



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Ed Lynch

Special Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynch at 7:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present	Board Member Monir Tewfik Board Member Sharon Wadecki Board Member Edmond Lynch Alternate Member Tony Capon Alternate Member James A. Ball
Excused	Board Member Terry Jones Board Member Stanley Juber
Alternate	Alternate Member Jeremy Norris

Jeremy Norris was present via Zoom.
Also in attendance was Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Tony Capon was appointed as a voting member.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Aron Schumacher, BL Companies made a presentation on behalf of EG Home LLC for a 76-unit Townhouse development at 1947 Center Groton Road.

Mr. Schumacher started by saying that the intent is to connect to the WPCA's sewer system for 76 units (approximately 19 buildings). Chairman Lynch asked how many acres the Townhouse(s) are on, it was answered 10 acres. Chairman Lynch said the WPCA uses a 90 gallon per unit calculation for sewer capacity. He added that they need to be aware that it is a low-pressure system, meaning that grinding pumps will be required. Chairman Lynch said the grinding units can be designed how their engineer sees fit, either per unit or per person. Chairman Lynch recommended that they work with Patrick Bateman at Weston & Sampson, since W&S did the Phase II design of the system. Chairman Lynch asked when the letter of

commitment is needed by. Liz Burdick, Planning Director, answered as soon as possible. Chairman Lynch said there will need to be a time limit of five years for the committed gallonage in which to start the project.

ACTION ITEM: Chairman Lynch will write a commitment letter for water main and sewer main extensions to EG Home LLC. Sewer commitment is for 7,000 gallons a day, water is unlimited. Project must be started within five years of the signed commitment letter.

Motion to APPROVE a commitment for water main and sewer main extensions to EG Home LLC. Sewer commitment is for 7,000 gallons a day, water is unlimited. Project must be started within five years.

A motion was made by Board Member Lynch, seconded by Board Member Wadecki, that this be Approved and so declared. The motion carried by the following vote:

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Tewfik Wadecki Lynch Capon Ball

EXCUSED 2 Jones Juber

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2026, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 3 Tewfik Wadecki Lynch

EXCUSED 2 Jones Juber

ABSTAIN 2 Capon Ball

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Operations Report.

Chairman Lynch said he attended a WPCA/GU meeting in February with the focus on the lead survey but since there were several GU representatives present, they touched on other items such as the responsibility of "call before you dig" requests.

GU reported that when they were shoveling out fire hydrants from the snowstorm, they found six hydrants in need of repair. Chairman Lynch reiterated that he asked for a hydrant report including a list of all hydrants and their current state and condition. He added that this information is necessary for budgeting. The Town gives the WPCA \$14,400 a year for hydrant maintenance, but that amount is apparently not enough.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Service Correspondence.
No comments.
3. Aged Reports/Finance.
No comments.
4. Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.
No comments.
5. PSR - Steve Banks.
No comments.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Status of Lead Survey - Finance and Town Council meeting vote results.

Chairman Lynch gave a quick summary. He started by saying that Arcadis was assigned to assist with the process. Even though the As-Builts were found the State is still requiring digs to verify materials of construction on the service lines from the curb. Chairman Lynch said that Mayor Fred Allyn III will be meeting with Representative Joe Courtney and possibly Senator Osten to explain that the Town knows that there is no lead in the system, yet the Town is expected to spend half a million dollars to verify what it already known. Mayor Fred Allyn III will ask if there is anything that Representative Joe Courtney can do such as write a letter to the EPA to mitigate small-town system expenses.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Draft policy addressing un-metered service leaks.
Motion to ACCEPT the un-metered service leaks draft policy for publishing in the WPCA handbook as amended.

Chairman Lynch said that Mr. Jones made modifications to the draft policy addressing un-metered service leaks but without Mr. Jones present the Authority will wait to take any action. Mr. Capon said he had an issue with the line "After 60 days, if no repair has been made or scheduled, the property owner will be charged for the estimated amount of leakage until the repairs are completed". He said the Authority can't bill for estimated water use unless there is a subsequent meter read. Chairman Lynch said the estimated charge verbiage was removed. It was agreed that after 60 days, if no repair has been made or scheduled water should be shut off. Mr. Capon had no further comments.

RESULT: CONTINUE

3. FY 27 Sewer/Water Budget Work Sheets.
Discussion and possible vote on sewer budget.
Discussion and possible vote on proposed water budget.

Chairman Lynch moved this agenda item to the beginning of the meeting to keep Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director from needing to attend the entire meeting.

There was a question from last month's meeting on what exactly the miscellaneous budget item encompassed. Mr. Stammel replied that \$2,000 was for a Groton Utility temporary meter deposit. The meter is now permanent.

Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Stammel if he was confident that the Sewer budget didn't need any adjustments. Mr. Stammel answered that he and Steve Banks, WPCA Supervisor, reviewed the budget line by line and he was confident that it was correct. There were some increases in medical, overtime and salaries.

The water budget includes a rate increase which will be recommended to Town Council and the budget is contingent on their approval. There will also be a Public Hearing for the rate increase.

Chairman Lynch said there is a new Technical Administrator position added to the Water budget. Mr. Stammel explained that he needs an employee who works for the WPCA and represents the Town (not Groton Utilities). He explained that after Ray Valentini left Groton Utilities invoicing was not handled properly and the WPCA was billed incorrectly for services that were inclusive in the contract. Mr. Norris asked for an example and Mr. Stammel said that the last invoice report from Maurice Duarte had invoices that should not have been on the list plus more recently the WPCA was billed incorrectly for water main breaks in the Highlands for a cost of over \$10,000.

Chairman Lynch reviewed increased costs that are in the WPCA Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget.

- \$63,750 for Administrative Part-time Contractor
- \$40,000 for Route 12 water purchases.
- \$40,000 for Route 117 water purchases.
- \$9,455 for GU Annual Contract Agreement increase.
- \$3,159 for GU Customer Service.
- \$7,000 for Finance Department Services.

Chairman Lynch stated that Mr. Stammel recommended at least a 10% increase, Mr. Stammel specified that he recommends a 15% increase. Ms. Wadecki pointed out that the Authority is running the operating budget in the negative and relying on the Capital budget to balance it, which is incorrect and not what the Authority should be doing. Ms. Wadecki thanked Mr. Stammel for coming to the meeting and for providing clarification. She said this solidifies for her that there must be a larger rate increase because the budget can't be balanced using CNR. Ms. Wadecki added that the Authority will need to present detailed rate increase justifications during the public hearing. Chairman Lynch said for the typical rate payer the increase would equate to approximately \$4.50 a month.

Chairman Lynch said the Authority needs to have a budget number to recommend to the Town Council. Mr. Ball asked if a rate increase needs to be approved now. Ms. Wadecki answered that for now the Authority needs to recommend a temporary budget that will be presented to the Finance Committee, the next step is a public hearing, and a rate increase recommendation to the Town Council. Chairman Lynch agreed and said he needs to have a number for the budget workshop which he is attending on March 9, 2026.

Motion to APPROVE a sewer budget of \$744,419.90 for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Tewfik Wadecki Lynch Capon Ball

EXCUSED 2 Jones Juber

Chairman Lynch thanked Mr. Stammel for attending the meeting. Mr. Stammel said that the Commissioners can feel free to email him any questions or requests for GU invoices. He added that if anyone emails him to also copy Chairman Lynch in the email but no other Commissioners. The Authority should not "respond to all" when replying in emails to avoid creating an illegal meeting.

Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Stammel if he has reviewed the Aaron Brooks, GU email sent on February 26, 2026, regarding invoices, specifically the Holmberg tank. Mr. Stammel said he had just found out that there was a lightning strike on the Holmberg tank. Mr. Stammel said that CIRMA would cover the damage if it was a natural occurring disaster.

Motion to RECOMMEND that Town Council APPROVE a water budget of \$1,863,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Tewfik Wadecki Lynch Capon Ball

EXCUSED 2 Jones Juber

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Freedom of Information Presentation.

Ms. Wadecki said that the Authority needs to be more cognizant that emails are not sent to the entire Authority.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Special Meeting at 8:28 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

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