



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339-1551
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council@ledyardct.org

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Kevin J.
Dombrowski

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall Council Chambers

In-Person: Council Chambers Town Hall Annex
Remote: Information noted below:

WORKING DRAFT

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82243956572?
pwd=S2FPWHZUN3pwSIZUSis0RmRvNURhZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82243956572?pwd=S2FPWHZUN3pwSIZUSis0RmRvNURhZz09)

Only: Telephone: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 822 4395 6572; Passcode: 587816

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS

None.

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

None.

VI. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

None.

VII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Paul stated May was Mental Health Awareness Month and he stated the Mental Health Community's message for this year was: "*The Message Is More Than Enough*". He provided the following data points:

- Nearly 1 in 5 adults in the United States would experience some form of mental illness, with 24% of those will suffer from a serious mental illness; and 12% of those will be diagnosed with substance use disorder.
- In 2021 48,183 people succumbed to suicide in the United States. This was one death every 11 minutes.

Councilor Paul stated Ledyard and its community cares and he stated help was available 24/7 by calling the three digit lifeline: 988 or 211 or Ledyard's Youth & Social Services at (860) 465-3213.

Councilor Paul continued by announcing the Yale-Harvard Regatta Festival will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023. He concluded by noting this weekend was Memorial Day and he wanted to thank those who have served and gave their lives for his.

Councilor Saums stated he had had two daughters graduating in the next couple of weeks. One daughter would be graduating from University of Massachusetts with the honorary title of Summa cum laude; and one daughter would be graduating from her Residency in Charleston, South Carolina. He stated that he attributed much of their success to Ledyard Public Schools. He thanked Ledyard's education system; and he congratulated all the graduates from High School, College, etc. The Town Council Congratulated Councilor Saums, noting that he should be proud of his daughters accomplishments.

Councilor Ryan stated the Grand Opening of Sweet Hill Creamery would be held on Friday, June 8, 2023. He stated Sweet Hill Creamery was located where "Pops" formerly was. He noted that it would be great to once again have an ice-cream shop in Gales Ferry.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2023.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor McGrattan
VOTE: 7- 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Andra Ingalls

SECONDER: Mary K. McGrattan

AYE: 7 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, McGrattan, Ryan, and Irwin

EXCUSED: 2 Marshall, and Rodriguez

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications List May 24, 2023

Chairman Dombrowski stated a Communications List has been provided. He noted there were no referrals listed.

X. REFERRALS

XI. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

.1. Administration Committee

Councilor Ingalls stated although the Administration Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting they have a couple of items on tonight's Agenda.

.2. Community Relations Committee

Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee met on May 17, 2023 and addressed the following: (1) Presenting services and programs to residents - Councilor Paul stated the Community Relations Committee would once again be hosting Booths at the Farmers Market this summer: (a) **July 19, 2023 Mental Health Awareness** - Councilor Paul stated they would be joined by the following Organizations: Brian Dagle Healing Hearts Foundation and would be providing information regarding Home heating fuel through Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) and other assistance programs; Utilities - Electric/Water Assistance; Homeowners Assistance program that provided no interest loans to help people replace their furnace, roof or septic system, etc.; Home meal delivery available for those who cannot get out to grocery shop through Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA); The Linda C. Davis Food Pantry located in Ledyard Center; United Way located in Gales Ferry was a great resource; Connecticut's Paid Family Medical Leave Program. He stated they would also be joined by the Police Department who would be providing information regarding the "*Green and/or Blue Envelope*" for drivers with Autism or Hearing Impaired; and SERAC. He noted many of these Organizations participated at the Community Relations Committee's Farmers' Market Booths last summer. However, he stated SERAC would be a new addition to their Mental Health Awareness Booth this summer. He provided some background noting that SERAC was a non-profit organization

located in Norwich that served 41 communities in Eastern Connecticut, noting that they provide programs and services to reduce the impact of substance abuse, problem gambling, and mental health challenges, noting that May was Mental Health Awareness Month; (b) **August 30, 2023 - Library Services-** Councilor Paul stated the Farmers' Market August 30, 2023 Theme was "**Back to School**" and that the Committee felt that the Library services would be in-keeping with that Theme. He stated at their Booth the Community Relations Committee would provide literature regarding the services the Library offered and refer residents to stop by the Library Open House. He stated when the Farmers Market closed that the Library would provide a short Presentation that same evening; (c) **September 19, 2023- Hometown Heroes- First Responder** - Councilor Paul stated in preparation for the September 19, 2023 "**Hometown Heroes- First Responders**" he met with both Ledyard Center Fire Chief Jon Mann and Gales Ferry Fire Chief Tony Saccone. He stated that the Community Relations Committee was also hoping to have some of the Chairman from the town's committee/commissions/boards noting that it would be good opportunity for all of these volunteer groups to talk with residents about how they could volunteer to serve the community.

.3. Finance Committee

Councilor Ryan stated the Finance Committee met on May 17, 2023 and he noted in addition to the items on tonight's Agenda that the Committee also discussed the following: (1) Year-to-Date Reports April 30, 2023 - Councilor Ryan noted Finance Director Matthew Bonin presented the following Updates some good and some not so good: (a) Good News was Healthcare Lines would see budgetary savings this year; Tax Collections thru March 31, 2023 was at 98.9%; Interest Income on Deposits was \$360,000 ahead of budget and it was expected to earn about \$100,000 over the next two months. Councilor Ryan stated this was an amazing amount of interest earned just by changing bank accounts; (b) Not So Good News - Utilities were continuing to trend over budget; Dispatch Salaries continue to trend over budget; Nursing Revenues continue to trend \$250,000 - \$300,000 under budget; and Board of Education Tuition was trending under budget. Councilor Ryan went on to state that Mr. Bonin noted when the budget was prepared that \$1 Million was budgeted to come out of the Mil Rate Stabilization Fund to balance the budget. However, he stated Mr. Bonin explained he did not believe they would need to take the entire \$1 Million out of the Mil Rate Stabilization Fund to balance the current year's budget; (2) American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) - Councilor Ryan noted that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin provided an update regarding the following ARPA Projects: (a) HVAC Systems have been completed and were operational at the Senior Citizens Center and the Emergency Services Building; (b) HVAC System at the Town Hall - They were waiting for some administrative paperwork from the State to finish the HVAC System for the Vault because of its purpose to store sensitive and historical documents. Also, some warrantee work needed to be completed as well; (c) Streetlight Banner Brackets have been installed in Ledyard Center and the new Banners were now in place; (d) Automated Doors at the Senior Citizens Center - The doors have been installed and were operational; (e) Sidewalk Infill - No activity has been engaged for the sidewalk work in Ledyard Center or Gales Ferry. Councilor Ryan stated that Mr. Masalin noted that they may need to revisit the scope and funding (\$35,000 was earmarked for this work) because he did not know if any meaningful work could be done with \$35,000 that was budgeted; (f) Town

Hall Door Replacement - Considering augmenting the funding to install automated doors in the front of the Town Hall building. Buildings and Grounds Forman Shawn Ruszcyk met with the contractor this week to scope out the project; (3) National Opioid Settlement Funding - Councilor Ryan stated the Finance Committee did not have any further discussion regarding the use of these funds; (4) Public Act No.21-58 "*An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management*" in accordance with "*Resolution Regarding Revenues Received from Beverage Container Surcharges*"- Councilor Ryan stated the Finance Committee did not have any further discussion regarding the use of the Nip Bottle Surcharge Funding.

.4. Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee

Councilor Paul stated the LUPPW Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting. He noted the Committee's next meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2023.

.5. Water Pollution Control Authority

Councilor Saums stated the WPCA met on May 23, 2023 and addressed the following: (1) Ledyard Center Water Tank Panting - The painting of the Ledyard Center tank top has not yet begun, but weather has been chilly and Groton Utilities has contacted the painter to inquire the status of their schedule. Rust was beginning to appear on the inside of the tank, and it should be addressed before the next 5-year inspection. There was also sediment in the bottom of the tank that should be removed, both of these projects would require taking the water storage tank offline. Groton Utilities described a temporary pneumatic pump system than could be used to maintain service while both jobs were underway; (2) Flushing of watermains would begin in the next month or so, and notices would be published; (3) Policy Manual - The WPCA continued to review their Policy Manual for a number of policy updates; (4) Ledyard Center Sewer Extension Project - Councilor Saums stated questions that Groton Utilities posed several months ago have reportedly been addressed, but the WPCA has not received a copy of the revised plan that has been put out for bid, nor has Groton Utilities. The WPCA voted unanimously to require that the project adhere to the comments and conditions Groton Utilities made regarding curb stops and hydrants; (5) Wastewater Sewer Pumps - Construction on the Smith & Loveless skid mounted sewer pumps at the wastewater treatment plant was delayed while the old 240-volt transformers were replaced with 208-volt transformers, which the pumps require. Running the pumps at 240 volts could affect the warranty and the life of the motors; (6) Fire Hydrants - The WPCA voted to accept Groton Utilities' recommendation to move a hydrant at the corner of Baldwin Hill Road and Route 12 because the fire hydrant gets hit by trucks several times every year and it was expensive to keep replacing the fire hydrant. The cost to move the fire hydrant was \$6,000.

Chairman Dombrowski questioned the reason the WPCA did not take into consideration the volt of the transformers when they ordered the Smith & Loveless skid mounted sewer pumps at the wastewater treatment plant. Councilor Saums stated he did not know the reason the WPCA did not consider changing the 240-volt transformers, when they ordered the new sewer pumps. However, he stated the WPCA has had issues in the past with the 240-volt

transformers relative to much of the equipment with operated on 208-volts.

XII. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) Playscape & Solar USB Charging Station - 13 Winthrop Road (American Rescue Plan Act -ARPA Funding) - Mayor Allyn stated the new Playscape was complete and looked great. He stated they made one change to the project, which was to install one of the Solar USB Charger Stations at that location, instead of at the Bill Library. He explained because the Bill Library had power at their Outdoor Garden Patio; and was a fairly shaded area they decided a better location was at the Park on Winthrop Road, noting that while kids were playing at the park that parents could charge their devices. He stated the crews were working to install the USB Solar Chargers at the selected locations; (2) Streetlight Banner Brackets have been installed in Ledyard Center and the new Banners were now in place. Mayor Allyn stated because the wreaths that they were previously using for the Holiday Season do not fit the size of the brackets that the Beautification Committee was considering winter/seasonal banners; (3) Blight and Zoning Issues - Mayor Allyn stated the new Zoning Enforcement Officer Mr. Alex Samalot were being addressed. He stated the top 5 - 6 offenders have received Registered Letters. He stated one property owner has already contacted him and that they would be meeting tomorrow; (4) Retirement - Pension Fund - Mayor Allyn stated the Retirement Board's last report indicated that the Retirement - Pension Plan was funded at 87.4% which was an improvement, noting that the Discount Rate was 6.25%. He stated to provide a perspective that the State's Average for all Municipal Retirement Funds was 73% funding. He stated the State also used a Discount Rate of 6.75%. He stated Ledyard was more conservative with their and better funded than the state's average; (5) Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Referendum - May 16, 2023 - Mayor Allyn stated the proposed \$64,540,940 Budget (General Government: \$28,632,572; Board of Education: \$35,908,368) was approved: 147-Yes to 55-No noting that only 2.1% of the voters turned out to cast their ballot. He expressed disappointment with the turn out noting the town advertised the Annual Town Meeting and Referendum by placing two legal notices in the New London Day Newspaper, it was posted on the Town's Website, Ledyard Community Resource Page, Ledyard News Facebook Page, his Facebook page and some Town Councilors shared the posting on their Social Media pages. It was in the Events Magazine that was mailed to every household in Ledyard, 20-foot Banners were hung in Ledyard Center and in Gales Ferry. He stated residents could sign up for Email Alerts on the Town's website, which would inform them of events such as the Budget Referendum. He stated Ledyard does not have a reporter from the Day Newspaper. He stated next year they would have the LED Signs in front of the Town Green Ledyard Center and in front of the Gales Ferry Fire Department where they would advertise the Referendum. He stated he was working with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to obtain permission to place the LED Signs. He stated the following ideas were suggested to inform residents about the Budget Referendum: (a) Use the Everbridge Emergency Reverse 911 Alert System - Mayor Allyn stated he did not support using the reverse 911 system because the intended use was for emergencies; (b) Postcards to every household - Mayor Allyn stated that he also did not support the postcard idea because of the Events Magazine already goes to every household and because of the cost to print and mail. He stated he did

not know if the low voter turn-out was because people were choosing not to engage, or whether they viewed the Budget Vote as a non-starter because there were no issues; (6) Nathan Lester House - Mayor Allyn stated the Historic property (House and Barns) were staged for the filming of a portion of the *Fog of War* Movie starring John Crusack, Brianna Hildebrand and Jake Abel. He stated the spy-thriller movie was a story about an injured World War II American pilot and his OSS agent fiancée Penny who retreat to a remote estate in Massachusetts and involved top-secret documents related to the D-Day invasion. He noted that he had a cameo part as a doctor but that did not know if the scene would make the movie and that a \$13,000 donation was made to the Nathan Lester House for the use of the property. He stated he met with Historic District Commissioner Doug Kelley, noting on Memorial Day they would begin to provide tours of the property for the public to see how the property was staged for the World War II era film and to talk about the actors and actresses that were in scenes that were filmed in the Nathan Lester House. The movie was expected to be in theaters in March-April 2024; and he stated that he hoped they could do a little Premier Opening here at the Nathan Lester House; (7) Bid No. 2023-08 (Oversized Bulky Waste Removal) - Mayor Allyn stated the Bid Opening was held on May 23, 2023; however, the town only received two bids, noting that they were very competitive coming within \$500 - \$600 of each other. He stated Public Works/Town Engineer Steve Masalin would be seeking a Bid Waiver as the required three bids were not received, in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "*An Ordinance for Purchasing*"; (8) Avalonia Land Conservancy - Mayor Allyn stated Avalonia Land Conservancy was interested in the following two town-owned parcels: (a) 3.32 acres that was located behind 538 Colonel Ledyard Highway - Outback Stables; and (b) 334 Colonel Ledyard Highway which was the piece of property that fronted the former Founders Preserve Property and would hopefully become the gravel parking lot for the open space property owned by Avalonia Land Conservancy; (9) Solid Waste Working Group - Mayor Allyn stated that he was serving as the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) Solid Waste Working Group. He stated the nine member Working Group comprised of SCCOG Chief Executive Officers, as well as members from Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA) and Municipal Public Works Directors who handle solid waste believed there were some things that could be done to remove organics out of the waste stream by looking at single stream and the new incinerators; (10) Memorial Day Parade will be held on Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. - Mayor Allyn suggested Town Councilors who would be marching in the parade to gather at the War Memorial located between the Bill Library and the Congregational Church at 12:30 p.m.

Questions to the Mayor - -

Councilor Saums addressed the low voter turn-out for the May 16, 2023 Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Referendum. He stated although this year's budget passed that when there is a low voter turn-out for any referendum vote that there was a higher chance of the item not being approved.

Councilor Saums continued by addressing the Ledyard Center Streetlight Banners and he noted that another town had been discussing Hometown Heroes Banners. Therefore, he suggested Ledyard consider the same for next year, noting that it would be great to hang

Hometown Heroes Banners and Flags for Memorial Day. Mayor Allyn stated the cost was about \$1,400 to purchase banners for all of the Streetlights in Ledyard Center. Councilor Ryan questioned the time involved to change the Streetlight Banners. Mayor Allyn stated that the Public Works Department could change-out all of the Streetlight Banners in about 90-minutes. He stated the new Streetlight brackets were spring loaded and the new banners had wind slits so that there was less tension on the brackets when they had strong wind gusts.

Councilor Ryan addressed the electrical power that was available at the Bill Library's Garden Patio; and he questioned whether they were live and whether the outlets were accessible. Mayor Allyn stated the Bill Library Garden Patio had electrical outlets for the public to use, noting that the area had a natural canopy of trees, etc. that provided some protection. Councilor Ryan stated his concern was not about the electrical outlets being protected, but that he had concerns about the town's cost for the public to use the electricity. Chairman Dombrowski stated there were electrical outlets at the Pole Barn, Town Green, and Holdridge Pavilion; however, he stated the electricity to the outlets could be shut off when they were not in use by town organizations.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Administration Committee

1. MOTION to reappoint Ms. Paula Crocker, 1500 Route 12, Gales Ferry, to the Housing Authority to complete a five (5) year term ending March 31, 2028.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor McGrattan

Discussion: Councilor Ingalls stated the reappointment of Ms. Crocker has been endorsed by the Housing Authority, noting that Chairman Duzy provided some nice comments regarding Ms. Crocker's contributions to the Board.

Councilor McGrattan, Liaison to the Housing Authority, stated Ms. Crocker serves as the Board's Recording Secretary and that she does a great job with the Minutes.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Andra Ingalls

SECONDER: Mary K. McGrattan

AYE: 7 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, McGrattan, Ryan, and Irwin

EXCUSED: 2 Marshall, and Rodriguez

2. MOTION to approve a proposed Director of Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizens job description as contained in the draft dated May 9, 2023.

Moved by Councilor Ingalls, seconded by Councilor Irwin

Discussion: Councilor Ingalls provided some background explaining that Mr. Scott Johnson, Jr., has been serving in this combined role since the Parks & Recreation Department moved from Blonders Boulevard to the Senior Citizen Center on Van Tassel Drive in 2020. She also noted that the new name of the combined Commissions was “*Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizens Commission*” as reflected in the job description. She stated the job description was last updated in 1984; and therefore, this was a complete and comprehensive update.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Andra Ingalls

SECONDER: Whit Irwin

AYE: 7 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, McGrattan, Ryan, and Irwin

EXCUSED: 2 Marshall, and Rodriguez

3. Finance Committee

4. MOTION to grant a bid waiver to WMC Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$478,000 for RFQ/RFP 2023-07 (Engineering Services-Whitford Brook Watershed Infrastructure Improvements) due to not receiving three bids; in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) “An Ordinance for Purchasing”.

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Councilor Saums provided some background noting that WMC Consulting Engineers also did the work on the Lantern Hill Road Bridge.

Councilor Saums provided some background noting that in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ#2023-07) (Whitford Brook Watershed Infrastructure Improvements -1) the town only received two proposals. He stated the Proposals were due on April 12, 2023 and that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin along with Planner Sam Alexander from Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), and Dave Murphy from Southeastern CT Stormwater and Climate Resilience Agency (SERCA) interviewed the Engineering Firms that submitted proposals. He stated the consensus of the Group was to award the contract to WMC Consulting Engineers, noting that they were the lowest bid. He stated although the town would have typically received several proposals for this type of project that the cost of the two proposals received came in within the range of what they would have seen if they had a bigger pool of participants.

Councilor Ryan stated that Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Steve Masalin stated the proposals were within the scope of what was expected for the size of the project, noting that the cost was not a lot more or a lot less than expected.

Councilor Saums stated that Mr. Masalin explained that this bid waiver was for the Design Work and the Permitting Process and was only one milestone within the whole \$3 Million Watershed Initiative that was being done along Lantern Hill Road and the

Whitford Brook, which included the replacement of the Lantern Hill Road/Whitford Bridge (between Ledyard and Stonington) that has languished for years, and for other components that needed to be replaced or improved related to the watershed area. He stated that Mr. Masalin also addressed the complexities of the project because there were a lot of stakeholders involved in this Watershed Project, noting that they have met with residents Betsy Graham and Terry Fedors. He explained the Local Bridge Program has become an option that the town could use again. He stated WMC Consulting Engineers was the engineers for the Lantern Hill Road Bridge and he noted in speaking with WMC Consulting Engineers they were going to submit an Application for Local Bridge Funding. However, he explained although Stonington would be a party in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that Mayor Allyn, III, was working on, that the Local Bridge Application would not include Stonington as a *party*. He went on to note that there would be other Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for some of the other parties because the dams were on private property. He stated for State Funding to be devoted to private dams was an unusual facet of the projects, and he noted that working thru this project was going to be challenging.

Councilor Saums concluded by stating that Mr. Masalin was comfortable with the selection of WMC Consulting Engineers. He explained because the State would not allow a private party to be the administrator of the grant funding; and therefore, the town would be handling the administration of the funding.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bill Saums

SECONDER: Tim Ryan

AYE: 7 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, McGrattan, Ryan, and Irwin

EXCUSED: 2 Marshall, and Rodriguez

5. MOTION to appoint CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to conduct auditing services for the General Government, WPCA, and Schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in accordance with Chapter III, Section 11 of the Town Charter.

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums provided some background noting that last year the town solicited Requests for Proposals (RFP#2022-09) for the Annual Audit. He stated because the town only received two bids a bid waiver was granted to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP last year. He stated although the contract was for two year (FY 2022 and FY 2023) with two one-year options, that in accordance with Chapter III, Section 11 of the Town Charter: *“The Town Council **shall annually** designate an independent public accountant or firm of independent public accountants to audit the books and accounts of the Town in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes”*.

Councilor Saums stated in attending the Budget Preparation Shops that were put on by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) that they strongly recommended Municipalities change their Accounting/Auditing Firms every few years. He stated

because they were in a contract with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP that they would not be changing Accounting/Auditing Firms. However, he stated once this contract has ended that he would recommend the town solicit bids for their Annual Audit work.

Councilor Saums stated during the Finance Committee's May 17, 2023 meeting Councilor Ryan questioned the cost breakdown for each of the entities for the Annual Audit work noting that although the Board of Education's budget was significantly larger with a lot more budget lines that their shared cost for the Annual Audit was nearly \$14,000 less than the General Government's cost. Councilor Saums went on to note that Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained that although the education budget was greater than the town budget that it was audited as one line in the budget. Councilor Saums went on to state that although the education budget was considered one line in the overall budget that CliftonLarsonAllen LLP has done a fair amount of testing at the Board of Education and that they have found some areas for improvement. However, he stated given the size, number of employees and complexity of the Board of Education budget that perhaps next year they should talk with the Auditors about the education budget possibly receiving more scrutiny.

Councilor Saums concluded by stating that the town has been pleased with the work of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, noting that they have provided recommendations which the town has implemented. He stated the appointment of the CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for the second year of the contract was an Administrative Action.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Bill Saums

SECONDER: Andra Ingalls

AYE: 7 Dombrowski, Saums, Ingalls, Paul, McGrattan, Ryan, and Irwin

EXCUSED: 2 Marshall, and Rodriguez

General Business

6. Discuss Work Session Items as time permits.

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Paul moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Irwin

VOTE: 7 - 0 Approved and so declared. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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

I, Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council,

hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting held on May 24, 2023.

Kevin J. Dombrowski, Chairman

DISCLAIMER:

Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.

The Town Council's Official Agenda and final Minutes will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.