TOWN OF LEDYARD
CONNECTICUT
TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

MINUTES
LEDARD TOWN COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024; 7:00 PM
HYBRID FORMAT
VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

DRAFT

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

Chairman Rodriguez welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. She 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 –

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location
April Brunelle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Carmen Garcia-Irizarry	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Kevin Dombrowski	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary Paul	Town Councilor	Excused	
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	Remote
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person
Gary St. Vil	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS- None.

V. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Mr. Earl Tyson (Ty) Lamb, 95 Lambtown Road, Ledyard, Historic District Commission Chairman, thanked the Town Council for making a number of appointments/reappointments to the Commission at their February 28, 2024 meeting. He stated that they have a very active Commission noting that they were working on a number of initiatives which included the following: (1) Nathan Lester House Improvement Project; (2) Cub Scouts will be at the Nathan Lester Houst this weekend, (3) Easter Egg Hunt Planned; (4) Up-Down Sawmill Improvement Projects; (5) Commission will be visiting the Weston Massachusetts Historic Education Center; (6) Historic Pollinator Project; (7) Spicer Homestead Historical Designation; (8) Community Involvement to bring in additional volunteers to help with projects; (9) Working with Groton Open Space Association (GOSA); (10) Working with the Garden Club; (11) Working with the Ledyard Historical Society; (12) Old School House – Students will be visiting the historic School House in Ledyard Center.

Mr. Lamb, Board of Education Member, noted during their March 12, 2024 meeting the Board of Education discussed a letter from a resident; along with the Board of Education's response regarding the Roof Replacement and Solar Panel Projects at the Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School which also included a Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC). He noted in the Board of Education's response to the resident they stated that it was their opinion that the Projects would not be done this year. He stated the townspeople voted on these Projects at two Referendums: the first Referendum was held on February 22, 2022 which approved $6,725,000; and the second Referendum was held on October 17, 2023 to increase the Bond Authorization by 1,825,000 for a new amount of $8,550,000. He addressed the town's oversight of construction projects, and he suggested the Town Council provide the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) with some additional support such as a professional consultant. He expressed concern that if the town does not get these projects moving that they may lose the Grant Funding from the State.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Mr. Lamb for his comments.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated late this afternoon he received the contract for the Juliet W. Long School Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC) for his signature. He stated although the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) selected an architect for the roof projects they have not yet solicited bids for the installation work for the roofs. He stated based on contractor's schedules he did not foresee the roof projects being done this summer. He stated there was a Policy that stated no overhead work could be done while the kids were in school. Therefore, he stated the roof replacement work would need to be done when the school gets out for summer vacation in mid-June, and needed to be completed before the kids return to school in late-August. He noted the Town Council Liaison to the PMBC may be able to provide more information regarding the status of the Roof Replacement Projects and the HVAC Project.

Chairman Rodriguez thanked Mayor Allyn for his input regarding the School Roof Replacement Projects and the HVAC Project.

IV. COMMITTEE COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS – None.

VI. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Brunelle announced that Lucille's Restaurant in Ledyard Center would be hosting its Second Poetry Slam on Monday, March 25, 2024 in recognition of Women's History Month.

Councilor Saccone noted Mr. Lamb's comments earlier this evening (see (V. Residents and Property Owners), stating that he agreed that volunteers were important to Ledyard. He stated it was nice to see people step-up to serve their community.

Councilor Ryan noted that the Finance Committee has been holding their Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Work Sessions with each of the General Government's Department Heads. He stated the Budget Work Sessions were informative, noting that a lot of questions were being asked, and that it was apparent that the Department Heads spent a significant amount of time to prepare lean and responsible budgets. He stated the proposed budget was encouraging and that he appreciated the Department Heads time in attending the Budget Work Sessions to brief the Finance Committee.

Chairman Rodriguez stated in recognition of Pi Day, that tomorrow (3/14/2024) the following local restaurants would be donating 20% of all sales to the Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF): Valentinos Restaurant in Ledyard Center, Fireside Brick Oven Restaurant on Route 12, and Ledyard Pizza on Gallup Hill Road. She stated tomorrow the Finance Committee would be holding their last Budget Work Session and that they would be ordering lunch from Valentinos. She encouraged residents who may be picking up lunch or dinner tomorrow to consider patronizing one of these local restaurants.

Councilor Buhle announced that Ledyard High School would be putting on their production of the Musical Clue on March 21, 22, & 23, 2024. She stated last night (3/12/2024) she attended a Pasta Dinner fundraiser for the musical production that was held at Sunnyside Restaurant on Route 12, Gales Ferry. She stated all the production's characters were at the fundraiser in costume, noting that the show was going to be amazing!

Councilor St. Vil stated the deadline for students to submit their entries for the 2024 Black History Poster and Essay Contest was February 22, 2024, noting that they received a great response. He stated the Judges would be reviewing the entries later this week, noting that the Essay Contest Winners would be awarded their prizes at the Town Council's March 27, 2024 meeting.

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry addressed the following: (1) Roadside Trash – Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated although some people do throw trash out of their car windows, that the automated trash collection trucks seem to also be contributing to the issue. She stated that she and others have observed that when the automated trash trucks lift the trash carts that some trash flies out everywhere and ends up being left on the roads. She questioned whether the collection trucks could try to lift the trash carts slower so that the tops do not fly open, and the trash does not fall out; (2) Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation (LEAF) was currently working to set-up an Endowment to ensure the long-term funding of the LEAF Program.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2024
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor St. Vil
VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Rodriguez stated a Communications List has been provided on the meeting portal for tonight's meeting and she noted there was one referral listed.

X. COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE, LIAISON REPORTS

Administration Committee
Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Administration Committee met earlier this evening, and she noted that they had a few items on tonight's Agenda.

Community Relations Committee
Councilor Brunelle stated the Community Relations Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting. However, she stated the Black History Month Activities/Contest was going well. She noted the Committee would be meeting on March 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. and continue their work on future projects.

Finance Committee
Councilor Saccone stated the Finance Committee held its regular meeting on March 6, 2024. 2024. He stated in addition to the items on tonight's Agenda the Committee spent a signification amount of time discussing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Project List relative to the reallocation of surplus funds from completed ARPA Projects. He stated that the Committee forwarded a recommendation that the Town Council would be acting on later this evening to increase ARPA funding for the Route 12 Corridor Study; and to allocate ARPA Funding for the replacement of Guiderails onr Sandy Hollow Road.

Councilor Saccone continued to note as Councilor Ryan mentioned earlier this evening, the Finance Committee has been holding their Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Work Sessions with the Department Heads (March 7, 11, 14). He stated in serving as the Gales Ferry Fire Chief for sixteen years that he has been involved in the Budget Work Sessions for many years. However, he stated this was his first time sitting on the other side of the table. He stated the Department Heads have prepared lean, but progressive budgets. He stated the Town has been doing a good job in holding the line in light of salary increases while also continuing to fund and execute capital initiatives. He commended Mayor Allyn, III, and the Department Heads for being mindful and watching their taxpayers' dollars.

Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee
Councilor St. Vil stated the LUPPW Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting. He stated their next meeting was scheduled for April 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Permanent Municipal Building Committee
Councilor Brunelle stated the PMBC met on March 4, 2024; however, she stated she was not able to attend. She reported that the PMBC approved all of the Schools Roof Projects, noting in reviewing the Bid Proposals received the PMBC selected the most economic proposal. However, she stated that some concerns have been expressed regarding the selection of the bid because it appears that in the long run the project was going to cost more than the proposal submitted. She noted that Councilor Garcia-Irizarry would be able to provide more information regarding the School Roof projects for the Gales Ferry School and the Juliet W. Long School along with the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC).

Youth Services Board
Councilor Brunelle stated the Youth Services Board's next meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2024.

Public Safety Commission
Councilor Saccone stated they were continuing to work to transition the town's emergency communications radio system over to the State-wide frequency system. He stated this project was funded by a $284,000 Grant.

Ledyard Fire Department
Councilor Saccone stated the Ledyard Fire Department would be going to South Dakota the first or second week of April, 2024 to inspect the new Tanker. He noted the importance to take the time to visit and inspect the Fire Apparatus to make sure that the vehicle was built to the specifications requested. He noted as an example, that a Fire Department recently took delivery of a vehicle and found that the pump was not working properly because four wires has been installed backwards.

Gales Ferry Fire Department
Councilor Saccone stated after sixteen years the Gales Ferry Fire Department would be voting to select a new Fire Chief to run their business.

Economic Development Commission
Councilor Buhle stated the EDC met on March 5, 2024 and discussed the following: (1) New Marketing Video was now available on the town's website. Councilor Buhle stated EDC Member Peter Hary did a great job on the video; (2) Business Directory Update – Councilor Buhle stated that the EDC has been working to update the Business Directory that was on the town's website. She stated each of the EDC Members have taken on a certain number of businesses to track and to verify on a monthly basis.

Chairman Rodriguez stated the Marketing Video and Business Directory looked great, noting the video did not cost the town any money.

Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission
Councilor St. Vil stated the IWWC cancelled their March 5, 2024 Meeting.

Planning & Zoning Commission
Councilor St. Vil stated the Planning & Zoning Commission cancelled their March 14, 2024 meeting.

Agricultural Commission
Councilor Dombrowski stated the Agricultural Commission would be holding their Annual Joint Discussion with the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetland & Water Courses Commission to ensure all the Land Use Commissions were working in concert with each other. Chairman Rodriguez added that the Beautification Committee was also sent an invitation because they were interested attending.

Water Pollution Control Authority
Councilor St. Vil noted at the Town Council's January 24, 2024 meeting Councilor Dombrowski reported that a hired Budget Consultant indicated that he found the WPCA Budget to be insolvent; and that they would need to increase their rates by 100%. Councilor St. Vil questioned whether the WPCA has received an update or any further information regarding this finding. Councilor Dombrowski stated that he did not believe that the question of being insolvent has been resolved. However, he stated he has seen some WPCA communications relative to the preparation of their upcoming Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Water Operations Budget and that the WPCA did not think they needed to increase their rates by 100%, as suggested by Budget Consultant who conducted the evaluation. He went on to note that the WPCA believed that the Budget Consultant may have been looking at data that should not have been taken into consideration with regard to their overall expenditures and assets. He stated the WPCA appeared to be less concerned about the finding than the Budget Consultant was. He went on to note that in accordance with Section 4 of Ordinance #400-001 *"An Ordinance Establishing a Water Pollution Control Authority"* that *"The WPCA shall provide, by the fourth Monday in April, a budget of estimated revenues, expenditures and capital improvements for the ensuing fiscal year for inclusion as an appendix in the Town annual budget.* ***The Town Council shall approve the water system budget."*** Therefore, he stated the Town Council would be reviewing and approving the WPCA's Water Operations Budget for the upcoming year.

Mayor Allyn, III, provided some background regarding the Budget Consultant's findings. He stated Groton Public Utilities was asked to look at Ledyard's Water System to determine if they would be interested in buying it. He explained because Groton Public Utilities was currently providing all of the WPCA services (Water, Service, Billing, etc.) that the WPCA was thinking that perhaps it may be time to get out of the small water business. Therefore, he stated the WPCA Budget Study was commissioned by Groton Public Utilities, to try to understand the value before they made a decision as to whether they wanted to make an offer to the Town of Ledyard relative to the purchase of the Water System. He went on to state with regard to the viability of the WPCA; or the veracity of the data in the Groton Public Utilities Report, that he had not seen the Report; therefore, he did not know how accurate the information was.

Councilor St. Vil questioned whether the WPCA Budget Consultant's findings had any impact on the Town's upcoming Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget. Mayor Allyn explained that the WPCA Water Operations and Sewer Operations Budgets were separate from the Town's Annual Budget; which only included the General Government and Board of Education. He stated although a copy of the WPCA's proposed budgets would be presented along with the Town's Budget handout, that the WPCA budget was supported by the ratepayers and not the taxpayers.

Library Commission

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Library Commission would be meeting on March 18, 2024.

Board of Education

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry stated the Board of Education met on March 12, 2024 and discussed the following: (1) Middle School Buses - Superintendent Hartling was able to make some adjustments with the Bus Company to address the overcrowded Middle School buses; (2) High School Elevator was at the end of its useful and needed to be replaced; (3) Pickleball Courts – Superintendent Hartling and Mayor Allyn discussed working with Parks & Recreation to consider building the Pickleball Courts at the High School; (4) Roof Replacement Projects for the Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School and Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC) – Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that the Board of Education discussed the Projects noting that due to a number of mis-steps by the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) that the Roof Projects would most likely not be done this summer. She stated it would take 6-8 months to get all the parts for the HVAC System which also included replacing the Switch Gear (electrical system). She noted as Mr. Lamb mentioned earlier this evening (see above: V. Residents and Property Owners Comments); the townspeople voted on these Projects at two Referendums: February 22, 2022 which approved $6,725,000; and October 17, 2023 to increase the Bond Authorization by 1,825,000 for a new amount of $8,550,000. She noted that she talked to members of the PMBC and that she also reviewed the PMBC minutes from the past two-years to try to understand and to follow the process; however, she stated that it was frustrating. She noted the following issues: (a) State requirement to increase the set bid rate for the Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School roofing projects to $50.00 per square foot to account for inflation (Town Council Meetings 9/28/2022 & 11/9/2022); (b) Owner Representative Services for BOE Capital Projects - PMBC selected the low bidder STV; (c) Need to redesign *HVAC upgrades at Juliet W. Long School* (Finance Cmt Meeting s 8/16/2023); (d) Increase the Bond Authorization by $1,825,000 for a new total of $6,725,000 to provide funding for the increased cost of the Juliet W. Long Redesigned HVAC System (Town Council Meeting: 9/13/2023); (e) Hired Silver Petrucelli as the Owner Architect for the Roof Projects, however, this contract did not include the Juliet W. Long School HVAC System (Town Council Minutes 11/8/2023); (f) Inaccuracies in some of the paperwork regarding the age of the Gales Ferry school, explaining that because the Board of Education did not file paperwork with the State when the construction project was completed and the school was open in a timely fashion, that the State's records show that the School was not 20-years old. Therefore, the grant reimbursement for the Gales Ferry School Roof Replacement would be reduced. Councilor Garcia-Irizarry explained that because of errors in bid proposals that were received, along with other issues, the State did not accept some of the documentation the PMBC submitted for the School Roof Projects. Therefore, she stated the PMBC may have to rebid the projects, which could mean that the projects would most likely come in at a higher cost and probably could not be done this summer (2024). She suggested after these School

Projects have been completed that a "*Lessons Learned*" exercise be done, to avoid this type of situation occurring again.

Councilor Dombrowski stated if the School Roof Projects for the Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School; including the Solar Panels and the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC-JWL) come in higher than the $8,550,000 that was approved by the townspeople at the October 17, 2023 Referendum, that the town would need to go back to a third Referendum.

Mayor Allyn, III, explained that the Town Council could consider amending Ordinance #100-015 "*An Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Town of Ledyard*" to set a Project dollar threshold that would fall under the Permanent Municipal Building Committee's (PMBC) purview. He stated the Town Council could then also set a Project dollar amount that would exceed the PMBC's threshold; requiring those Projects to be handled by Professional Companies, who would be responsible for the Projects. He explained that some of the Town's Municipal Projects were very large and intense construction projects, noting that based on the work/time commitment and expertise required that the town may be asking a lot from their volunteers. He stated that he was not saying this with any disrespect to the residents who have volunteered to serve on the PMBC. However, he noted that they were dealing with major construction projects and millions of dollars, noting that the School Projects cost $65,835,000 (Middle School & Gallup Hill School Projects) and the School Roof Projects were costing $8 million (Gales Ferry School, Juliet W. Long School). He stated for large major construction projects that the town could include the cost to hire professionals to manage these types of projects as part of the project costs.

Councilor Dombrowski stated the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) were volunteers, noting that they have done a good job in managing some projects in years past. He noted the many stipulations that the PMBC had to follow, stating that the volunteers believed that what they were doing was right for the town, noting in some cases the PMBC could have made a different decision that may have changed things for the town. He stated in some cases the selection of professionals and their oversight staff have caused the town problems. However, he stated the School Roof Projects, and the HVAC Project (Gales Ferry School, Juliet W. Long School) have been fraught with errors from the beginning. He noted that the town has already gone to two Referendums for these School Roof Projects/HVAC Project. He explained the second Referendum was required because there were some late changes regarding the design of the HVAC System that were issued by the State due to COVID. He stated Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted that there were inaccuracies in some of the paperwork regarding the age of the Gales Ferry School, explaining because the paperwork was not filed with the State when the school opened, therefore, the State's records show that the School was not 20-years old; therefore, the grant reimbursement would be reduced. He steed the Building Official issued a Certificate of Occupancy on August 22, 2001, noting that this documentation would validate that the Gallup Hill School Roof was twenty-years old. He continued by explaining that when the townspeople approved a project at Referendum, that the town was liable for the full dollar amount of the project; regardless of what they thought the State Grant funding was going to be. He stated that he agreed with Mayor Allyn's suggestion, that it may be time to look at amending Ordinance # 100-015 "*An Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Town of Ledyard*" to discuss what would be the right way to move forward.

Councilor Buhle noted in reviewing the Board of Education's Capital Improvement Plan that that Board of Education Director of Facilities and Grounds Wayne Donaldson was the staff person who prepared all of the narratives for the projects and noted the type of funding that each of the projects were eligible to receive. Therefore, she questioned whether the town would look to hire someone else to handle the large school construction/improvement projects or whether the management and oversight of the projects were responsibilities that could fall into Mr. Donaldson's role. She also questioned with the growing list of school facilities capital projects whether the town would be better off hiring someone who could consistently be the expert for all of the projects, or whether they should hire some for each project, as the town continued to apply for grants in working toward improving their schools.

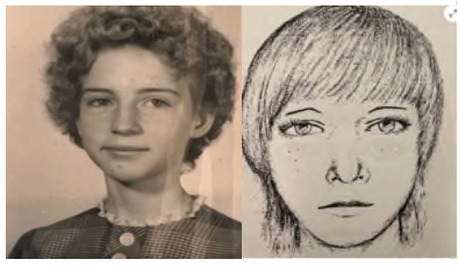
Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted Mr. Donaldson's workload relative to his role as the Board of Education Director of Facilities and Grounds, stating with the amount of time, and details that needed to be addressed for the construction projects that she thought that they would be asking too much of Mr. Donaldson. She stated with regard to the School Roof Projects that it appeared that the *Owner Representative* has not been following through on the work what they were hired to do.

Chairman Rodriguez stated the questions Councilor Buhle raised were things that they would need to discuss in considering the best way forward for the town. Mayor Allyn stated that he agreed that these were all good points that were worth discussing.

XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Allyn, III, reported on the following: (1) Trash Collection – Mayor Allyn noted Councilor Garcia-Irizarry's comments regarding the trash falling out of the trash carts when the automated trucks picked the carts up. He stated this was a good opportunity for an Awareness Campaign, noting that the town needed to again ask residents to put their household trash in tied bags before putting it into the trash carts. He stated with the recent 50-mile per hour wind they experienced this week that the lose trash files out of the trash carts when the carts were picked up; (2) Pickleball Courts – Mayor Allyn stated Superintendent of Schools Jason Hartling telephoned him to discuss putting the Pickleball Courts next to the High School's Tennis Courts. He stated having the Pickleball Courts at the High School would: (a) Be good for a future High School sport; and (b) Be nice for community engagement to have some courts on the Ledyard side of town, noting that there was already a Pickleball Court in Gales Ferry. Mayor Allyn noted Mr. Andy Parad spoke about the construction of Pickleball Courts at the Town Council's February 28, 2024 meeting. He noted that he has contacted Mr. Parad to get him involved with the project noting that Mr. Parad was knowledgeable about Pickleball Courts. He stated that he hoped that the construction of the Pickleball Courts would be a Parks & Recreation-Board of Education joint venture; (3) Read Across America – Mayor Allyn stated he read books to three classes at the Juliet W. Long School and the Gales Ferry School; (4) Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) Legislative Committee March 7, 2024 Meeting –- Mayor Allyn noted that because of the number of Proposed Bills that have been submitted that he would wait to see which Bills come out of Committee as Joint Favorable before he reported on how they may impact Ledyard either positively or negatively; (5) Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (SCHA) March 8, 2024 meeting – Mayor Allyn explained the SCHA Board of Directors was a collective group in New London County that were working on the Housing crisis, specifically Affordable Housing. He stated SCHA was planning a Bus Tour in April or May to visit 4 – 5 Different Affordable Housing Projects in Southeastern Connecticut. He stated the Bus Tour was open to Town Leaders as well as Councilor Members to see what Affordable Housing looked like. He stated he would let the Town Council know the date as soon as it becomes available should anyone like to attend, noting that it would be an RSVP Event. He stated that Tenants and/or Owners of the Affordable Housing Units would be present to speak to the Tour Group about how the Affordable Housing has changed their lives; (6) 2024 High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) Speed Enforcement Grant - Mayor Allyn noted at their January 24, 2024 meeting the Town Council authorized the town to apply for $60,000 grant that was being funded through the Federal Highway Safety Administration (FHWA)) to reduce the amount of speed related fatalities and injuries on Connecticut's High Risk Rural Roads. He stated that Ledyard received the Grant Funding noting that motorists would be seeing Police Officers out conducting Speed Enforcement. He stated they have been very busy, in a very good way; (7) Winter Operations 2024 Budget – Mayor Allyn stated currently they were on-track for the Winter Operations expenditures to come in $75,000 under the amount budgeted due to the very mild winter they had this year; (8) Colonel Ledyard Multi-Use Pathway – Mayor Allyn Mayor Allyn stated the work to construct the Multi-Use (pedestrian and non-motorized bicycles) Pathway from the Bill Library to the High School began last week with the clearing, grubbing, and removing rocks and tree stumps from the shoulder of the road. He stated that they were waiting for the delivery of materials to build a retaining wall. The work would include realigning how Gallup Hill Road comes into Colonel Ledyard Highway. He stated instead of a "Y" configured intersection, it would now be a "T" intersection; (9) Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer) March 12, 2024 Meeting – Mayor Allyn stated the Group had a good discussion regarding town needs, and

inquiries for commercial and industrial development, and the challenges that towns were facing in dealing with development opportunities; (10) Libraries Transforming Communities Grant – Mayor Allyn noted that Library Director Jennifer Smith successfully applied for and received both Round I ($20,000) & Round II ($20,000) from the Libraries Transforming Communities Grant for a total of $40,000. He stated Round I was used to expand programs for those with disabilities and that Ms. Smith was actively working to use the funding from Round II for the replacement of the circulation/information desk at the Bill Library, noting that the desk would provide be a counter that would comply with the American Disability Act (ADA) full accessibility; (11) Linda C. Davis Food Pantry – Mayor Allyn thanked the Ledyard Rotary and Ledyard High School Agri-Science Program for raising a cow that provided 971 pounds of ground beef and stew meat to the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry today. He also thanked Mr. Mike Lamb who donated half of a cow of beef last month. He stated the Food Pantry was fully stocked, noting that it would be distributed to Pantry Guests; (12) Ledyard 50-Year-Old Cold Case Solved – Mayor Allyn provided some background noting that 50-years ago they dug up and found two bodies at an A-Frame house on Shewville Road near the intersection of Gallup Hill Road. He stated the decades long search started on May 30, 1974, when the Connecticut State Police said they found two victims fatally shot in a wooded area in Ledyard about 55 miles east of New Haven after a witness tipped them off. An informant told detectives the murders had occurred four years earlier on December 31, 1970. At that time the investigators were able to identify one of the two victims, who was Gustavous Lee Carmichael, a convicted serial bank robber who had previously escaped from federal custody, according to DNAsolves.com, a database that helped solve cold cases with genetic testing. However, he stated the other victim, a woman, was badly decomposed and the police were not able to determine her hair or eye color. Investigators said they had trouble verifying her identity, in part because she had used various aliases, including the name Lorraine Stahl, a resident who had moved from the area months earlier. He stated the Police found clothes with her remains, and that she was also was wearing a pendant and rings with the letters J.H.S.N. monogrammed along with the initials I.L.N., and the date 1917 engraved inside, according to DNA solves. Mayor Allyn stated the second body has now been identified as Linda Sue Childers from Lewisville, Kentucky. He stated they sent the dental records and the Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) from the body along with a DNA sample from Ms. Childer's granddaughter to the Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) Lab for Law Enforcement which found a 0.05% match. He stated there were four young bank robbers from Kentucky, who were on a robbery spree through the Northeast. He stated two of the bank robbers thought that Ms. Childers was going to rat them out, so they killed Ms. Childers and her boyfriend and buried them at the property on Shewville Road. He stated the Police arrested and convicted the two suspects, Richard DeFreitas and Donald Brant, for the murders and they spent the rest of their lives in jail, and have since passed away. He stated it was amazing to see what science could do fifty-years later, noting that they could only determine that Ms. Childer was between 18 – 30 years old. He stated they finally closed out the case yesterday, noting the amazing work that was done by the Connecticut Forensic Lab and by the Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) Lab for Law Enforcement. He stated it was a fascinating story.



Cold Case Solved Linda Sue Childers

Questions to the Mayor - None.

XII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT CALENDAR

*1. MOTION to approve the following six tax refunds in the combined total amount of $22,426.00 with each exceeding $2,400.00 in accordance with tax collector departmental procedures.

- Lisa &/or John Allen $2,811.11
- Barbara Arthur $3,256.25
- Charles &/or Mary Esposito $4,197.31
- Kineo Properties LLC $3,602.19

• Sheela Nerurkar	$4,254.17
• Matthew &/or Holly Opalenik	$4,304.97
TOTAL:	$22,426.00

*2. MOTION to approve the following two tax refunds in the combined total amount of $5,874.55 with each exceeding $2,400.00 in accordance with tax collector departmental procedures.

• Helming, John C.	$3,033.20
• MPTN Finance Department	$2,841.35
TOTAL:	$5,874.55

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor St. Vil

VOTE: 8 – Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER	Gary St. Vil, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Ryan, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Paul

Administration Committee

3. MOTION to adopt **a** proposed *"An Ordinance Establishing a Farmers Market for the Town of Ledyard"* as presented in the draft dated January 17, 2024.

DRAFT: 1/17/2024 Ordinance # 100-020

AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A FARMERS MAREKT COMMITTEE
FOR THE TOWN OF LEDYARD

Be it Ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Ledyard the Ledyard Farmers' Market Committee is hereby established.

Section 1. Authority

Pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 5 of the Town Charter, there is hereby established a Farmers Market Committee for the Town of Ledyard.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance *"An Ordinance Establishing a Farmers Market for the Town of Ledyard"* is to is to codify, update and facilitate the *"Resolution Establishing a Farmers Market Committee"* adopted by the Town Council on May 9, 2018 and amended and adopted on October 10, 2019.

Section: 3. Objective

The Farmers' Market is to create, promote, and operate a CT Grown (www.ctgrown.gov) Farmers' Market in the Town of Ledyard that will provide residents access to fresh, nutritious food, encourage community activity in Ledyard, and stimulate public interest and awareness in local farm products, thereby supporting local agricultural producers and rural life in Ledyard, Connecticut. (what if something changes and we are not certified?)

The Farmers Market Committee may function with the support of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Section 4. Membership

The Farmers Market Committee shall consist of five (5) regular members and four (4) alternate members who shall be electors of the town and appointed by the Town Council; and to the extent possible be representative of a broad cross section of the community which it serves, including but not limited to:

- CT Grown producer(s)
- Community Artisan(s)
- Community-at-Large

Quorum: A quorum shall consist of a majority of voting members.

Section 5. Terms of Appointment

Members shall be appointed by the Town Council for a term of three (3) years and shall commence to serve their terms immediately upon appointment and shall serve until they have been reappointed, their successor has qualified; or are removed by the Town Council.

Thereafter, vacancies shall be filled for a three (3) year term.

Any vacancy on the Committee, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Town Council with priority given to maintain the structure above.

The Town Council may remove members for cause and fill the vacancy per Chapter IV, Section 6 of the Town Charter. Cause for removal shall include, but is not limited to, unexcused absence from three (3) consecutive regular meetings and any intervening duly called special meeting.

Any member of the Committee who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings and any intervening duly called special meetings shall be considered to have resigned from the Commission and the vacancy shall be filled as hereinbefore provided, except that the Commission may vote to waive the requirements of the section in each case where illness or other extenuating circumstances make it impossible for a member to meet the attendance requirements of this action

It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Committee to notify the Town Council when a member has not properly performed his duties.

The regular members of the *Farmers Market Committee* shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Any vacancy in any such office shall be filled from its membership.

Section 6. Implementation

With the adoption of this Ordinance current members of the Farmers' Market Committee shall be reappointed to designate regular members, alternate members and to adjust terms to provide continuity and eliminate all terms ending on the same date.

- Two Regular Members shall be appointed for three (3) years
- Two Regular Member shall be appointed for two (2) years
- One Regular Member shall be appointed for one (1) year
- Two Alternate Members shall be appointed for two (2) years
- Two Alternate Member shall be appointed for one (1) year

Thereafter, vacancies shall be filled for a three (3) year term.

Section 7. Powers and Duties

- Oversee the operation of the market, and set policy for the Committee, including but not limited to:
  - Establish Market Rules and Guidelines;
  - Establish, review, and approve/disapprove applications for Vendor(s) and Community Organization(s) interested in participating in the Farmers' Market;
  - Establish and collect Market Fees;
  - Handle immediate situations concerning the market, including resolving conflicts among members/vendors, and resolving consumer complaints;
  - Ensure the market area stays clean and vendors abide by market rules;
  - Assist vendors in compliance with all State and Federal rules and regulations;
  - Establish and adopt Committee Rules of Procedure.
- Arrange all meetings of the general membership;
- Administer the Committee's activities;
- Create working group assignments (*e.g.,* market theme days, children's activities, fundraising, advertising, etc.) and designate leads as necessary;
- Investigate any suspicion of questionable practices or violation of market rules employed by any seller. If verified, the Committee is authorized to immediately enforce corrective action as necessary, up to and including revoking vendor's authorization to participate in the Farmers' Market without refund of Market Fees.

Section 8. Revenue, Funding, and Monetary Gifts

The *Ledyard Farmers' Market Committee* is authorized to accept Market Fees, gifts, or other monetary donations to further the mission of the Farmers' Market.

Monies received by the Town of Ledyard, from whatever source and by whatever means (*e.g.,* Market Fees, gifts, donation, etc.) shall be deposited into a Farmers Market Fund 020810201-54201-24201. These funds shall be in the custody of the Town Treasurer. Annually, the Town Treasurer annually shall submit to the *Farmers' Market Committee* and the Legislative Body of the Town a complete and detailed report of the Farmers' Market Fund.

Upon the Farmers' Market Committee's authorization, money that has been received may be expended directly from this fund for the operation, development, promotion, and marketing of the Farmers' Market within the community.

Funds that were designated for a specific purpose when received must be expended for that specific purpose.

The market may also keep a small cash reserve on hand to make change for donations, make change for vendors, issue payouts for small expenses such as water, ice, etc.

Other than In-Kind services provided by the town, the Farmers Market Committee shall not receive an operating budget supported by town funds.

Section. 9. Severability

If any section, or part of a section, of this Ordinance shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such holding shall not be deemed to invalidate the remaining provisions hereof.

Section 10. Effective Date

In accordance with the Town Charter this ordinance shall become effective on the twenty-first (21st) day after such publication following its final passage.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

_____
S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

Approve/Disapprove on: _____

_____
Fred B. Allyn, III, Mayor

Published on:

Effective Date:

_____
Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

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Revisions: Initially established under the *Resolution Establishing a Farmers Market Committee for the Town of Ledyard"* on May 9, 2018; Amended on October 9, 2019 to increase membership from seven members to nine members.

History:
"*Resolution Establishing a Farmers Market Committee for the Town of Ledyard"* was replaced by Ordinance # 100-020.
3/13/2023:
When the Ledyard Farmers Market Committee was originally established in 2018 it was done using a Resolution.
The Farmers Market Committee has been very successful and it was time to convert the authorizing document into an Ordinance.

Resolutions are used to establish short-term Committee for specific Projects, and therefore, terms all end at the same time, which was when the project was completed.

Ordinances are used for long-term ongoing Committees, which would be more appropriate for the Farmers Market Committee.

The proposed Ordinance mirrors the *"Resolution Establishing the Farmers' Market Committee"* dated October 9, 2019 with the following updates:

- Members – Restructure the members from the current nine members to five Regular Members and four Alternate Members.

- The following language has been added to Section 6:

  "The market may also keep a small cash reserve on hand to make change for donations, make change for vendors, issue payouts for small expenses such as water, ice, etc.

  Other than In-Kind services provided by the town, the Farmers Market Committee shall not receive an operating budget supported by town funds".

Moved by Councilor Garcia-Irizarry, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski
Discussion: Chairman Rodriguez stated a Public Hearing was held earlier this evening. She noted the Farmers' Market Committee has been patient as they worked through the process to transition the original governing document from a Resolution (2018) into an Ordinance.

VOTE: **8 – 0 Approved and so declared**

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER:	Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Town Councilor
SECONDER	Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Ryan, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Paul

4. MOTION to appoint the following to the Farmers Market Committee in accordance with adoption of proposed *"An Ordinance Establishing a Farmers Market for the Town of Ledyard":*

Regular Members:

- Pamela Ball (D) 674 Shewville Road, Ledyard, for a term ending March 13, 2027
- Ethan Foltz (D) 894 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, for a term ending March 13, 2025
- Ellin Grenger (D) 15 Bittersweet Drive, Gales Ferry, for a term ending March 13, 2027
- Sarah Martic (R) 59R Long Cove Road, Ledyard for a term ending March 13, 2026
- Allison Troy (D) 548 Pumpkin Hill Road Ledyard, for a term ending March 13, 2026

Alternate Members

- William Thorne (R) 3 Adios Lane, Ledyard, for a term ending March 13, 2026

Moved by Councilor Brunelle, seconded by Councilor Dombrowski
Discussion: None.
VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER:	April Brunelle, Town Councilor
SECONDER	Kevin Dombrowski, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Ryan, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Paul

Finance Committee

5. MOTION to authorize a bid waiver for W. R. Allen & Co., Inc. of Uncasville, CT in the amount of $28,250 for Bid No. 2024-02 (Food Pantry Siding Improvements) due to lack of three bids, in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "*An Ordinance for Purchasing*".
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone
Discussion: Councilor Saccone explained that the town solicited bids to re-side the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry. However, he noted only two bids were received as follows: (1) W. R. Allen & Co., Inc. $28,250; and (2) Turner Home Improvement $38,160; therefore, he stated that a bid waiver was in order. He stated recently only one or two contractors have been submitting bid proposals for these types of municipal projects.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated the re-siding of the Linda C. Davis Food Pantry was one of the four remaining American Rescuer Plan Act (ARPA) Projects that has not been started. He noted with tonight's action the Food Pantry siding would be as another ARPA Project that would come off the List.
VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Ryan, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Paul

6. MOTION to authorize a bid waiver for Guaranteed Roofing of Canterbury, CT, in the amount of $38,477 for Bid No. 2024-01 (Senior Center Re-shingling) due to lack of three bids, in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "*An Ordinance for Purchasing*".
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Ryan
Discussion: Councilor Buhle noted as Councilor Saccone mentioned during Item #5 (see above) that there have only been one or two contractors bidding on these types of municipal projects. She stated for the project to re-shingle the Senior Citizens Center roof located at 12 Van Tassel Drive, Gales Ferry, that only one bid was received; noting that a bid waiver has been requested in accordance with the town's procedures.

Councilor Ryan stated the bid that the town received came-in on lower end of the quotes they had initially received, which ranged between $37,000 - $75,000. Therefore, he stated the bid proposal from Guaranteed Roofing at $38,477 was good price.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated the project would include striping the Senior Citizens Center Roof, and putting the water and ice barrier on the entire roof, not just in the valleys and drip edges. He stated that he was also disappointed that the town only received one bid.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Ryan, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Paul

7. MOTION to update the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects List and allocations as follows:

(1). Add the $300,000 Sandy Hollow Road Guiderail Replacement Project.

(2). Transfer $35,000 from the Gales Ferry Sidewalk Project (remove from spreadsheet line 45) to the Gales Ferry Corridor Study (add to spreadsheet line 25) for an updated total allocation of $50,000.

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Councilor Saccone explained in working to prioritize projects to use the Uncommitted ARPA Balance and to reallocate surplus funds from completed projects the Finance Committee agreed that the replacement of the Guiderails on Sandy Hollow Road was an important safety project, and therefore, a good use of the Funds. He stated the $335,857 project would replace the guiderails on the west side of the road with Oxidizing Weathering Steel Guiderails, noting that the galvanized guiderails would remain on east side of the road.

Councilor Saccone continued by explaining although the current Uncommitted ARPA Balance was in the amount *of $225,962.49* and would not be enough funding to pay for the full $335,857 cost of the Sandy Hollow Road Guiderail Replacement Project that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin indicated if the Town Council approved the use of $300,000 from the ARPA Funding that he could use some funding from the Town Aid Road Grant (TAR), as well as funding from other Public Works Accounts such as road maintenance, etc. to provide the $35,875.50 balance needed for the project. He also noted that there would be some savings in the cost of the project with the Public Works Department assisting with the removal of old guiderails, providing safety/traffic control, and with recycling/selling of the old steel cable (approximately $1,500).

Councilor Saccone stated the replacement of the Sandy Hollow Guiderails was 35-years overdue, noting that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin has included the project on his Capital Improvement Projects Budget Request for over a decade; however. due to competing needs that the project has not been funded. He stated by having ARPA Funding available that it was time to address this safety issue.

Councilor Buhle addressed the Route 12 Corridor Study explaining that because of the data needed, the cost to conduct the Study was going to cost $50,000. Therefore, she stated the Finance Committee agreed that the $35,000 ARPA funding that was included on the Projects List for the sidewalks in Gales Ferry would be better used by reallocating those funds for the Gales Ferry Route 12 Corridor Study. She stated without the Route 12 Corridor Study they would not know where the sidewalks should be located. Therefore, she stated adding the $35,000 to the $15,000 that was already assigned for the Route 12 Corridor Study they would have the $50,000 needed to produce the type of Study needed. She went on to explain to apply for and receive additional grants for Route 12 Improvements, that the Town needed to have a more up-to-date Study, noting that the last study was done over well over two decades ago and was not relevant.

Councilor Ryan addressed the Sandy Hollow Road Guiderail Replacement Project, noting that he wanted to clarify that they would be allocating $300,000 of ARPA Funding for the Project. He explained the $300,000 ARPA Funding would not pay for the full cost of the $335,857 project. He stated the remaining $35,857 would be coming out of Town Aid Road (TAR) Grant funding. Mayor Allyn stated that Councilor Ryan was correct, noting that Public Works Director/Town Engineer Steve Masalin had some TAR funding remaining in the current year's budget that he would be using toward the Guiderail Replacement Project.

Councilor Ryan continued by explaining by allocating $300,000 of ARPA Funding for the Sandy Hollow Road Guiderail Replacement Project, that the ARPA funds would be over committed by $74,038, because the balance sheet was showing an ARPA Uncommitted Balance of $225,962.49. However, he explained that the Finance Committee believed there would be some additional surplus funds remaining from other completed projects to make up the $74,038 difference for the replacement of the Sandy Hollow Guiderails.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that he would echo Councilor Saccone's comments regarding the project to replace the Sandy Hollow Road Guiderails, noting that it was long overdue.

Councilor Dombrowski stated that he was also pleased to see that the Town was going to pursue a comprehensive Route 12 Corridor Study, to replace the Study that was well over 25-years old. He noted the importance of having an up-to-date Study to move forward with seeking grant funding to make improvements to the Route 12 Corridor.

Mayor Allyn explained by not having an up to date Route 12 Corridor Study that it has prevented Ledyard from being able to qualify for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grants to make improvements to the Roue 12.

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
SECONDER	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Ryan, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Paul

General Items

8. MOTION to approve the Mayor's appointment of Attorney Robert Avena of the Law Firm Suisman-Shapiro, New London, for Land Use matters, in accordance with Chapter VI; Section 1 of the Town Charter.
Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Buhle
Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, stated the Attorney Carl Landolina, from Fahey & Landolina in South Windsor has been Ledyard's Land Use Attorney for many, many years. He stated that Attorney Landolina notified the Town that he would be retiring. He stated in soliciting new options that Attorney Robert Avena was a well-thought-of local Land Use Attorney. He stated the town received a favorable rate from Suisman-Shapiro, and that the Land Use Department was pleased with the choice of Attorney Avena.

Chairman Rodriguez stated many years ago she served on the Planning & Zoning Commission, for ten-years, noting that Attorney Landolina was providing legal services to the town at that time. She stated Attorney Landolina was a very nice man; noting that she was moved when she saw his letter of resignation. She stated it was polite of Attorney Landolina to let the town know about his retirement plans so far in advance. She thanked Attorney Landolina for his service to Ledyard, noting that he would be missed. Mayor Allyn noted that Attorney Landolina was a First Class Guy!

VOTE: 8 – 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT:	APPROVED 8 - 0
MOVER:	Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
SECONDER	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
AYES:	Brunelle, Buhle, Dombrowski, Garcia-Irizarry, Ryan, Rodriguez, Saccone, St. Vil
EXCUSED:	Paul

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Allyn, III, thanked Gales Ferry Fire Chief Tony Saccone for his sixteen years of service. He stated Chief Saccone was a consummate professional, noting that he had a steady hand and that he did an amazing job. He stated although Councilor Saccone would be stepping down as Fire Chief, that he knew that he would not be stepping away from serving as a Volunteer Emergency First Responder. He thanked Chief Saccone for what he has done for the town, and for what he continues to do, noting that it was much appreciated.

Councilor Buhle moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Saccone
VOTE: **8- 0 Approved and so declared**. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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

I, S. Naomi Rodriguez, 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 March 13, 2024.

_____
S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman