



Chairman Gary St. Vil

TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID FORMAT

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339

towncouncil@ledyardct.org
860 464-3203
Roxanne Maher
Administrative Assistant

MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

5:00 PM

Annex Meeting Room - Video Conference

DRAFT

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The Meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Councilor Buhle at 5:01 p.m. at the Council Chambers Town Hall Annex Building.

Councilor Buhle welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She 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	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Gary St. Vil	Town Council Chairman	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Matthew Bonin	Finance Director	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Mike Brawner	Board of Education	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Jeff Eilenberger	Resident	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Eleanor Murray	Resident	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Edwin Murray	Resident	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Cory Watford	Resident	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Lee Ann Berry	Resident	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Deborah Edwards	Resident	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Brandon Sabbag	Resident	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Carol Schneider	Resident	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:49 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:49 pm

III. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS (Comments limited to Three (3) Minutes)

Mrs. Eleanor Murray, 26 Devonshire Drive, Gales Ferry, stated that she had an over developed sense for justice, and that she wanted to address a matter regarding the honesty of statement; and abandonment of truth. She noted a situation where the town foreclosed on a man’s home, stating there was a question about whether the man knew about it; and noting that the man did not get any legal representation. She stated at the time the house was foreclosed on the man owed \$28,100 in various fines. She stated that she was not an attorney but according to Court Records Ledyard levied additional fines totaling \$85,200.

Mrs. Murray went on to note that the property was appraised for \$350,000; however, it was sold for \$90,000; the man received zero dollars, and the town ended up with \$75,000, which was immediately put into the Planning Department to be used to hire somebody to rewrite/update the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD); which any of us could write. She stated that she has a list of names of community members who had written it before, and were willing to write the POCD for far less.

Mrs. Murray continued by stating that she questioned whether the Planning Department should have the \$75,000, noting if the Police Department gives out speeding tickets they do not get that money. She stated just because a house was foreclosed on the Department that does the foreclosure does not get the money. She stated this all happened back in November, December, but that it just came to people's attention now.

Mrs. Murray stated the town has a multimillion dollar budget and that \$75,000 was not that much money. However, she stated the \$75,000 could be used for the Lester House, the Beautification Committee, which has no funding at all; the Historic District Commission, or the Economic Development Commission, or others that have needs like the Parks Department.

Mrs. Murray concluded her comments by stating that anyone of them were one accident away from this happening to them; where their house falls to ruins because they cannot take care of it. She stated then they suddenly start to receive notices that they do not understand, and they cannot find an attorney, and their relatives live out of town. She stated and then suddenly the town has taken over your house; and they have zero dollars. She stated this could happen to anybody and that they should be ashamed that this happened at all. Thank you.

Post Meeting Note: *“Resolution Regarding Judicial Revenue Distributions for Police Infractions”* was adopted on August 23, 2006. These funds are used to help offset the cost of replacing police cruisers.

Mr. Jeff Eilenberger, 2 Village Drive, Ledyard, stated that presentation is everything, and optics do matter. He noted the following Referendum Question:

“Shall the Town of Ledyard adopt a Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget as proposed by the Town Council in the amount of \$73,555,506?

Comprised of the General Government for \$31,698,171, which is 43.09% of the entire budget; and the Board of Education for \$41,857,335, which is 56.91% of the entire budget.”

Mr. Eilenberger stated the numbers appear to add up; however, he stated in reality and with the goal of transparency, that in his mind and in his opinion, to fully understand their expenses the question should be:

“Shall the Town of Ledyard adopt a Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget as proposed by the Town Council in the amount of \$73,555,506?

Comprised of the General Government for \$20, 715,083, which is 28.16% of the entire budget; and the Board of Education of \$52,840,423, which is 71.83% of the entire budget.”

Mr. Eilenberger stated the numbers sound the same; and they add up, noting to fully understand how the bills get paid, that all the tax monies are collected and deposited into the Town of Ledyard account. The Board of Education’s in-kind expenses, as with all other Ledyard expenses, that are accrued by the individual departments, including the Board of Education, were paid directly from the Ledyard account. He stated at every opportunity School Superintendent Hartling has fought to maintain the current recording system rather than move the in-kind expenses back to the Board of Education side of the budget ledger. He noted that Superintendent Hartling can be reached at 860-464-9255. He stated when factoring in Board of Education in-kind expenses, such as healthcare, debt service, insurance, workers' compensation, retirement obligation, and school nursing services, that the total investment in education represents approximately 71.74% of the town's overall budget. He noted that this was a quote by Gary St. Vil, Chairman of the Ledyard Town Council on May 4, 2026.

Councilor Buhle thanked the residents for their comments.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – None.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the following Finance Committee Minutes

- Budget Work Session Minutes March 19, 2026
- Regular Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2026
- Special Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2026

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Garica-Irizarry

Discussion: Councilor Ryan stated he did not see the projected Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Mil Rate in any of these three sets of Minutes. Therefore, he questioned whether the Finance Committee had discussed the projected Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Mil Rate during their budget discussions.

Councilor Buhle stated that the Finance Committee did not discuss a projected Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Mil Rate during any of these meetings. She noted that during the April 21, 2026 Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Public Hearing that she asked Finance Director Matthew Bonin what the projected Mill Rate would be.

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

VI. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Matthew Bonin reported on the following: (1) State Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget and State Revenues – Mr. Bonin noted the approved State Legislation’s budget included the following additional revenues for Ledyard: Supplemental Education Aid \$481,304; and Supplemental Pequot-Mohegan \$1,703,834.

Mr. Bonin went on to note in Governor Lamont’s Press Release he stated: “*This State Funding gives Municipalities the breathing room they need to stabilize or even reduce mill rates addressing the affordability concerns that so many Connecticut residents and community leaders have raised*”. Mr. Bonin stated assuming the proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Expenditure Budget remained the same the supplemental revenue would result in a 1.18 mill rate reduction to the current projected mill rate of 26.55 reducing the projected Mill Rate to 25.37. He stated this would also represent a .41 mill rate decrease from the current year’s equalized mill rate of 25.78. He stated in a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) communications regarding the Education Funding they noted the following: “*For municipalities that have not yet adopted budgets, that communities may incorporate the additional aid through the normal budget process to off-set the local share, similar to how Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Funding was typically applied*”. Mr. Bonin stated based on this information that the Supplemental Education Aid \$481,304 could be added to the ECS Funding Ledyard was already planning to receive from the State.



Adopted FY 27 State Budget Adjustments
Municipal Aid for: Ledyard

5/3/2026

	Est. FY 26	Orig. FY 27	Adjust. FY 27	\$ Change Adjust. v. FY 26	% Change Adjust. v. FY 26	\$ Change Adjust. v. Orig. FY 27	% Change Adjust. v. Orig. FY 27
Adult Education	25,840	30,558	29,786	3,946	15.3%	(772)	-2.5%
ECS	12,032,619	12,032,619	12,032,619	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
LoCIP	182,572	175,367	182,572	0	0.0%	7,205	4.1%
Pequot-Mohegan	1,391,000	1,391,000	2,191,000	800,000	57.5%	800,000	57.5%
PILOT	1,045,214	1,042,135	1,099,360	54,146	5.2%	57,225	5.5%
Town Aid Road	394,283	393,442	394,283	(0)	0.0%	841	0.2%
Municipal Grants-in-Aid	421,085	421,085	421,085	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Reimbursement	445,888	445,888	741,052	295,164	66.2%	295,165	66.2%
Special Ed and Expan Dev	174,861	173,355	149,739	(25,122)	-14.4%	(23,616)	-13.6%
Supplemental Revenue Sharing	0	0	0	0		0	
Supplemental Education Aid	0	0	481,304	481,304		481,304	
Supplemental Pequot-Mohegan	0	0	1,703,834	1,703,834		1,703,834	
TOTAL	16,113,362	16,105,449	19,426,635	3,313,273	20.6%	3,321,186	20.6%

Councilor Buhle stated that she loved Mr. Bonin’s interpretation of how the funding could be used. However, she stated that she had some concerns because at their April 8, 2026 meeting the Town Council adopted a budget; noting the they approved the following motion:

“*MOTION to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget in the amount of \$73,555,506 comprised of:*

- *General Government: \$31,698,171*
- *Board of Education: \$41,857,335”*

Councilor Ryan stated the April 8, 2026 action the Town Council took was to forward the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget to the Townspeople to vote on. He explained until the Townspeople vote at the May 19, 2026 Referendum that Ledyard does not have an “*Approved Budget*”.

Councilor Buhle questioned whether they could modify the revenues before the proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget goes to the May 19, 2026 Referendum, noting that they would not be changing the expenditure numbers.

Councilor Ryan stated the Townspeople vote on the expenditure budget, explaining the Town Council could adjust the revenue numbers when they set the Mill Rate prior to July 1st, noting that the Town just learned about these supplemental revenues in the last few days, and therefore, they would want to be fully transparent with the Townspeople. He stated that the Supplemental State Revenue would be a good topic to discuss at the May 13, 2026 Town Council meeting to reflect the updated numbers and show the reduced the Mill Rate for the upcoming fiscal year. He stated the Supplemental Revenues would not change the question for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Referendum. However, he stated at the May 18, 2026 Town Meeting that this information should be provided as clarification.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned whether the Supplemental Education Aid \$481,304; and Supplemental Pequot-Mohegan \$1,703,834 would be permanent revenue increases from the State going forward. Councilor Buhle stated that she was planning to amend the Agenda this evening to further discuss these supplemental revenues later this evening. Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated it was his understanding that the Supplemental State Revenues were add-ons just for Fiscal Year 2026/2027, noting that he did not see them as permanent revenues.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated that he would provide the April Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the May 20, 2026 meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

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

Councilor Buhle stated that Ledyard has actively been disbursing their National Opioid Settlement Funding to local organizations; and using the Nip Bottle Surcharge Funding to pay for the new Street Sweeper, noting that some town's have not used their funding at all. She stated that she would like to see Ledyard continue to use the funding for its intended purposes.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned the balance in the National Opioid Settlement Account Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated that he would have to get back to Councilor Garica-Irizarry with the Account Balance number.

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting 5/20/2026 : 5:00 p.m.

2. Schedule for Joint Meetings between the Finance Committees of the Town Council & Board of Education.

Councilor Buhle stated that she has emailed both Board of Education Chairman Jennifer Reguin and Finance Committee Chairman Amanda Veneziano to try to find some dates for the two Finance Committees to meet. She noted in Board of Education Chairman Reguin response she asked that before they coordinated schedules whether she could share more context regarding the purpose and goals for the joint meetings; noting that Chairman Reguin felt that the February 4, 2026 Joint Finance Committee Meeting was largely the Board of Education observing the Town Council's Finance Committee's discussion.

Councilor Buhle went on to note because she wanted to make sure all of their time felt valuable, she asked if the members of the Finance Committee had specific topics that they would like to discuss with the Board of Education; noting she would be happy to facilitate a joint meeting. However, she stated that she did not want to waste the Board of Education's time or their time.

Councilor Ryan stated he would advocate for scheduling joint meetings on the calendar, noting that they could always cancel the meetings if they were not needed. He stated they have not had consistent regular touchpoints with the Board of Education's Finance Committee, noting that he thought joint meetings would be valuable throughout the year; and not only during the budget season.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she agreed with Councilor Ryan's comments, noting that they were only looking for quarterly meetings. She stated if no topics arise they could cancel the meetings. She stated that they could alternate the location of the meetings with one being where the Town Council Finance Committee meets and the next at the location where the Board of Education's Finance Committee meets.

Councilor Ryan stated the Joint Meeting Agenda would be based on mutual issues that both the Board of Education and Town Council Finance Committees were interested in discussing, noting that it would not be a Town Council Finance Committee Agenda or Board of Education Finance Committee Agenda. He stated the joint meeting may occur after one of the Finance Committee's regular meetings, or on another day.

Councilor Buhle stated that she would contact Board of Education Finance Committee Chairman Amanda Veneziano to see if they could get a joint meeting date on the calendar.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting 5/20/2026; 5:00 p.m.

3. Continued discussion regarding potential grant opportunities.

Councilor Buhle noted Parks, Recreation, & Senior Citizens Director Scott Johnson, Jr., indicated that the four Playscape Contracts were moving forward with the use of the \$1 million grant funding received through the "*Municipal Certification of a Resolution for*

Small Town Economic Assistance Program ~ STEAP 2025 ~ Ledyard Playscape Improvement Projects". She stated that Mr. Johnson was hopeful that the work would start as soon as possible, and not to interrupt the Summer Camps, or the Ledyard Farmers Market.

Councilor Buhle went on to note the Town Council received an email today from Congressman Chris Murphy's Office regarding some grant opportunities. She stated she would be reviewing the grants to see if there were any that Ledyard could use, noting that the Grant Applications were not due until July 23, 2026.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting 5/20/2026; 5:00 p.m.

4. Review and discuss the following Reports:

- Committee to Review the Budget Process Report dated October 31, 2023
- Committee To Transform The Budget Process Report dated October 3, 2016

Councilor Garica-Irizarry noted that there were a number of new Ad Hoc Committees that town staff was working to support. Therefore, she suggested they hold off on reviewing these Reports until some of the other initiatives have been completed and staff was freed up to support another group.

Councilor Buhle stated she would remove this item from the Agenda; noting that they could add it back on the Agenda when staff becomes available to support another committee.

Councilor Ryan stated there would not be anything that would stop the Finance Committee from scheduling a Workshop to get the appropriate people in the room to talk about some of the items that were in the Reports to determine which recommendations were worth pursuing.

RESULT: Remove from Agenda

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ MOTION to amend the Agenda to add the following:
Discussion regarding additional revenues for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget year.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Ryan

VOTE: 3- 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 3 – 0

MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Tim Ryan

Councilor Buhle stated this item will be added as Item #3 under New Business this evening.

1. MOTION to recommend the Town Council approve three tax refunds in the combined total amount of \$24,255.39. Each refund exceeding \$2,400.00 individually. Council action is required in accordance with tax collector departmental procedures.

- Devon & Angela Hunter \$ 3,596.83
- Scient Federal Credit Union for Ryan & Kerrie Landry \$ 7,686.86
- Hajjar Management Co. Inc. for Gales Ferry Realty Trust \$12,971.70

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Buhle stated in accordance with policies established for the Tax Collection Department, the Town Council was required to approve refunds to taxpayers exceeding \$2,400.

Finance Director Matthew Bonin noted that the tax refunds for Devon & Angela Hunter and Gales Ferry Realty were overpayments, because three tax installments were paid instead of required two. He also noted that the tax refund for Ryan & Kerrie Landry was due to a military related property assessment adjustment.

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED 3 – 0

MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Tim Ryan

2. MOTION to recommend the Town Council transfer tax accounts in the amount of \$112,659.56 listed in the report dated April 8, 2028, to the “*Suspense File*”.

In addition, authorize the transfer of non-refundable over payments in the amount of \$265.89 to the general fund listed in the report dated April 8, 2026.

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Councilor Buhle stated this action would remove the taxes that were not paid from an active status to a non-active status; explaining that the accounts that were being transferred would remain on the tax roll and would be flagged as a “Suspense Item”. She stated that these were tax bills were already five-years past due.

Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained as part of year-end housekeeping the Tax Collector presents a list of accounts classified as “*uncollectable*” to be transferred to the “*Suspense List*”. He stated in most cases these were motor vehicle taxes in which the person moved out of the area; or the person has passed away. He stated except for bankruptcy or deceased, the remaining bills would be sent to a collection agency and would remain on the tax rolls for fifteen years from their due date.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry questioned the reason it was called the “*Suspense File*”. Mr. Bonin explained because the tax bills would be coming off of the active tax roll they were being suspended. However, he stated that the tax bills would still be due to the town. He stated statutorily any tax bills older than 15-years would automatically come off the tax roll.

Overpayments:

Per State Statute Section 12-129 and the Town of Ledyard Ordinance #200-002 over payments under \$5.00 shall be transferred to the general fund. For the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 the total amount of overpayments that were less than \$5.00 were in the amount of \$265.89.

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVED TO RECOMMEND 3 – 0

MOVER: Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Tim Ryan

3. Discussion regarding additional revenues for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget year.

Councilor Buhle stated as Finance Director Matthew Bonin reported earlier this evening (see VI. Finance Director’s Report) Ledyard would be receiving the following additional revenues from the State for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget:

- Supplemental Education Aid (ECS) \$481,304; and
 - Supplemental Pequot-Mohegan \$1,703,834.
- Total: \$2,185,138

Councilor Buhle suggested they use these additional funds to reduce the use of the Stabilization Fund, noting that she had concerns with using \$1.8 million from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund because it was not a sustainable amount for them to use year after year. She stated because there was no guarantee that Ledyard would continue to receive the additional Supplemental \$2,185,1382 from the state the following year (fy 27/28) that Ledyard could be looking at a \$2 million short-fall in state revenues as well as a \$730,000 short-fall in their the Motor Vehicle tax revenue. She stated they had an opportunity to split the use of additional \$2,185,138 to help reduce the projected mill rate for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget, to lessen the burden of the 2025 Property Revaluation for their taxpayers; and set the town up for a more financially responsible future.

Councilor Ryan stated that he was not opposed to Councilor Buhle’s idea to reduce the amount of revenue coming from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget. He stated in past years they have budgeted using the equivalent of one-mill from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund; however, he stated for the upcoming fiscal year the value of one-mill has significantly increased because of the 2025 Property Revaluation. He stated his mill rate threshold for the upcoming year was not to exceed the adjusted/equalized Mill Rate, because there were still a lot of unknowns such as the Raised House Bill #5407 “*An Act Concerning State Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost Due to the Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with a One Hundred Percent Permanent and Total Disability Rating,*” which he did not think would be approved in this year’s Legislative Session, however, he stated it could be considered again in the next

Legislative Session. Therefore, he stated that the town was still on the hook for the \$700,000 loss of tax revenues provided by Public Act 24-46, that was implemented on October 1, 2024, and established a 100% property tax exemption for veterans who have a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability.

Councilor Ryan continued by questioning whether the additional \$1,703,834 Pequot-Mohegan Funding was guaranteed for the future. Councilor Buhle responded stating the supplemental \$1,703,834 was not guaranteed, but that the \$800,000 increase for a new Pequot-Mohegan total of \$2,191,000 would be in perpetuity. Finance Director Matthew Bonin agreed that the supplemental \$1,703,834 for the Pequot-Mohegan was only for the upcoming year (fy 26/27).

Councilor Ryan stated the purpose of the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund was to smooth the tax burden. He noted each year they have scheduled using some revenue from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund. However, he stated in past five-years the town did not need to use the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund because of revenues that came during the course of the year. Therefore, he stated because the trend has been that they have not had to use the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund, and because the value of one mill (\$1.8 million) was much higher than in previous years that he would be open to the idea of reducing the amount of revenue coming from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund, with the use of the additional supplemental funds to reduce the projected mill rate to the equalized mill rate.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that Ledyard was only going to receive the Supplemental Funding in the total amount of \$2,185,138 one-time. Therefore, she stated if they reduced the projected Mill Rate by one-mill; and they do not receive the supplemental revenue the following year (fy 27/28), that would mean that they would have to raise the mill rate by more than one-mill.

Councilor Buhle explained if they reduced the projected mill rate to the adjusted/equalized mill rate, that some residents would not see an increase in their tax bill; some residents and every commercial property would see a decrease in their tax bill; and some residents would see a tax increase based on their home value, and all motor vehicle taxes would decrease. She went on to explain by reducing the projected mill rate to the adjusted/equalized mill rate that it would set the town up to be in a better position for the long term. She stated if the State managed to repeat the supplemental funding to Ledyard the following budget year (27/28) that the town would be better off than if they put all of the \$2,185,138 supplemental funding toward lowering the projected mill rate for this coming year (fy 26/27). She also noted by reducing the revenue coming from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund that they would not have to question whether there would be enough funding in the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund for future years.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated that she wanted to: (1) Reduce the projected Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 to the equalized/adjusted mill rate; and (2) Reduce the amount of revenue coming from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund. However, she stated that she did not want to reduce the projected Mill Rate by more than one mill, because she did not want residents to receive a tax bill the following year (fy 27/28) that was thousands of dollars more than this year. She stated when they received one-time money they should use it for one-time capital items and not for reoccurring expenses.

Councilor Buhle stated that she was trying to be responsible with how they use the \$2,185,138 supplemental revenue. She stated by using some of the funding to reduce the amount of revenue coming from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund; that they would have funding available next year (fy27/28) if needed to stabilize the mill rate increase.

Councilor Ryan stated according to the State’s Press Release that the exclusive purpose of the Supplemental Funding was to help municipalities reduce increases in their local mill rates. He noted for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget one-mill was equivalent to about \$1.8 million. Therefore, he stated if they put all of the \$2,185,138 Supplemental Funding into the revenue the new projected Mill Rate would be about 25.37; and the equalized Mill Rate would be about 25.78 noting the difference was a .41 mills. He went on to explain that the adjusted/equalized mill rate was what the current mill rate would be based on the updated property values as a result of the 2025 Property Revaluation. He stated in doing some quick math they would need to take about \$740,000 from the Supplemental Funding to put toward reducing the revenue they had planned to use from Mill Rate Stabilization Fund, noting that they would then only need to use about \$1.1 million from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that the State increased Ledyard’s Pequot-Mohegan Revenue by \$800,000 bringing their funding up to \$2,191,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. Therefore, she questioned whether the additional \$800,000 was going to be permanent going forward. Councilor Buhle stated that the \$800,000 increase in the Pequot-Mohegan Revenue was written into the State’s Budget and would be in perpetuity, noting that she read the language. Councilor Ryan stated it was his understanding that the \$800,000 increase in the Pequot-Mohegan Revenue was only guaranteed for this coming Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and the following Fiscal Year 2027/2028; stating there was no language after that. Councilor Buhle stated the new language stated the \$2,191,000 was the new level of Pequot-Mohegan funding for Ledyard. Councilor Ryan questioned “*in perpetuity*”. Councilor Buhle stated “*Yes*”. Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated that he could not speak to those statements.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the reason she was asking whether Ledyard’s Pequot-Mohegan Revenue in the new amount of \$2,191,000 was going to be permanent was because during the Budget Work Sessions Finance Director Matthew Bonin provided a chart showing the amount that the budget needed to be reduced by to lower the Mill Rate:

Reduce Budget by	Reduce Mil Rate
\$1,000,000	0.54
\$ 750,000	0.41
\$ 500,000	0.27
\$ 250,000	0.14
\$ 185,000	0.10
\$ 100,000	0.06
\$ 50,000	0.03
\$ 25,000	0.015

Councilor Buhle stated the goal was to bring the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 to the adjusted/equalized Mill Rate. Councilor Ryan stated to be clear they were only discussing adjustments to the revenue side of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget. He noted the additional Supplemental State Revenue in the amount of \$2,185,138 would all be going to the revenue side of the budget, and that it would reduce the amount of revenue they had planned to use from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund. Councilor Buhle agreed with Councilor Ryan's comment, noting that they were taking a one-time revenue stream and potentially stretching it over two-years; by reducing the amount of revenue they were using from the Mill Rate Stabilization Fund.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) communication regarding the Education Funding and how it should be treated noting the following: *"For municipalities that have not yet adopted budgets, that communities may incorporate the additional aid through the normal budget process to off-set the local share, similar to how Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Funding was typically applied"*. She stated because the Town Council voted to adopt a Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget at their April 8, 2026 meeting; that this language sounded to her like they could not make any changes. Therefore, she questioned whether they should obtain clarification from the Town Attorney. Councilor Ryan explained until the Townspeople approve the budget at the May 19, 2026 Referendum that the Town does not have an approved budget. He went on to explain once the Townspeople approve a budget then the Town Council would set the Mill Rate, which would take into consideration any additional revenues.

Chairman St. Vil, attending remotely via Zoom, stated that he agreed with the interpretation that the Town does not have a fully approved budget until the Townspeople vote to pass a budget at the May 19, 2026 Referendum. However, he stated he did not think it would hurt for the Finance Committee to discuss the Supplemental State Revenue in the amount of \$2,185,138 with the Town Attorney. Councilor Ryan stated that he did not think it was necessary. Councilor Buhle stated that she agreed with Councilor Ryan's comment; noting this evening the Finance Committee discussed on the record the following: (1) A plan for how they would implement the Supplemental State Revenue in the amount of \$2,185,138; and (2) A goal to lower the proposed Mill Rate to 25.37 which was difference was a .41 mills from the current mill rate, to support the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget.

Councilor Buhle concluded her comments by explaining at the May 19, 2026 Referendum the Townspeople would be voting on the following question:

"Shall the Town of Ledyard adopt a Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget as proposed by the Town Council in the amount of \$73,555,506?"

Councilor Buhle stated the Revenues do not change the Budget Referendum Question, noting that the Townspeople would not be voting on the Revenues; or on the Mill Rate.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee. – None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: Councilor Garcia-Irizarry moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilor Ryan
3 - 0 Approved and so declared, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Buhle.
Committee Chairman
Finance Committee