



TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID FORMAT

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Ledyard, CT 06339

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Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

5:00 PM

Annex Meeting Room - Video Conference

DRAFT

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Councilor Saccone at 5:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers Town Hall Annex Building.

Councilor Saccone welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the Town Council Finance Committee and members of 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. **ROLL CALL**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location	Arrived	Departed
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Excused			
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:19 pm
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:19 pm
Matthew Bonin	Finance Director	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:19 pm
Steve Holyfield	Administrator of Emergency Services	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:19 pm
Elizabeth Burdick	Land Use Director/Town Planner	Present	In-Person	5:03 pm	5:19 pm
Nate Woody	Planning & Zoning Commission Member	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:19 pm
Carol Schneider	Resident	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:19 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:19 pm

III. **RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS** -None.

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

V. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION to approve the Finance Committee Minutes as follows:

- Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2025
- Regular Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2025

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saccone

VOTE: 2 – 0 Approved and so declared

VI. **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (See below)

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated the following Reports were attached to the agenda on the meeting portal, and he hoped the Finance Committee had the opportunity to review them. He stated there was nothing that they have not already discussed. He noted the following:

- Budget versus Actuals – Revenues – May 31, 2025
 - ✓ Tax Collections were at 99.4% which was good.
- Budget versus Actuals – Expenditures – May 31, 2025
 - ✓ Legal Accounts were over expended, the Finance Committee authorized overspending these accounts at prior meetings.

Mr. Bonin stated that he would answer any questions regarding the reports.

Hearing no questions, Councilor Saccone noted that the Committee would move on to Old Business.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Continued discussion regarding potential uses for the funding received from the National Opioid Settlement Payments.

It was noted at the Town Council's June 11, 2025 Meeting that Mayor Allyn reported that the town received \$11,507 in the latest National Opioid Settlement Disbursement.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Next Meeting 7/02/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

2. Continued discussion regarding the status and possible changes to Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Fund based on the *American Rescue Act* Funding (ARPA) and the process to approve ARPA Projects and expend ARPA Funding.

Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated the he provided an updated ARPA Project Spreadsheet that was attached to Agenda on the Meeting Portal. He noted that invoices continue to come in and were being paid and recorded on the ARPA Projects Spreadsheet. He also stated as some projects were being completed that Public Works Director/Steve Masalin has been closing the Purchase Orders.

Councilor Ryan noted the obligated funds for the Sewer Line Phase I Project, noting that there appears to be a little over \$400,000 remaining for that project. Therefore, he questioned whether there were any outstanding invoices that have not yet been paid.

Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained although the ARPA Projects Spreadsheet was showing a \$300,000 deficit that when all was said and done, that they would have enough funding to cover all of the ARPA Projects. He stated the Town of Ledyard would not be returning any ARPA Funding to the US Treasury.

3. Continued discussion regarding potential grant opportunities.

It was noted that Ledyard's 2025 STEAP Grant Application was approved in the amount of \$892,000 noting that it would require a \$179,000 town match for Playscape Improvement Projects for the following:

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

4. Scheduling Regular Quarterly Joint Finance Committee Meetings between the Town Council and Board of Education.

Councilor Saccone noted Board of Education Finance Committee Earl (Ty) Lamb's June 8, 2025 email in which he proposed the following updates to their planned Quarterly Joint Meetings between the two Finance Committees:

- August ~~18~~, 2025 at the Board of Education Central Office – Councilor Saccone noted that initially the idea was to replace one of the Finance Committee's bimonthly meetings with a Joint Quarterly Meeting. However, he stated with August 18, 2025 being a Monday, that the Committee could decide whether they would need to hold their Regular Meeting on August 20, 2025.

Councilor Ryan stated that he would mark his calendar for Monday, August 18, 2025

- ~~December~~~~November~~, 2025 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building - Councilor Saccone noted that Board of Education Finance Committee Chairman Earl (Ty) Lamb suggested moving the previously planned November, 2025 meeting to December to allow for the new incoming elected officials to meet and begin conversations of the topics of their choosing.

Councilor Ryan stated that he agreed with moving the meeting to December, 2025.

- February, 2026 at the Board of Education Central Office (no change to the date).
- May, 2026 at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building (no change to the date).

Councilor Ryan questioned whether the Joint Quarterly Meeting would also include the Finance Directors for the General Government and Board of Education. Councilor Saccone stated that he hoped the that the Finance Directors would participate in the Quarterly Meetings, noting that their input would be helpful. He stated that he would make a note to invite the Finance Directors to the Quarterly Meetings.

RESULT: COMPLETED

5. Any other Old Business proper to come before the Committee.- None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saccone

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

Mr. Holyfield stated Gales Ferry Fire Chief Jeff Erhart and Assistant Fire Chief Nick Bozym approached him for assistance to obtain the town's authorization to submit this Grant Application. He noted they were looking to upgrade some of their rescue equipment should their Grant Application be approved.

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

EXCUSED: Jessica Buhle

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

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Land Use Director/Town Planner Elizabeth Burdick stated that Planning &

Zoning Commissioner Nate Woody was also present this evening. Ms. Burdick noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission discussed the need to draft a Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/RF) to retain a third-party Consultant to update Ledyard's Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and Affordable Housing Plan (AFP). She addressed the legal requirements to update the Plan of Conservation & Development POCD and Affordable Housing Plans (AHP) every ten years, noting that the POCD was updated in 2020 and was due to expire in 2030; explaining that the best practice was to start the work to update these documents earlier rather than later. She went on to explain that if the Town does not have an updated Affordable Housing Plan (AFP) and updated Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) that the State could choose to withhold discretionary grant funding (STEAP, LOTCIP, etc.). She stated in talking with the Town of Stonington the cost for a third-party consultant to update their Plan Documents was \$150,000. However, Ms. Burdick stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission was hoping in doing some of the work themselves that they could reduce costs.

Ms. Burdick went on to explain at their May 8, 2025 meeting the Planning & Zoning Commission authorized her to draft and solicit Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/RFQ) to hire a third-party consultant to assist with updating these required Documents. However, she stated because the work would involve a couple of years that tonight's request was to transfer the \$60,000 balance from the Professional Services Account to the POCD Capital Account, which currently had a balance of \$17,500. She stated by transferring these remaining operating funds into the POCD Capital Account that the funds would remain in the Capital Account and would not be swept into the Undesignated Fund at year end.

Mr. Nathaniel Woody, 777 Long Cove Road, Gales Ferry, Planning & Zoning Commission Member stated updating these Plan Documents involved more work than one may think. He stated during the time he previously served on the Planning & Zoning Commission that the Commission wrote its own Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD); however, he stated at that time they did not update all of the Sections. Therefore, he stated as Ms. Burdick mentioned the Commission was hoping they could work with the Consultant and do some of the work themselves to reduce costs.

Mr. Woody went on to address the importance of the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) explaining that it takes everything into account that was going to happen in the town, such as land infrastructure, utilities, open space, public works and facilities improvements, etc. He stated it was necessary to have an updated POCD in place for the town to be eligible to apply for and receive grant funding. Ms. Burdick added that when the Plan of Conservation & Development was last updated in 2020 that because the 2020 Census had not yet been completed they could not incorporate the Census Data into the Plan Document; noting that this update would include that Census Data.

Ms. Burdick reported that the State Legislation approved House Bill #5002 (Public Act #2549) noting that it was a 91-page Bill that would provide sweeping changes regarding housing throughout the State of Connecticut, and that all municipalities would have to comply with provisions of the Bill. She stated that it was her understanding that the Bill may be modified before the Governor signs it into law. She stated by having the work in-progress to update the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and the Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) that it would allow Ledyard to stay ahead of the curve, and to comply with any changes contained in the Bill.

Ms. Burdick stated that the process to update these Plan Documents always takes significantly longer than they expect. She stated the reality was that if the RFP/RFQ went out right now, that optimistically, the Planning & Zoning Commission would be coming to the Town Council in 2027 to approve the Plan of Conservation & Development, which meant that they had less time than they think they have.

Councilor Ryan stated that he thought that this was a good use of the money. He stated the funding was allocated to use Consultants to supplement the personnel and resource requirements for expected submittals. He stated that House Bill #5002 (Public Act #2549) had a number of requirements that would have some huge impacts for a lot of municipalities, should the Governor sign the Bill. Therefore, he stated that starting the process to update the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development and Affordable Housing Plan (AHP) now would be good timing if House Bill #5002 does become law. He concluded by stating that he appreciated the diligence, and thinking along the lines to make the most of these funds for the Plan Document(s) update.

VOTE: 2- 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

EXCUSED: Jessica Buhle

3. Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee- None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Saccone moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Ryan

VOTE: 2 - 0 Approved and so declared, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Saccone, Sr.
Committee Chairman
Finance Committee