

Roxanne Maher

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

Dear Mayor and Members of the Ledyard Town Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Anita Merando
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