means of political expression, and that some candidates use stickers on their car and for their campaign paraphernalia. He turned to the audience and questioned how many of you walked by those today without getting triggered on your way to pick on a couple of peaceful protesters?

Members of the audience asked Mr. Hurt to address the Town Council. Mr. Munger and Mr. Sabbag said that Chairman St. Vil has control of the Council Chambers and they asked that the residents allow Chairman St. Vil to speak.

Chairman St. Vil called Order in the Council Chambers, and asked that they pause for a moment. He stated when others spoke this evening that he did not hear commentary from the audience.

Councilor Ryan stated that he agreed with Chairman St. Vil regarding decorum. He asked that decorum be represented by all speakers this evening, noting that he did not believe that decorum was represented with this speaker, and that perhaps some of the commentary has been incendiary; unlike some of the other comments that have been made. He stated that he would appreciate the speaker to perhaps tone back the incendiary nature of their comments, especially when it's turned towards the audience. Thank you.

Chairman St. Vil stated that he respected Councilor Ryan's opinion; and he respected the opinions of the audience. He stated at the onset of tonight's meeting he stated that every opinion, and every voice would be heard. He stated whether he thought the comments were incendiary, that it did not matter. He stated that there were people that serve, and there were people that fought, so that that person's voice could be heard, unfettered. He stated during his life that he has been treated unfairly; and that he would not do that to others. He stated whether he agreed; or he disagreed, that he learned throughout his life to hear him out; and to listen. That was what an orderly meeting was required to be by the Roberts Rules, and it was that simple. He stated if others cannot do that; there was a means of dealing with it, which he did not want to do. He stated that they could judge him and they could vote him out. However, he stated that he had to let everyone speak for their 3-4 minutes. He asked Mr. Hurt to please continue his comments.

Mr. Hurt stated his point was that the Flag was used in various ways, and that peaceful protest was something that anyone who served in any capacity and has taken any Oath; and fought to serve, and fought to protect. He stated as long as the rights they were protecting were being peacefully exercised by the people they protect, that they should be fine. He stated next time someone sees something they did not like that maybe they should mind their own business. He stated they should not grab a personal Facebook page post, spread it all over the place; and alert the media, and manufacture a self-serving tantrum. He stated just mind your business next time. Thank you.

Mr. Gary McKeon, 15 Elizabeth George Drive, Mashantucket, stated he was on travel, and therefore, he questioned what they were protesting. He stated it seemed like they always had something to protest, whether it was the Flag, or something else. He stated that his Father received the Purple Heart serving in North Korean War; and that he was a Law Enforcement Officer in Ledyard for 11-years. He questioned whether they were protesting the shooting of Rene Good in Minnesota, who was shot by the ICE Officer that she tried to run over, noting that he could assure them that if anyone of them were in that position they would have done

the same thing; or whether they were protesting the shooting of Alex Pretti who was involved in an ICE Protest and was carrying a weapon. He stated that ICE Officer's job was to remove Illegal Immigrants from this country; noting that they do not go after US Citizens. He stated people have to stop being victims, noting that nothing happens to you, it happens because of you. He stated that cops were not looking to stop people because of the color of their skin, etc., they were enforcing the law.

Mr. Brandon Sabbag, 16 Nutmeg Drive, Gales Ferry, thanked everyone for volunteering their time. He noted when he was in College that he was the Vice-President of the College Democrats and that he led a 2,000 person protest at the Boston Commons. He stated they all wore white, they laid down in the Boston Commons and called it a *"Die-in"* for the Genocide that was happening in Sudan, noting that they made the front page of the Boston Globe Newspaper. He stated that he loved the right to protest and that he supported the two Town Councilors in their desire to protest. However, he stated that he did not think the Town Council Meeting was the forum to do that. He stated when they take the Oath of Office that they represent everyone in their town. He stated although there may be 40%; 50%; or 60% of residents that may agree with what was being done in this Chamber; or with what they saw on-line that there was also people who do not agree. He stated that he was fine with pins or other passive protest items. He read the following fictitious story: *"When the bell rang at the Ledyard Middle School one morning the students rose for the Pledge of Allegiance, all except for one, Jake, a quiet eight grader who stayed in his seat. He wasn't trying to be disrespectful, he just didn't think it mattered. After class Mr. Daniels, a history teacher and retired Navy Officer, quietly walked over to Jake and sat down next to him. He did not yell, he did not scold, he simply asked Jake do you know why we stand? Jake shrugged, It was just something people do" he said. Mr. Daniels nodded slowly, let me tell you something, he rolled up his sleeves and showed Jake faint scars from an explosion overseas. I've seen men who never made it home, men who gave up their future so that kids like you could grow-up in a country where you could choose to sit or stand. The Pledge was not about agreeing with politicians, it's not about who was in Office, like them or not, its about honoring the people who paid the price so that you could live for free. Jake looked down at his shoes, while Mr. Daniels continued, when you stand you recognize that Freedom is not Free, when you Stand you are showing Respect not to the Government but to the sacrifice to the idea that this Country even with all of its' flaws is worth Standing For. The next morning the bell rang; and Jake Stood, not because he was forced to' but because he finally understood what he was Standing for."*

Mr. Sabbag noted the following numbers of Solders died in fighting in Wars during the last 100 years: World War II – 418,500; Korea War – 36,574; Vietnam War-58,220; Gulf War 294; Afghanistan War - 2,462; Iraq War 4,419. He concluded his comments by stating that they owe it to their Service Members who died; and to those who were still with them, to Stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Thank you.

Mr. Whit Irwin, 2 Winfield Way, Ledyard, attending remotely via Zoom, stated on Monday, February 9, 2026 the Town of Ledyard, specifically Councilor Buhle, made the front page of *The Day Newspaper* and brought great discredit to the Town. He stated that Councilor Buhle's public pronouncement, her *"F.....ICE"* pronouncement, was nothing short of a childish tantrum. He stated had Councilor Buhle been a private individual this would have been a gross misrepresentation of the Federal Government and another cry of the leftist operation. However, he stated that Councilor Buhle was an Elected Representative of Ledyard; and as such, Councilor Buhle should know that her words reflect on the Town of Ledyard and its constituents. Yes, she represented all of them, and in this case poorly. He stated her pathetic outrage was combative and showed that she cannot and will not effectively listen to concerns of some significant segment of the people of the town that she represents. This was particularly unconscionable for the an elected Town Councilor. He stated while ordinarily private speech was protected from criminal prosecution under the First Amendment, with the most notable exception being *"Shouting Fire in a Crowded Movie Theater"* it does not mean that all expression was held in violent repercussions. Mr. Irwin stated that he echoed the call for Councilor Buhle's resignation for unfitness to serve; and he requested the Town Council take action to distance themselves as a body, from her belligerence. Councilor Buhle's comments regarding ICE seemed to be such an allegiance that it appeared that she had a genuine conflict of interest in her representation of the townspeople of Ledyard; and as such she should be investigated under Chapter IX; Section 6 of the Town Charter. He stated it was his opinion that she was unfit to serve and that she should resign in lieu of that resignation, the Town Council should take steps to censure her. Thank you for your attention.

Mrs. Karen Parkinson, 55 Rose Hill Road, Ledyard, stated that she stood for the *Pledge of Allegiance* this evening in respect for her deceased husband who spent 12-years under water serving in the US Navy, and away from his family; along with all the other Service Members who have served their country in the military forces. She stated for those who really do not understand what they were saying, that she would deeply appreciate that they change their view. She stated that she was begging them to stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance*, and to protest differently.

Mrs. Parkinson continued by stating that she was newly elected as the Historic District Commission's Chairman. She stated that she was also President of the Tri-Town Trail Association; and she was a retired Social Worker, who had a Code of Ethics that followed them their entire life, even after they have retired. She stated that she grew up on a Pig Farm in Iowa; and as a kid she slopped pigs and chased rats. She stated as an adult that part of her was still a kid, so *she could still butcher a chicken; and she could still seek out rats*, noting that was intended as a metaphor.

Mrs. Parkinson stated the reason she was present this evening was to address New Business Item # 5 regarding the Preservation of the Spicer Homestead Ruins. She stated it was a "*Homestead*" not a "*House*"; explaining that a *Homestead* was the house, the out buildings and the land, noting that it was not only the house; and that there has been some disagreement about that. She stated Dr. Ammie M. Chittim; who was a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) and the Historic District Commission's Director of Archaeological Research and Preservation; submitted a letter dated January 5, 2026, which was included in tonight's Agenda Packet. She stated Dr. Chittim's letter talked about the reasons 4.4-acres should be preserved as the Spicer Homestead Ruins. Mrs. Parkinson noted the following preserved properties: Nathan Lester House, its museum and surrounding out buildings and land was 134-acres; and the Up-Down Sawmill was 11.6-acres. She stated the Historic District Commission was looking to preserve 4.4-acres for the Spicer Homestead Ruins, noting that there was some mysterious reference to an acre or 0.73-acres but that has never appeared on any Agenda item. She stated that she has been working to preserve the Spicer Homestead Ruins for six-years, and it has been on the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee Agenda for thirty-months, noting that she has been attending meetings for a long time to get the area preserved. She stated she spent two-days reviewing Minutes, trying to find a reference of the 1-acre or 0.73-acres, stating that it did not exist, except in the most recent January 5, 2026 Land Use/Planning/Public Works Minutes in which Councilor Buhle mentioned the 0.73-acres and the Town Planner mentioned 1-acre. She stated the Historic District Commission was looking to preserve 4.4-acres for the Spicer Homestead Ruins. She stated the Historic District Commission worked under Ordinance #300-019 "*An Ordinance Establishing Historic District Boundaries And Establishing A Historic District Commission for the Town of Ledyard*"; which was established in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes. She stated that the Historic District Commission gets its authority from State Statutes; and was comprised of five regular members and three alternate members, noting that the Commission was not political and was bipartisan. She asked that the Motion on tonight's Agenda be revised to the Motion that was acted on by the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee at their January 5, 2026 meeting and forwarded to the Town Council, stating that it was different wording. She stated per State Statute that Step 1 was for the Legislative Body, not the property owner, to appoint a Historic Property Study Committee; noting that they were asking that Historic District Commission be appointed as the Study Committee. She stated all the other things that have been added into New Business Item #5 was defined under the State Statute. She stated the A2 Survey was not required until the end of the process, which was when they would revise Ordinance #300-019 to include the Spicer Homestead Ruins; and that was when they would need the A2 Survey to file in the town's land records.

Chairman St. Vil thanked Mrs. Parkinson for her comments, and he asked her to remain at tonight's meeting, noting that the Town Council would be discussing New Business Item #5 later in the Agenda.

VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Barnes thanked all those who attended tonight's meeting both in-person and on-line; and he thanked all the residents who spoke this evening. He stated that he and Chairman St. Vil do not always agree on everything, however, he stated that they do both agree that everyone had a voice. He stated there was a lot of discussion this evening; and that he wanted to share the following points:

- Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Barnes stated that he personally would appreciate if all Town Council Members would stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance*. He stated that he agreed and understands that the things they were seeing in their country were very uncomfortable; and concerning. He stated *Liberty and Justice for All* meant a lot to him; and it did not mean that they were there. He stated as a Nation they have never been there; but that was what they were striving to achieve.
- Councilor Buhle's Social Media Post – Councilor Barnes stated because Councilor Buhle was not present this evening, that he was not going to go into detail; and he would like to give Councilor Buhle an opportunity to respond. However, he stated her comments were an embarrassment. He stated her comments may not have been intended for public discourse, but they became public discourse and were in a tone and language that was not appropriate for the community.
- Good Thing – Bad Thing- Councilor Barnes stated during dinnertime his wife instituted something to engage their children in conversation that they called Good-Thing-Bad Thing. He stated that he mentioned two Bad-Things this evening; and therefore, he wanted to share the following Good-Thing this evening. He thanked their Public Works Department for their hard work in keeping their roads clear and safe during the snowstorms this winter. He stated that he hoped the weather was in their favor going forward and that the Public Works Crew could get some rest. He asked Mayor Allyn, III to express their deepest gratitude to the Public Works Department.

Councilor Brunelle thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting whether they liked her or not. She addressed those who were offended, angry, or ruffled by her choice to sit during the Town Council's *Pledge of Allegiance*, and that she wanted to note the following:

- First Amendment Protection – Councilor Brunelle stated that the Supreme Court confirmed that individuals could not be compelled to stand or salute the flag. Choosing not to stand was a form of symbolic speech, that was protected by the First Amendment. It was not illegal, it was not against the law to sit during the National Anthem, and it was not punishable by law. It was a valid expression of the freedoms the flag itself represents.

Councilor Brunelle stated that she was an Elected Official; does not get paid to do this; and that she volunteered to be elected; and was elected. She stated to believe that all of them to sit up here and should be puppets and mindless drones was ridiculous. She stated that she had integrity, which was defined as: Quality of being honest, and having strong moral principles, moral uprightness. She stated that Moral Uprightness was defined as: Having the quality of possessing strong ethical principles, integrity, and consistent honest behavior; it represents a firm commitment to doing what was right; acting with virtue, accountability, and fairness regardless of consequences, or convenience. She stated that she knew that people would be mad, angry, rood, and even hostile to her for sitting during the *Pledge of Allegiance*. She stated that she knew that it would make her life complicated and hurt her emotionally and be inconvenient, but she did it anyway, because she had integrity. She stated that she did not sit during the *Pledge of Allegiance* to grandstand, or for favorable attention, noting that she knew that unfavorable attention would be aimed at her; as shown here tonight. She stated that she did not sit during the *Pledge of Allegiance* for media attention, noting that *The New London Day Newspaper* reached out to her, noting that she had no intention for that. She stated as someone with integrity, that she would not say something to say something. She stated that she would not say *Liberty and Justice for All*; because she knew that was not true right now in this country; noting that she wanted it to be true, but it was not.

Councilor Brunelle continued by stating that Immigration Control Enforcement Officers (ICE) were breaking and treading over their Constitutional Rights. Their sitting President speaks of violence against those who disagree with him over policy, he was interwind in a massive pedophile debacle; posted highly racial facebook post about a former President and he refused to apologize for it. She stated that people will say that they were respectful of the flag and they were respectful the President, even if they do not like him. However, she stated that they

do not stand up and talk bad when the current sitting President was disrespecting a former President; and being racist.

Councilor Buhle went on to note that she has read letters and heard comments crying out against one of her colleague's facebook posts that had some profanity; and she questioned where those residents outrage was for the President's facebook post; and for his betrayal of President Barack Obama and his wife. She stated that she could see all of them, for who they were by their actions, noting that she could see if they had integrity or not. She stated for the call for her to focus on their town, that what was happening in our nation was important to their town and to every individual in it. She stated to ignore it would serve no one. She stated integrity would not let her ignore it. She stated as she has said at previous meetings that she did not know what to do about the policies at the top, but being silent was not an option.

Councilor Thompson stated that he appreciated all of the residents who were present and spoke this evening; and he appreciated all those who have spoken at other public forums and who have written a letter. He stated a part of him appreciated the outrage, but that he believed the outrage was misdirected. He stated he sat during the *Pledge of Allegiance* in-part to protest Immigration Control Enforcement Officers (ICE). He noted that he disagreed with Mr. McKeon's comments that the ICE Officers were cops. Councilor Thompson stated that the cops he knew were well trained, had discipline, and self-control; noting that ICE Officers have not demonstrated any of those qualities. He stated when he sits during the *Pledge of Allegiance* it was because he was disappointed. He asked that residents not allow what was happening in their country right now to become *normal*, and that they do not become *desensitized* to what was going on, because what was going on in their country was abnormal, it was ugly, and it was wrong. He stated he compiled a list of the things that ICE has done over the last few months and that he had to stop because it was a bit too much. He stated Rene Good and Alex Pretti were executed, a seven year old child was taken 1,200 miles away from her mother to a detention camp in Texas; noting legal or illegal this was wrong. He stated the American Flag stands for a lot of things to a lot of people, it was subjective. He thanked everyone in this room; and their family members who have served their country; noting that his Farther was a Naval Aviator during the Vietnam War and was a Prisoner of War (POW); both of this Grandfathers fought in World War II; one flew B-17 flying fortress and stay for the Berlin Airlift, and his other Grandfather had half his face caved-in by a Howitzer Recoil; his Step-Father was Special Forces and a POW, noting that someone does not walk away from that experience normal. He stated that he could trace his family's military tradition back to the Revolutionary War, noting that everybody he has talked to say they served to protect their rights; then they have also fought to protect his right, and Councilor Brunelle's right to sit down during the *Pledge of Allegiance*. He stated that he sits down during the *Pledge of Allegiance* with no disrespect in his heart to anyone who has served this country. He stated as he has said at prior meetings: "*You can love something and still be disappointed in it*". He stated the reason he was sitting down during the *Pledge of Allegiance* was because right now what was happening in his country disappointed him. He stated this was not the country he grew up in; and that this was not normal, and he begged them again not to become desensitized to this. He stated people who were present this evening and stood up, and said something; or even those who did not say something, the fact was that they were thinking awful things about them and about what they were doing.

A resident shouted that they could know what people were thinking in their thoughts, stating he was not a mind reader. He asked if there was a three minute rule for the Councilor to speak. Chairman St. Vil asked resident to leave the meeting. He asked Councilor Thompson to continue.

Councilor Thompson continued by stating regardless of what residents thought of him, that he appreciated the fact that they were here, because that meant that the conversation has already begun. Thank you.

Councilor Ryan stated that he appreciated everyone who attended tonight's meeting and the comments from both sides of the aisle. He stated as Local Elected Officials that they represented all of their residents, and therefore, he needed to hear all perspectives and that he needed to respect all perspectives; noting that he takes that into account with every decision he makes on the Town Council.

Councilor Ryan continued addressing the following:

- Winter Operations – Councilor Ryan stated that he echoed Councilor Barnes’ comments regarding the Public Works Department during the snowstorms; noting that he appreciated the work they do.
- Pledge of Allegiance – Councilor Ryan stated that he has always stood for the *Pledge of Allegiance* not because he does not know what it means, not because it was compulsory, noting that he had military service in his family. He stated that he respects what the American Flag stands for them, and the sacrifice they made for him to be where he was now, in arguably a privileged position, representing all of you. He stated one of the things he loved about living in Ledyard, specifically Gales Ferry, was that every morning at 8:00 a.m. he hears Reville, noting that he loves that. He stated through his employer he had the opportunity to work at the New London-Groton Sub Base and at 8:00 a.m. everybody froze, stopped, and paid their respect. He stated no matter where they stood, where they were, what their beliefs were, it was a single unifying symbol. He stated to him that was powerful; and it was something that endures Presidencies, it endures Congressional Seats, it endures time. He stated this year was their Country’s 205th Anniversary and that Flag in various iterations, as their country expanded, has stood for one thing and one thing only which was “*We are the United States of America*”. He stated that he would continue to stand for the *Pledge of Allegiance*; when he was outside he would stop at 8:00 a.m. and face the Flag on his property to pay his respects.
- Social Media Post – Councilor Ryan stated because Councilor Buhle was not present this evening he would not direct any specific comments toward her. However, he noted that he would state how he conducted his own behavior. He stated this was his third term serving on the Town Council; and that he conducted himself with the expectation that he represents the community of Ledyard at all times; at work, at home, on-line, regardless of whether you think it or not, the internet lives forever, it was not private space, it was a public service, end of story. He stated as Local Elected Officials that members of the Town Council represented all of their residents locally, at all times. He stated agnostic of his beliefs; agnostic of any one single perspective that exists. He stated for those who have followed him that his votes on the Town Council have not been party line, they have been rationale; and they were decisions that he thought were the best for the majority of the citizens they represent as Local Elected Officials. He stated that he would continue to do that, because that was what they were elected to do. He stated that they were not elected to provide their own perspectives of what was going on at the Federal Level; noting that they were not going to change that here on the Town Council. However, he stated what they could change was the quality of life for their residents locally, and that was how he would focus his energy.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated at every Town Council meeting they stand up for the *Pledge of Allegiance*. She stated for many, when they say those words, they really mean what they were saying. She stated they were *Pledging Allegiance* to their country because they trust in their country there is and would always be *Liberty and Justice for All*; but as Councilor Barnes said, in history there were very few instances in which everyone has enjoyed *Liberty and Justice for All*. She noted up until the 1960 there was Segregation in which many of them grew up watching the Civil Rights Movement unfold. She stated their Government was who they entrusted with the duty to guarantee *Liberty and Justice for All*. However, she stated when their Government was not holding up their side of the bargaining then those words lose their meaning and purpose because the country from the *Pledge of Allegiance* does not exist in that specific moment in time. She stated the reason she stands for the *Pledge of Allegiance* was because she was holding on to the hope that those words would come true. She stated there was a five-year old in Minnesota who probably recited the *Pledge of Allegiance* every single day in school; and for what, for the country that he *Pledged Allegiance* to; to use him as bait and to treat him as if he was nothing. He stated that she supported her fellow Councilors for exercising their First Amendment Rights and for standing up; or in this case for sitting down; for what was right and for bringing up an issue that was happening in Minneapolis today, but tomorrow could happen here in Ledyard. She stated that she supported the rights of all of Ledyard’s residents, and while she may not agree with some of them, that she does appreciate every comment and email they have received. She stated that she understands that some feel that this act of protest devalues the sacrifices of their Troops and Veterans. She stated that she knows how passionate people can get about this noting that her Grandfather was a Veteran, her Uncle sacrificed his life in the Vietnam War noting that he was one of the 58,220 soldiers that died. She stated that her Uncle sacrificed his life to uphold the rights that

ideally we should all enjoy. She stated the interesting thing was that although her Uncle sacrificed his life for his country that because he lived in Puerto Rico he never had representation in Congress. She explained that because Puerto Rico a U.S. Territory, Puerto Rico does not have voting representation in Congress, meaning its residents cannot vote for voting members of the House of Representatives; Senators or the President. However, she stated Puerto Rico citizens enlist and fight for this country. She stated that they were fighting with the hope that someday they would be treated the same as the people who live in the mainland were treated. She stated their sacrifice and the sacrifice of many needed to mean something. She stated that she knows that they all disagree about some things; however, she stated that they should respect everyone's rights to exercise their Rights. She stated that she respected everyone, and appreciated every single person that stands up, and that she appreciated what Councilor Brunelle and Councilor Thompson were doing, whether she agreed with them or not; that she appreciated that they could exercise their Rights.

Councilor Garcia-Irizary continued by noting that she agreed with Councilor Barnes' and Councilor Ryan's comments regarding the Public Works Department, noting that they have not seen a winter like this one in a decade. She stated in reading the newspaper that many towns were in the same situation as Ledyard, noting that the salt supplier did not expect this type of winter, and that some towns were using sand on their roads. She asked that they all help the town by not shoveling their snow into the roads; and that they try to keep the snow on their own property.

Councilor Lamb thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He noted the number of hands that were raised when asked if there were any military service members in the audience this evening. He stated that he was a 19 Delta Scout serving in the Army in the 24th Infantry Division. He stated as Councilor Thompson mentioned many of them have family members who served in the military, noting that he was a fourth generation stating that Timothy Lamb served in the 1754 Conflict with the French. He stated he loved Councilor Ryan's comment regarding being able to hear the Reville.

Councilor Lamb continued by addressing the false narrative that was heard during the November 4, 2025 General Election that the town was run into the ground; and they had problems with the schools, and the atmosphere that the town was terrible. He stated that Ledyard was a great town, and it was not run into the ground. He noted ever since the original Villages (Gales Ferry Village, Lambtown Village, Ledyard Center and the Rogerene section) came together that Ledyard has been a great town. He continued by commenting on the following:

- What makes Ledyard a great Town- Councilor Lamb stated the community and the volunteers who serve on all of the Town's committees/commission/boards make Ledyard a great town. He noted volunteers like Historic District Commission Members Doug Kelley and Karen Parkinson do a great job for the town.
- Staff and town workers – Councilor Lamb stated that Ledyard's Staff and Town Workers do a great job. He stated all of his interactions with them have been great.
- Board of Education & Ledyard School District – Councilor Lamb stated the Teachers, Staff, Paraprofessionals, the Substitutes were all great. He stated that this Board of Education was a great model. He noted that Board of Education Chairman Jennifer Reguin did a great job in putting the right people in the different leadership positions, not based on political party. He stated that was the type of model the Town Council should be considering.
- Fire Departments and Police Department – Councilor Lamb stated that he would not support anyone suggesting that they defund the Police Department. He stated he ran into a member of the Police Department who said that they felt bad that the Town Council did not support them. He stated that this cannot continue.
- Mayor Allyn, III – Councilor Lamb stated that Mayor Allyn, III has been serving the Town for about 12 years. He stated Mayor Allyn's guidance, working with the residents and supporting this town has been outstanding. He stated the community should celebrate their leaders like Mayor Allyn and School Superintendent Hartling.

- Town Council – Councilor Lamb stated the Town Council should shape-up and start supporting their Volunteers, Town Staff and everyone he mentioned this evening.
- Ledyard Fair Initiative – Councilor Lamb stated in early March there would be a Kick-Off Meeting to look at establishing a 501(c) non-profit status and bylaws, noting that this would be a non-partisan effort and an opportunity for everyone to come together. He stated that his intention was to be a facilitator, noting that eventually they would have a Ledyard Fair Board.
- Illegal Immigrant – Councilor Lamb stated he married an Illegal Immigrant. He stated that he used that term because that was what his wife said she was. He stated his wife went through the process to become a US Citizen, noting that the process took about 15-years. He stated that he was going to suggest they use the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to get some insight into their immigrant community. However, he stated that he was now saying that they should privately. He stated anyone on this Town Council who would like to learn more about the concerns of the immigrant community that he could help them connect with people to have these types of conversations. He stated that if they wanted to volunteer that he could hook them up. He stated the type of work Councilor Thompson does as the kind of stuff they could do for those who were interested.

Councilor Lamb stated that he thought they could do better and that he hoped they do; and that he could do better; and he hoped that he do.

Councilor Parad commented on the following:

- Measles and Mumps Cases were on the rise – Councilor Parad stated that Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) was a combination vaccine. She stated if they skipped the MMR Vaccine that more illness would come about. She stated that the United States might be losing their Status of *Disease Free* soon.
- Cajun Cook-Off - Sunday, February 15, 2026 – Councilor Parad stated the Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF) would be hosting their 2nd Annual Cajun Cook-Off on Sunday, February 15, 2026 to coincide with Mardi Gras. The Event would take place from 3–5 p.m. at the Gales Ferry Fire Company. Contestants could sign up on line. She stated that they had a good amount of entries, but it would be great if more cooks and bakers wanted to enter. She stated the High School Wood Shop students made some amazing plaques for the winners; and the Elementary School students made all of the decorations. She stated this was a good opportunity to bring everyone together to do something fun for their community and support Ledyard Schools.
- Councilor Buhle’s Statement – Councilor Parad stated that she was given a statement from Councilor Buhle to read this evening, noting that she just received it and has not read it until just now:

“2/11/2026

I’d like to apologize for missing this meeting. I am out of state on a vacation I planned in early January.

There has been a lot of controversy in differences of opinions in the last few weeks. In late January, I posted a Facebook post to my personal Facebook page. This post was not intended to be posted to the public, though, as a millennial, I know that everything on the internet is eventually public.

I am being strongly criticized for my use of vibrant and passionate adult language. Those who know me personally as a friend know that I use whatever words I’d like when I’m among friends, and conduct myself differently in a professional environment. Those words were not intended to be addressed to the public as a councilor comment, and the statement of “don’t speak to me again” was to imply that I cannot consider you a friend if you support the actions of the federal administration that are eroding constitutional rights.

In the aftermath of the public posting of my personal post, I received dozens of supportive private messages, and an outpouring of supportive comments saying that I was expressing their unheard rage. While many in our community are policing my language, others are passionately supportive of the genuine and empathetic anger I have.

While acting as a town councilor for the public, I have always conducted myself in a professional and far less profane matter. My actions and intentions as a councilor have always been to continue working for a vibrant, safe, and inclusive community.

The paradox of tolerance states: if a society extends its tolerance to those who are intolerant, the tolerant society will be destroyed. To create an inclusive environment in our town for all of our neighbors — immigrants, Americans, and otherwise — it is important that we continue to stand up against those who cheer for their demise.

To those who say that federal issues are not town issues, I encourage you to question how many of your friends are immigrants. How many of your friends and neighbors are people of color, full blooded Americans who are being targeted for the color of their skin? Privilege is saying it's not a problem because it isn't happening to you personally, and if you are still feeling that federal problems are not in our purview, I encourage you to talk further with neighbors of different viewpoints and recognize that these are local issues, even if they are beyond our jurisdiction.

Thank you to all those who have supported me and know that I will continue to support what makes our community and town beautiful.”

Chairman St. Vil stated that tonight has been interesting and definitely the hardest job that he has not been paid for. He stated that he has access to a panic button and at one point tonight he thought that he may have had to use it. However, he stated during that moment that Mr. Munger and Mr. Sabbag spoke-up and said let's give things a minute. He stated had they not spoke-up; that he thought this Chambers may have spiraled, and that the Group may have taken over, and he may have had to hit the panic button. However, he stated the temperature was lowered; and that he genuinely appreciated what they did in that moment. He stated the reason he was sharing this was because there were people who do not have a voice; and were relying on those who do, to speak up for them. He stated when they see someone speak up or protest, that they were Mr. Munger and Mr. Sabbag this evening, noting that they were advocating for people other do not listen too because there were not a member of their community.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Town Council Minutes of January 28, 2026:

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman St. Vil noted that a Communications List has been provided on the meeting portal for tonight's meeting, and he noted there were referrals were listed.

Councilor Ryan noted that the Town Council received communications that were not included on tonight's Communications List; such as Pastor Dyke's letter, noting that he wanted to make sure those communications were in the record. Chairman St. Vil explained the *Twenty-eight Town Council's Rules of Procedure* that were adopted at their December 1, 2025 Organizational Meeting included the following:

“Communications published with the Agenda shall consist of written correspondence formally submitted to the Town Council for the record.

The following will not be published with the Agenda, but will remain public records:

- a. *Communications that contain confidential personnel or protected information;*
- b. *Social media posts, screenshots, or online commentary;*
- c. *Communications containing profanity, threats, or defamatory statements;*
- d. *Communications unrelated to items within the Town Council's legal jurisdiction."*

Chairman St. Vil went on to note that they had Freedom of Information Act Training (FOIA) last night, and he explained all the communications they received were in the record, and that if someone were to ask for those communications that they would be available. He stated based on the *Rules of Procedure* that he did not include the communications regarding the social media post.

X. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening noting they discussed the following: (1) Proposed "*Ordinance Establishing a Town of Ledyard Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission*" was forwarded to the Town Council to set a Public Hearing date; (2) Res#001-2023/Feb 22 "*Resolution Establishing Administrator Department Head Benefits*"; (3) Discussed Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Planning & Zoning Commission to determine if the two Commissions should be separate.

Community Relations Committee for Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Councilor Brunelle stated the Committee would be meeting on February 18, 2026.

Chairman St. Vil noted that the Community Relations Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion would be hosting the 2026 Black History Month Contest. He stated that they were once again partnering with Ledyard Public Schools to offer a voluntary contest; noting for Elementary School the students had the opportunity to make Posters, and the Middle School and High School students could write Essays to reflect on the significance of Black History Month. He stated there were monetary prizes for the winners, noting that Contest information was available at each of the schools and was also posted on the Town's Website.

Finance Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted on February 4, 2026 the Finance Committee had the following two meetings: (1) Regular Meeting at which Auditors Clifton/Larson/Allen presented the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025 Annual Audit, noting that it was a good Report. She also noted that the Finance Committee had one item on tonight's Agenda that they would discuss later this evening; and (2) Joint Meeting with the Board of Education's Finance Committee at which they discussed a lot of items regarding the schools and the upcoming preparation for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor Thompson stated the LUPPW Committee met on February 2, 2026 noting that the meeting was well attended by residents. He noted the LUPPW Committee primarily discussed the Spicer Homestead Ruins. He stated it was a lively discussion, noting that Councilor Lamb made an impassioned plea.

Liaison Reports

Board of Education

Councilor Barnes reported on the following: (1) Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget- At their February 10, 2026 meeting the Board of Education approved the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget recommendation in the amount of \$41,932,335; (2) Signage at a Sledding Area at the Middle School – Councilor Barnes stated at the Town Council's January 28, 2026 meeting he was asked to follow-up with the Board of Education regarding this suggestion. He stated the Board of Education's purview was that the property was managed by the Parks & Recreation. He stated the Board of Education was not opposed to the signage; and they were not endorsing the signage. He stated the Board of Education referred it back to the Town for the decision as to whether signage would be appropriate or not.

Councilor Lamb commented on the Board of Education's interpretation of the new State Statute regarding their Capital Non-Recurring Account. He stated that the Board of Education has created a sub-account under the new account.

Ledyard Center Fire Department

Councilor Barnes stated the Fire Department addressed the following: (1) Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget included minor increases in the following accounts: (a) Incentive for Volunteers responding to fire emergencies; and (b) Fleet Maintenance Account; (2) Joint Radio Policy – Councilor Barnes stated the Ledyard Center Fire Department and the Gales Ferry Fire Department were collaborating to establish a Joint Radio Policy.

Ledyard Farmers Market Committee

Councilor Brunelle stated the Farmers Market Committee met on February 4, 2026 and discussed the following: (1) Purchase a laptop, printer, and a laminator; (2) Weekly Market Themes for the 2026 Season; (3) Increasing the number of Vendors at the Market; and (4) Fees may increase for the Food Vendors, but not the Regular Vendors to cover expenses.

Ledyard Beautification Committee

Councilor Brunelle stated the Beautification Committee met on February 3, 2026; however, she was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict. However, she stated that she would review the Committee's minutes and report back.

Inland Wetland and Water Courses Commission

Councilor Thompson stated the IWWC met on February 3, 2026 and discussed a property on Christy Hill.

Councilor Ryan stated that he did not have a Liaison Report; however, he stated that he wanted to go back to the Town Council's Communications List and he questioned whether Chairman St. Vil could point to the section in the *Twenty-eight Town Council's Rules of Procedure* he cited earlier this evening.

Chairman St. Vil suggested they take a 10-minute recess to look up the *Twenty-eight Town Council's Rules of Procedure*.

Entered into Recess at 9:16 p.m.

Came out of Recess 9:25 p.m.

Chairman St. Vil called the meeting back to order at 9:25 p.m.

Councilor Ryan apologized for wasting everyone's time, noting that he was not aware of the new Town Council Rules of Procedure, noting that he should have done his due diligence.

(Liaison Reports Continued)

Permanent Municipal Building Committee

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry the PMBC had to cancel their February 9, 2026 because they did not have a quorum.

Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated because of the schedule conflict she was not able to attend the Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizens Commission February 10, 2026 meeting. She stated that she would review the Commission's minutes and report back at the next Town Council meeting.

Ledyard Historic District Commission

Councilor Lamb stated the Historic District Commission's January 28, 2026 was cancelled due to the snow storm. However, he stated the Commission attended the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee's January 5, 2026 and February 2, 2026 meetings. He stated at the February 2, 2026 meeting there were about 30 residents in attendance along with members from the State Historic Preservation.

Councilor Lamb stated during the LUPPW Committee's February 2, 2026 meeting that Councilor Thompson, as the Subcommittee Chairman conducted himself well. He stated that he took and executed a commitment. He stated the residents appreciated that Councilor Thompson was willing to listen to them and move things forwards.

Councilor Lamb went on to note that the Historic District Commission met on February 9, 2026 and held their Annual Meeting and addressed the following: (1) Election of Officers noting the following: Chairman – Karen Parkinson; Vice-Chairman- Doug Kelley; Clerk – Kelly Lamb, noting that they were all present this evening. He congratulated the Officers, and thanked them for their service and work that they do; stating that they appreciated them volunteering; and (2) Reviewed their Rules of Procedure.

Agricultural Commission

Councilor Lamb noted the Agricultural Commission met on January 20, 2026, and he noted their next Regular Meeting was scheduled for February 17, 2026. He stated the Agricultural Commission and the Conservation Commission were already working on the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) which was not due for another three-years. He noted the Agriculture Commission's next Quarterly Joint Land Use Meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2026. He suggested Chairman St. Vil or another Town Councilor attend the Quarterly Meeting to see that operation and what was going on there.

Conservation Commission

Councilor Lamb stated the Conservation Commission met on February 10, 2026 and were working on the following: (1) Pollinator Gardens and Water Gardens on one of Groton Open Space Association's (GOSA) property. He stated that they were working to have small gardens along the trails with signs where people could have lunch, noting it was a great way to connect their community.

Councilor Lamb stated although he was not assigned that he also attended the following Meetings: Board of Education Facilities Committee; Finance Committee; Public Work Shop; Social Services Board; America 250 Planning Committee Meeting was cancelled; Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) did not have quorum, which was part of the end-to-end process of delaying things. He stated if Town Councilors cannot make their Liaison Assignment Meetings to let him know; because he would show up. He stated that the members serving on their Volunteer Committees appreciate having a member of the Town Council attend their meetings. He stated there was a list of Committees that he does not hear Councilors Report on; noting those Committee also deserve to have a Report.

Library Commission

Councilor Parad stated she could not attend the Library Commission's February 9, 2026 meeting because she had a pre-existing Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF) meeting that was scheduled at the beginning of the school year. She stated had she know that she would have tapped Councilor Lamb to fill her place on Monday. She reported that the Library Commission does have a 2026 Pi Day sale coming up on Saturday March 26, 2026 at which they would be selling desert pies.

Councilor Parad went on to note that Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF) would also be doing a Pi Day at all of the Pizza Restaurants in town.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Allyn reported on the following: (1) Snow Storm – Mayor Allyn stated they had another long duration snow storm this past weekend, noting that the Public Works Crew was in for 16-hours to handle the 6.5 inches of snow. He noted the Department was down two-drivers and he addressed the very cold temperatures explaining that the salt does not work at temperatures below 20-degrees. He stated they had a hiring request out since October, and that they now have a replacement who has their CDL License, and would be starting in two-weeks; (2) America 250 Planning Committee Meeting – Mayor Allyn stated the February 10, 2026 meeting was cancelled because he had a meeting with the Roofing Contractor who did the work at the Gales Ferry School and the Board of Education Central Office. He stated also at the meeting with the Contractor was the Architect and the Owners Representative to try to come to some resolution. He stated they did arrive at a level of resolution for the Board of Education Central Office; however, he stated the elephant in the room was Photovoltaic (PV)

Roofing System that has never been installed on the Gales Ferry School. He stated the Gales Ferry School Roofing Project was supposed to be done and delivered at the end of August, 2024. He stated there would be more to come on this legal matter; (3) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Training – Mayor Allyn stated he attended the February 10, 2026 Training with State FOIA Director of Education and Communication Russell Blair, noting that the session was outstanding. He noted they held two sessions one at 3:30 p.m. and one at 6:00 p.m. and that Mr. Blair provided a tremendous amount of information for everyone; (4) February 10, 2026 Freezing Rain and Sleet created hazardous conditions – Mayor Allyn stated half the Public Works Crew was called-in and worked over night to salt the roads. He stated that they were running low on their salt supply and that all the towns and the state were also running low. He stated Ledyard had submitted a Salt Order for 300-tons; however, he expressed concern that the State was trying to abscond with their entire salt load. He stated this was unconscionable because Ledyard has had their Salt Order in, as has many other towns, for weeks on end. He stated if the State takes the whole Salt Order that Ledyard would have a problem, because they only had enough salt for two plowable or icy events; (5) Mayor's Executive Assistant Replacement Interviews – Mayor Allyn stated he has hired Jessica Michard, noting that she would start on February 23, 2026. He stated that he looked forward to Ms. Michard joining the town; (6) Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead Water Service Line Inspections – Mayor Allyn stated today they met with Groton Utilities about the Federal EPA Lead Water Service Line Inspections. He stated that they were 99.5% sure that Ledyard had no Lead Water Service Lines, because their water system was new, unlike surrounding towns like Norwich, New London and Groton. But nonetheless the Federal EPA was requiring them to dig at the street and to also go into the house to inspect where the waterline connects into the meter. He stated they were looking at \$750,000 to dig all the test holes to show that there were no lead water lines. He stated they were working with a Contractor and that Groton Utilities was helping to assist with a solution with the Contractor; (7) Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget – Mayor Allyn stated they were fully into budget season, noting that the Board of Education's proposed Budget was due to his Office on Monday, February 23, 2026 in accordance with the Town Charter. He stated that he would deliver a proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 to the Town Council on Monday, March 2, 2026; (8) Ordinance #300-029 "*An Ordinance Regarding Control of Alcoholic Beverages At Town of Ledyard Facilities*" – Mayor Allyn stated that he would be assisting the Farmers Market Committee to amend Ordinance #300-029. He stated the Farmers Market has been very successful at the Lower Town Green. However, he stated there is a Policy that prohibits glass containers, noting that the Farmers Market has a Salsa Vendor, Pasta Sauce Vendro, they have jellies, jams wines and ciders which were packaged in glass containers. He stated as the Ordinance was currently written all of these products could not be at the Farmers Market. He stated that Farmers Market Committee Chairman Pam Ball was working on some language to amend the Ordinance. He stated that he would be looking for the Town Council's assistance to get the Ordinance Amendment to the finish line, noting that it was a huge and successful Market, noting that the town was proud of their Farmers Market and did not want to see it diminished; (9) Town Attorney Budget – Mayor Allyn stated he would be coming to the Finance Committee next month to obtain authorization to overspend the Attorney/Legal Fee budget line. He stated with the billing through October 31, 2025 that \$7,109 was spent on the proposed Ethics Ordinance Reviews. He stated this budget line had a \$473 balance with about 67% of the fiscal year unbilled. He stated he had \$20,000 in his budget for Legal Fees and as he has said that they need to be mindful in how they spend their legal dollars. He stated that they needed to exercise caution. He stated they have been through three iterations of the proposed Ethics Ordinance, noting that the most recent draft dated February 9, 2026 was the best one he has seen yet. He stated that they also had some lead hazards at the Nathan Lester House that they had to address, which was part of that billing cycle. He stated that sometimes they have unusual issues that they did not know were coming. He stated that they needed to budget accordingly; or split the Town Attorney/Legal Fees budget line; or the Town could have a Town Attorney budget line, (10) Social Media Post – Mayor Allyn stated the Ledyard Police Department also saw Ms. Buhle's social media post. He stated that the Police would be submitting a formal request that they do not want either Councilor Buhle or Councilor Brunelle to be involved with the negotiations of the contract; or involved in the vote on the contract. He stated that their view was that these two Councilors were biased toward federal law enforcement officials; and it could be a bias toward local law enforcement. He asked that they understand what their words mean and it's impacts. He stated the Town Council was here to do the business of the Town of Ledyard; and he asked that they focus on the Town of Ledyard. He stated if they aspired to the State or Federal Offices that was fantastic; however, he stated that they needed to focus on their town.

Questions to the Mayor:

Councilor Ryan questioned whether the town had been invoiced for the 300 tons of salt and if so; how the State could take the delivery of the Salt. Mayor Allyn stated that the town had a Purchase Order in for 300 tons of Salt, noting because they were in the system, the State was aware of their Salt Order.

Councilor Ryan addressed the Town Attorney/Legal Fees budget line, and he asked whether it was possible for the Town Attorney to identify the purpose and the person engaging for each of the charges. Mayor Allyn stated that Shipman and Goodwin Invoices were itemized. He noted at one point 4 or 5 different Town Councilors all reached out to the Town Attorney regarding the same subject; noting that the Town Attorney was duplicating his efforts times five. Councilor Ryan suggested Chairman St. Vil streamline how the Town Council engages the Town Attorney so that they had a little more control in how the funds were being used. Mayor Allyn stated their Discounted Municipal Rate for Ledyard was \$295.00 per hour.

Councilor Ryan thanked Mayor Allyn for sharing the feedback from the Ledyard Police Department; noting that they all need to take that into account.

Chairman St. Vil stated the Town Council's point of contact for the contract negotiations was set prior to this, stating that it would be inappropriate for him to share who that was, noting that it was not going to change. He stated that he would like to see the Police Department's opinion in writing. He stated once they received that the Town Council would respond.

Chairman St. Vil stated at the Town Council's January 28, 2026 meeting they had a heated discussion regarding a request to overspend an account. He stated that Councilor Lamb questioned the process to overspend a budget line. Councilor Lamb stated his experience in serving on the Board of Education was that when a request was submitted to overspend an account that in the same motion they identified the source of funding to balance that over expenditure; and he questioned whether the Town followed that same process. Mayor Allyn stated that the Town typically does follow the process Councilor Lamb noted. He went on to explain in the case of something such as the Winter Operations that because it was a moving target, that it was difficult to project what that amount was going to be. However, he stated when they do authorize to overspend the Winter Operations Budget that they may get lucky, and they may see Spring; and money would not be moved.

Chairman St. Vil stated when the Town Council acted on the request to overspend the Winter Operations Budget that Councilor Buhle took the action to provide regular updates on where the Winter Operations Budget stood. He asked Councilor Barnes whether he was satisfied with Councilor Buhle's action and the Mayor's explanation of how the request to overspend accounts was typically handled.

Councilor Barnes stated at the January 28, 2026 Town Council meeting that his concern was that the request to overspend the Winter Operations budget came without a limit. He stated when they set the Winter Operations budget that they had a number in mind; and therefore, when they submit a request to overspend an account that it should include an *"up-to amount"*. He stated because they were not prepared with a number in-mind at that meeting; Finance Committee Chairman Councilor Buhle agreed to provide updates regarding the Winter Operations budget expenditures. He stated that he was comfortable with the approach, noting that whenever they can that an overspending request should come with an increase to a certain amount. He stated when they cannot provide an amount that it was the obligation of the Finance Committee to ensure that they were monitoring what that increase was. He stated that he was satisfied with the explanation regarding the town's process to overspend a budget line.

Councilor Ryan stated during his first year on the Town Council that he had the same comments that Councilor Barnes was making this evening; and that he made at the Town Council's January 28, 2026 meeting. However, he stated that his concerns were regarding authorization to overspend the Town Attorney Fees; noting that he questioned the reason they could not budget what they thought they were going to need. He stated as explained to him at that time he fully understood in the case of the Town Attorney Fees it was more of a strategic move. He stated as everyone knows that liked having finite numbers to work with; but in the

case of the Attorney Fees they did not want to tip their hand on how much they were willing to spend, otherwise they might be taken advantage of.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned if the town ran out of salt for the roads whether they could use sand. Mayor Allyn stated that they could use sand, however, he stated it was quite messy and it would require more wear and tear on the new street sweeper; and it was a hazard for bicyclists, motorcycles, etc. He also explained that sand was not nearly as effective as the treated salt, and the state does not like them to use sand because of the MS4 Drainage Requirements. He stated when the sand gets washed into the catch basins the town would then have to clean the catch basins out and that the State then considers the sand hazardous waste. He stated as an alternative to treated salt they would use the rock salt; which was available. He stated their preference was the treated salt because it interfaces with the cold surface and the snow and ice much better than the rock salt.

Councilor Garica-Irizarry addressed the hiring of an employee in the middle of the budget year relative to salary, noting in reviewing the Resolution - Res#001-2023/Feb 22 “Resolution Establishing Administrator Department Head Benefits” this subject was brought up. Mayor Allyn explained when a position was advertised, whether it was a union position or non-union position, that it was posted with Salary Range; so the Applicants were responding to a job posting within a salary range. He stated when a candidate was selected the town offered a salary within the range based on education, degree level, certifications, experience, etc. He stated the candidate may accept or they may counter. Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated when the Budget has been established whether a candidate could be hired at a higher salary than the amount in the budget. Mayor Allyn stated that the salary offered could be up-to the amount at the top of the range.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the February 10, 2026 Freedom of Information Act Training, stating that she liked the FOIA pocket guide that summarized the most important points of laws that Mr. Blair handed out.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry addressed the Attorney/Legal Fees, and she stated that she and Attorney Matt Ritter spoke for one-hour regarding the proposed Ethics Ordinance. She stated they reviewed the entire Ordinance and that she hoped they would not have to talk to Attorney Ritter again on this topic.

XII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administration Committee

1. MOTION to appoint Ms. Yvonne Walsh (U) 38 Fairway Drive, Ledyard, to the Ledyard Beautification Committee to complete a three (3) year term ending October 26, 2026 filling a vacancy left by Ms. Bingham.
Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Brunelle
Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Administration Committee had the opportunity to talk with Ms. Walsh during their January 28, 2026 meeting, noting that Ms. Walsh attended the meeting remotely via Zoom. She stated that Ms. Walsh was excited about joining the Beautification Committee.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

2. MOTION to appoint Mr. James Harwood (D) 10 Eska Drive, Ledyard to the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee to complete a two (2) year term ending December 15, 2027.
Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Brunelle
Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that Mr. Harwood was a member of the Conservation Commission and he was passionate about the environment. She stated he would be a good addition to the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee.

Councilor Barnes stated as the Town Council Liaison to the Conservation Commission that he had the opportunity to work with Mr. Harwood. He noted that Mr. Harwood was a tremendous asset to the town. He stated that he enthusiastically supported Mr. Harwood’s appointment to the Sustainable CT Ad Hoc Committee.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

3. MOTION to adopt a proposed “*Resolution Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Process for Capital Improvement Building Projects*” as presented in the draft dated December 10, 2025.

DRAFT: 12/10/2025

Res: 002-2026/Feb 11

RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE
TO DEVELOP A
PROCESS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUILDING PROJECTS
FOR THE TOWN OF LEDYARD

WHEREAS: the Ledyard Town Council recognizes the Permanent Municipal Building Committee’s efforts to execute and supervise the design, construction, renovation, demolition and removal of Town and Board of Education assigned buildings that fall within the approved budget, as well as any significant installation, renovation or upgrade of service equipment and major systems as assigned by the Town Council.

WHEREAS: The Permanent Municipal Building Committee and the Board of Education have requested the Town Council establish an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of key stakeholders that play a role in the building project process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there is hereby established an *Ad Hoc Committee to Develop A Process For Capital Improvement Building Projects for the Town of Ledyard* to be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the Ledyard Town Council.

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

- One member from the Permanent Municipal Building Committee
- One member from the Board of Education
- Board of Education Director of Facilities
- Public Works Director/Town Engineer
- Finance Director
- One member from the Community-at-Large with Construction Management Experience
- One member from the Town Council

The Committee shall hold its Organizational Meeting no later than 30 days after its appointment and shall elect a Chairman, and Recording Secretary.

The Committee Members shall serve for a six (6) month term. 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Ad Hoc Committee shall:

1. Review the process for Town and School Building Projects.

2. Review Building Blocks and workflow for Building Projects.
3. Review Building Projects - Municipal Check List -1990.
4. Review Ordinance #100-015(rev1) "*An Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Town of Ledyard*"
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee and options for the Town and Board of Education to better facilitate Capital Improvement Building Projects.

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

Develop an end-to- end Process and Timeline/Schedule for assigned Municipal and Board of Education Capital Improvement Projects to include but not be limited to the following:

For example:

- a. Preliminary Design and Cost Estimates for Project.
- b. Present Project to Town Council and request seed money for the town to hire Architects/Engineering Design Professionals.
- c. Prepare, Advertise, Evaluate, and Recommend Selection for Requests for Qualification/ Requests for Proposals (Architects/Engineering Design, Owners Representative, Construction Components, etc. to facilitate the project).
- d. Present proposed Project with cost estimates to the Town Council to request funding to support the Project (i.e. Bond/Borrowing Documentation and/or Grant Funding).
 - If Bond/Borrowing is required work with Finance Department to provide information needed for Bond Council to prepare Bond Authorization documents.
 - Work with Town Council and Departments to present the Project at a Special Town Meeting in preparation for Referendum, in accordance with Town Charter, Chapter VII: Section 9.
- e. Identify other funding sources such as Grant Funding.
 - Work with Town and/or Board of Education and Professional Consultants to complete required Applications and Forms and to submit Grant Applications according to Grant Schedules.
- f. With the approval of funding proceed to execute and supervise the design, construction, renovation, demolition and removal of Town and Board of Education buildings that fall within the approved budget, as well as any significant installation, renovation or upgrade of service equipment and major systems to include the following:
 - Work with Owners Representative, to provide oversight of construction and schedules to ensure work is progressing at a at school facilities was not being done while students were in the buildings.
 - Work with contractors and staff to review and approve payment of invoices in a timely manner.
 - Formally close out project with a letter to the Town Council and other stakeholders.
 - Provide a final report to the Town Council.
- g. Develop a process for Problem Resolution for issues that arise during the construction such as non-performance, improper installation/work, and to address warranty items.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Ad Hoc Committee shall provide a report of their recommendations to the Town Council upon completion of their assignment, no later than six months from its Organizational Meeting.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

Gary St. Vil, Chairman

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Lamb
Discussion: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the purpose of creating his “*Ad Hoc Committee to Develop A Process For Capital Improvement Building Projects for the Town of Ledyard*” was to look at the entire process for a building project. She noted as an example the School Project noting that would look at what when right and what went wrong; and why the project was delayed; which cost the town more money. She stated this Ad Hoc Committee would create a step by step process that would save the town money.

Councilor Lamb stated one of the reasons he ran to serve on the Board of Education was because of all the issues regarding the school facilities; and because of the delays that increased the costs of the building projects. He noted that both former Board of Education Chaiman Anthony Favry and Permanent Municipal Building Committee Chairman Joe Gush submitted letters supporting the establishment of this Ad Hoc Committee to develop an end-to-end process because they believed there was ways to improve the process. He noted School Superintendent Jason Hartling’s presentation earlier this evening regarding the large Board of Education Capital Improvement Projects that were coming up. Therefore, he stated that it behooved the town to look at the whole process in how they identify projects all the way through the execution of projects, and the close out of contracts. He stated that this Committee would provide a recommendation.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Ty Lamb, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

Finance Committee

4. MOTION to approve a Connecticut DOT Local Bridge Program Grant Application for replacement of Lantern Hill Road Bridge No. 137001 for 50% of eligible costs, the total of which is presently estimated to be nearly \$2.8 million;

In addition, approve a proposed “*Resolution Local Bridge Program State Project No. 9071-9001 Bridge Number: 137001 Lantern Hill Road Over Whitford Brook In The Town Of Ledyard*”” authorizing the Mayor to submit the Grant Application, as presented in the draft dated January 28, 2026.

DRAFT: 1/28/2026

RESOLUTION
LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM
STATE PROJECT NO. 9071-9001
BRIDGE NUMBER: 137001
LANTERN HILL ROAD OVER WHITFORD BROOK
IN THE TOWN OF LEDYARD

BE IT RESOLVED, that Fred Allyn, III , Mayor of the of the Town of Ledyard, is authorized to sign the **LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION** and any associated agreements between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Ledyard for the Lantern Hill Road Bridge over Whitford Brook; Bridge No. 137001.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

Gary St. Vil, Chairman
Ledyard Town Council

I, Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk of the Town of Ledyard, a municipality organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Ledyard Town Council of said municipality at its Regular Meeting held on February 11, 2026

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the above resolution has in no way been altered, amended or revoked, and is in full force and effect.

AND I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that Mayor Frederic B. Allyn, III is the Mayor of the Town of Ledyard, and has been since May 1, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of Ledyard this _____ day of _____, 2026

(Seal)

Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk
Town of Ledyard

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry
Discussion: Councilor Ryan stated the planning for the replacement of Lantern Hill Road Bridge over Whitford Brook has been in-process for several years. He stated a \$3 million Special Grant was previously obtained for infrastructure needs for the Whitford Brook watershed. He stated this Local Bridge Program Grant would pay for the balance (or 50%) of the cost for the replacement of the Lantern Hill Road Bridge, noting that no local funding would be required for this project, and therefore, it would be no cost to the taxpayers, which was great.

Mayor Allyn, III stated that Public Works/Town Engineer Steve Maslain became aware that Ledyard could apply to the State Local Bridge Program, however, they could not use local funding to get the 50% Grant Funding for the replacement of Lantern Hill Road Bridge over Whitford Brook. He stated because the Town was not using local funding they qualified for the State Local Bridge Program. He stated that this would allow the town to save some of the Grant Funding the Town received, complements of Senator Cathy Osten, which was great, because they also had a second bridge on Lantern Hill Road that needed work.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Garcia-Irizarry, Lamb, Parad, Ryan, St. Vil, Thompson
EXCUSED:	Buhle

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

5. MOTION for the Town Council to hereby appoint the Ledyard Historic District Commission to serve as the Historic Properties Study Committee for the Spicer Homestead ruins pursuant to CGS §7-147q. The study shall be limited to the parcel defined in the Town-commissioned survey dated January 14, 2025, unless otherwise authorized by the Town Council. This appointment is for study and recommendation purposes only, and does not constitute approval of any designation or ordinance.
- Moved by Councilor Thompson, seconded by Councilor Barnes
Discussion: Chairman St. Vil stated as they heard earlier this evening this effort to obtain a Historic Designation of the Spicer Homestead Ruins has been going on for quite some time. He stated during his first term on the Town Council he walked the area with Mrs. Parkinson, noting that it was relevant to the history of Ledyard, and he thought it was a worthwhile effort

to preserve it . He stated the State has a process by which a Historic Property within the Town could be designated as such and there was a potential to eventually petition the State or Federal Government for additional funding. He stated during the time he served as the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee Chairman that they laid out a Plan to seek a Historic Designation which included compiling the study work that had already been done into a document, conduct an A2 Survey, proceed to submit the data to the State and/or Federal Government to begin the Official Process to designate the site as being of historical significance. He noted that work took a long time, and during that time Mayor Allyn, III provided some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding to pay for the A2 Survey; which he had this evening, noting that the A2 Survey Map outlined the footprint of the Spicer Homestead Ruins, which was more or less 0.7- acres. He stated that it was valid for the Town Council to consider this Motion this evening; explaining that initially they did not think a Motion such as the one presented this evening was required because the Town has a Historic District Commission. However, he stated the Commission was for a “District” and Connecticut General Statute 7-147q was for a property. He stated that his understanding was wrong and that the Historic District Commission was right; and therefore, he stated they should Designate the Historic District Commission to Study the Spicer Homestead Property. He stated once appointed, the implications were that the Study Committee could go directly to the State and make recommendation on what the Spicer Homestead Ruins should look like. He stated that they should leverage the work and the A2 Survey that has already been done, because the Study Committee would not have to spend additional funds to conduct another A2 Survey, He stated during the course of their work if the Study Committee finds that the boundary should be expanded that they would come back to the Town Council to request an expanded boundary. He stated either way, the Clark Farm Property would remain town-owned property; and had potential value for use in the future. He stated that he was an advocate to preserve historic pieces of property and that he was also an advocate to follow the process; and using the data as previously laid out.

Mayor Allyn, III stated in looking at their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Accounting that on August 27, 2025 an entry was added to allocate \$2,500 to conduct the Spicer Homestead Ruins A2 Survey, noting that the previous Town Council authorized 1-acre. He stated when the A2 Survey was conducted the Surveyor used some boundary walls and the survey came out to 0.73-acres; which they accepted. He suggested that they start working with what they have and if they find there was something more there, that the Study Committee could come back to the Town Council to seek additional areas to be preserved.

Councilor Lamb noted the First Step was for the Legislative Body to say that the Historic District Commission was the Study Committee for the Spicer Homestead Ruins. He stated during the Historic District Commission and Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee discussions the Historic District Commission agreed to make a Process Map to provide updates as they completed the information. He went on to state that the process also required review by Planning & Zoning Commission; and when they get to the end of the process that there was a Step in which the Owners, who were the taxpayers, could say “Yes – or - No” or modify the Plan. He stated the A2 Survey was not needed until they get to the end of the Process.

Councilor Lamb stated they should let the Study Committee do their work, and provide their recommendation. He noted the Spicer Rock was five-feet from the A2 Survey 0.73-acres boundary line, noting that the Spicer Rock was important to the site. He stated that he could guarantee that they would be able to get outside money, from donations, etc. to pay for another A2 Survey; which would not need to be done until the end of the process

Councilor Lamb proposed the following amendment:

MOTION to amend the Motion to strike the following language:

The study shall be limited to the parcel defined in the Town-commissioned survey dated January 14, 2025, unless otherwise authorized by the Town Council. This appointment is for study and recommendation purposes only, and does not constitute approval of any designation or ordinance.

Moved by Councilor Lamb, seconded by Councilor Barnes

Discussion: Councilor Ryan requested clarification on what the 4.4-acres was based on. Councilor Lamb stated the 4.4-acres was just a number the Historic District Commission and the petitioners of this Motion threw out there. He stated CGS §7-147q lays out the steps for the process to seek and obtain a Historic Designation, noting that the A2 Survey was not needed until they get to the last step. He stated they should let the Study Committee do their work and adjudicate what the area should be. He stated that he had Mr. Stefon Danczuk and Ms. Stacy Vairo from the Preserve Connecticut attend the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee's February 2, 2026 meeting, noting that they said if they appointed a Study Committee that they had no commitment or liabilities because they had to go through the Process, which required the proposal to go through the Zoning Commission and the Owner. He stated that there was no down side to appointing the Study Committee.

Chairman St. Vil stated the risk was that once they designate a Study Committee they were off on their own; and could proceed with a Study that the Town Council was not aligned with. He stated in accordance with CGS §7-147q the Study Committee could go directly to the State Historic Office with their Report/Study and say that they thought there was 50-acres within the Clark Farm that was part of the Spicer Homestead Ruins. He stated that they would still need to come back to the Town Council to approve the 50-acres; however, he stated that Town Council would then need to determine the area for the Spicer Homestead Ruins to preserve, noting that the Town Council may say it was not 50- acres, it was 20; 30; or 40-acres,etc. He stated as Mrs. Parkinson has stated, the work has been done to determine the historical significance of the Spicer Homestead Ruins site.

Chairman St. Vil went on to state that he walked the property with Mrs. Parkinson, noting that he saw a footprint of a building; and therefore, the 0.7-acres made logical sense. He stated the town has paid for the A2 Survey, the Town Planner and the Mayor were aligned with the A2 Survey. He stated nothing precluded the Study Committee from coming back to ask that the boundary be changed.

Councilor Lamb stated CGS §7-147q laid out the Steps noting that the Study Committee would have to go to Zoning that the Owner had to submit their request to the State.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned whether the Historic District Commission met with Surveyors Dietter & Gardner to talk about the A2 Survey. Councilor Lamb stated at the time he was the Historic District Commission Chairman; however, he was unavailable, and that former Town Council Chairman Rodriguez and Mayor Allyn, III gave the direction for the A2 Survey. He stated it was a minor cost to change the A2 Survey from 0.73-acres to 4.4-acres. He stated the Historic District Commission did not provide direction to the Surveyor for the A2 Survey.

Historic District Commission Chairman Karen Parkinson stated that she personally carried the 4.4-acre map down to Mr. Gardner before he went out to the site to conduct the A2 Survey for the Spicer Homestead Ruins. She noted that Administrative Assistant sent Mr. Gardner an email on December 5, 2024; which included several attachments, noting that one of the attachments was the 4.4-acre map. She stated that all of these attachments were included in Legislative File #23-2143 which has been on the Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee's Agenda for thirty meetings. Therefore, she questioned how the Town Council could approve the \$2,500 ARPA Funding for the A2 Survey when there was an attachment of a map that was 4.4-acres.

Councilor Brunelle questioned if they voted on the Main Motion, as presented this evening, the Study Committee could come back to the Town Council and ask for the more space. Chairman St. Vil stated that they could.

Councilor Ryan stated in reading CGS §7-147q that Chairman St. Vil was correct in that the Study Committee would submit a copy of their Report and Recommendations to the State; a Public Hearing would then held on the Report and Study; after the Public Hearing, as Councilor Lamb stated; the Owners of the Property, which in this case was the Town, could reject the findings of the Report, by the majority vote of the body. He stated the CGS §7-147q was a little convoluted because it assumed that the owners were private owners. Therefore, he stated the Petition would be submitted to the Legislative Body, which was themselves. He stated by the majority vote of the Town Council they could reject the findings of the Report.

Chairman St. Vil stated the risk they were taking was the size of the area to be designated as a Historical Site; the cost to do rework, the Town would assume some level of liability with a scope that exceeds an already documented and agreed upon boundary, as stated on the A2 Survey Map. He stated he just received a copy of the A2 Survey, noting that there were notes on the A2 Survey acknowledging that Mr. Lamb, in his capacity as the Historic District Commission Chairman, received a copy of the A2 Survey. He stated during this process he begged Mrs. Parkinson to meet with the Mayor with Town Planner Ms. Burdick to come up with a resolution. He stated that he had extreme concerns regarding the boundary, noting that this could have been rectified a long time ago, noting that the A2 Survey was done a year ago (January 14, 2025). He stated all concerned parties have known about the A2 Survey for a year; yet nobody has talked to each other; and now the Historic District Commission is asking to go directly to the State with a Package that they were saying has a boundary of 4.4-acres. Chairman St. Vil questioned the reason they were saying the boundary was 4.4-acres on a site that had potential use for this town for alternative uses in the future, noting that the 4.4-acres could impede those potential uses in the future. He questioned why they would want to assume that risk.

Councilor Lamb stated because someone jumped the gun in conducting the A2 Survey that it had no relevance, because the A2 Survey was supposed to be the last Step in the Process. He stated if the 4.4-acre area was designated as a Historic Site that the Town owned the property; and they could take back the Administrative Control.

Councilor Barnes stated having walked the grounds of the Spicer Homestead Ruins that the area that was less than 1-acre does not take into effect many aspects of the Homestead Ruins. He stated that it was his belief that the map that Mrs. Parkinson has shared, was a more accurate reflection of the area. He stated that it also included the Spicer Rock, and it wrapped around the edge of the existing Tri-Town Trail, noting that all this would be to the west of the Clark Farm Property. He stated because the A2 Survey was done using the ARPA Funding that it may have moved along more quickly because of the time constraint for the use of the ARPA Funding. He stated that he was advocating that the 4.4-acres become the basis for tonight’s Motion.

Chairman St. Vil stated that he was advocating that they work with Town Departments to definitize the boundary of a potential Historic District ahead of committing town resources and volunteers time, and efforts that potentially may have to be undone in the future. He noted the time that their Director of Land Use Elizabeth Burdick has spent attending Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee Meetings, time she has spent writing emails, printing history, etc.

Chairman St. Vil called for a Vote on the Amendment as follows:

❖ MOTION to amend the Motion to strike the following language:

The study shall be limited to the parcel defined in the Town-commissioned survey dated January 14, 2025, unless otherwise authorized by the Town Council. This appointment is for study and recommendation purposes only, and does not constitute approval of any designation or ordinance.

VOTE: Moved by Councilor Lamb, seconded by Councilor Barnes
3 – 3 - 2 Motion Failed (Brunelle, St. Vil, Thompson not in favor) (Garcia-Irizarry, Parad abstained)

RESULT:	AMENDMENT FAILED 3-3-2
MOVER:	Ty Lamb, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Bill Barnes, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Lamb, Ryan
NYES:	Brunelle, St. Vil, Thompson
ABSTAINED:	Garcia-Irizarry, Parad
EXCUSED:	Buhle

Chairman St. Vil called for additional discussion on the Main Motion
Hearing none. Chairman St. Vil called for a Vote on the Main Motion as follows:

MOTION for the Town Council to hereby appoint the Ledyard Historic District Commission to serve as the Historic Properties Study Committee for the Spicer Homestead ruins pursuant to CGS §7-147q. The study shall be limited to the parcel defined in the Town-commissioned survey dated January 14, 2025, unless otherwise authorized by the Town Council. This appointment is for study and recommendation purposes only, and does not constitute approval of any designation or ordinance.

VOTE: 6 – 1- 1 Approved and so declared (Ryan not in favor) (Garcia-Irizarry abstained)

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 – 0
MOVER:	James Thompson, Town Councilor.
SECONDER:	Bill Barnes, Town Councilor
AYES:	Barnes, Brunelle, Lamb, Parad, St. Vil, Thompson
NYE:	Ryan,
ABSTAIN:	Garcia-Irizarry,
EXCUSED:	Buhle

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Barnes
VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 10: 40 p.m.

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

I, Gary St. Vil 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 February 11, 2026.

Gary St. Vil Chairman