

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, September 3, 2025

5:00 PM

Annex Meeting Room - Video Conference

DRAFT

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

Councilor Saccone welcomed all to the Hybrid Meeting. He stated for the Town Council Finance Committee and members of the Public who were participating via video conference that the remote meeting information was available on the Agenda that was posted on the Town's Website – Granicus-Legistar Meeting Portal.

II. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Location	Arrived	Departed
Jessica Buhle	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	6:05 pm
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	6:05 pm
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	6:05 pm
Fred Allyn, III	Mayor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	6:05 pm
James Mann	Director Emergency Services/Fire Marshal	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:43 pm
Kerensa Mansfield	Ledge Light Health District Senior Health Program Coordinator	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	6:05 pm
Jen Muggeo	Ledge Ligh Health District Director of Health	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	6:05 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	6:05 pm

- III. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS -None.
- IV. PRESENTATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
 - Ledge Light Health District Ledyard Prevention Coalition Senior Health Program Coordinator Kerensa Mansfield and Jennifer Muggeo, Director of Health

Ms. Jennifer Muggeo, Ledge Light Health District Director of Health thanked the Finance Committee for the opportunity to address them this evening to talk about how to activate funds Ledyard has received from the National Opioid Settlement. She provided some background noting that Ledyard Prevention Coalition was a multi-sector group comprised of Ledyard community members, parents, students, businesses, the school district and the Mayor's Office to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk factors mostly related to Youth Substance Use. She stated with Ledyard allocating \$36,100 from their National Opioid Settlement Funding at their September 27, 2023 meeting, that during the last 18-months the Ledyard Prevention Coalition has been able to:

- Saturate the community with Naloxone/Narcan
- Raise awareness of the Opioid Epidemic
- Reduce the stigma associated with individuals coming forward and looking for support to address their Opioid Use
- Increase awareness of evidence-based treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
- Provide multiple trainings to community groups, businesses, and individuals to recognize and response to overdose

Ms. Muggeo stated that she and Ms. Mansfield were present this evening to request additional allocations from Ledyard's National Opioid Settlement Funding to allow the Ledyard Prevention Coalition to continue their work to protect and promote the health in Ledyard.

Councilor Saccone questioned the number of trainings and interventions the Ledyard Prevention Coalition has provided to Ledyard and the number of overdoses that have occurred in their community during the last 18-months.

Ms. Kerensa Mansfield, Ledge Light Senior Health Program Coordinator, addressed Councilor Saccone's question noting that during the past 18 months Ledge Light Health District used the funding that Ledyard provided as follows: :

• Worked with NLC Coordinated Access Resources Engagement & Support (CARES) Program Peer Navigators providing trainings to nearly 200 people at both of Ledyard's Libraries, Ledyard Senior Citizens Center, Town Council, Ledyard Middle School and High School Staff; United Way, Ledyard Lions, and the Ledyard Police Department.

Ms. Muggeo explained that the Ledge Light Health District uses the Opioid Settlement Funding they receive in coordination with; and to boost other funding they receive. She stated the NLC CARES Program was developed about ten-years ago in collaboration with Community Partners, including Alliance for Living. She stated that this was a multi-faceted approach to address the overdose epidemic in Southeastern Connecticut.

Ms. Muggeo went on to explain that the center piece of NLC CARES was the Team of Navigators who were a specialized community health workers who draw from their own life experiences with substance use disorder to engage with community members where they are and to walk that road with them and connect them with the resources that would help them achieve their individual health goals. She stated NLC CARES has been recognized at both the State and National Level, noting that they have been successful in connecting people with evidence-based treatment for substance abuse disorder, which was the use of medication. She stated that there was a lot of stigmas associated with using medication to address substance abuse disorder.

Ms. Muggeo stated that there was a whole host of efforts that happen to support people with substance abuse disorder, noting that they support a number of people in Ledyard through NLC CARES. However, she stated that they were able to do that with these additional grant funds. She stated that Ledge Light Health District was successful with their Five for Five Vap Program a few years ago using another Grant

Program that ended a few years ago. She stated receiving additional funding to invigorate that program to look at recovery from more than one Lense and to work with some of the churches in Ledyard would be great.

 Provided Emergency Kit Boxes containing Naloxone/Narcan that were initially located at the Town Green and the Gales Ferry Community Center. However, Ms. Mansfield explained due temperature controls the Emergency Kit Boxes were moved from indoors to the Ledyard Senior Cetner, and the Library.

Ms. Muggeo explained that the science supports the use of the Emergency Kit Boxes, noting that Ledge Light Health District would appreciate the efforts of their Local Legislators to update the State Statutes to allow the Emergency Kit Boxes to be redeployed to outside locations. Ms. Mansfield stated in the meantime they were hoping to provide Emergency Kit Boxes at businesses such Job Lot in Gales Ferry, Family Dollar, etc. where the information and Emergency Kits could be easily available.

Media Campaigns on local radio stations such as 106.5 in Ledyard Center

Ms. Mansfield stated with additional funding Ledge Light Health District would continue trainings and focus more on the business community and churches and providing Naloxone/Narcan trainings to these groups.

Councilor Saccone stated should the town provide additional Opioid Settlement Funding to the Ledyard Prevention Coalition that he would ask that they include the Ledyard Center Fire Company and Gales Ferry Fire Company in Naloxone/Narcan trainings. He noted although emergency responders were trained under the Offices of Emergency Medical Services State Statutes; however, he stated that there may be something Ledge Light Health District-Ledyard Prevention Coalition may have that would increase the Fire Department's awareness when they respond to emergency calls.

Ms. Muggeo stated the State of Connecticut has used some of the State's Opioid Settlement Funding to staff the Safe Spot Hotline which was started by that Steven Murray who was a National Leader in Overdose Prevention. She explained that Mr. Murray was a overdose survivor and trained certified paramedic. She stated that Mr. Murray's training program "Caring for People Who Use Drugs" has been certified by Connecticut's Office of Medical Emergency Services (OMES) and offers Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Providers Continuing Education Credits. She noted the Program helps Emergency Services Providers: (1) Understand what was happening with different contaminates in the drug supply; (2) How to provide the best care to the people in the community; and (3) Leave Behind Program, which was now authorized in Connecticut. She stated there may be a opportunity for neighboring towns such as Ledyard, Stonington, and North Stonington to share the cost and host a Caring for People Who Use Drugs" Training Program that would be centrally located. Councilor Saccone asked that Ms. Muggeo contact both the Fire Chief to discuss their interest in the Training Program, noting that the Fire Company's have both Volunteer and Paid Career Staff. Ms. Muggeo stated if the town's could combine funds that they may be able to offer two training sessions (day time and evening) to make it accessible to more people.

Councilor Saccone questioned Ledyard's National Opioid Settlement Fund Balance. Mayor Allyn stated the Account had an unencumbered balance of \$117,201 noting that there was currently an open Purchase Order to Ledge Light Health District/Ledyard Prevention Coalition that had about \$7,700 balance. Ms. Muggeo stated the reason the Purchase Order still had some funds remaining was because they were able to use other funding sources to purchase Naloxone/Narcan Kits.

Councilor Ryan stated when Ledyard Prevention Coalition appealed to the Finance Committee on June 5, 2023 they provided a detailed cost proposal, noting that the information that was provided for tonight's meeting only included a dollar amount of \$60,000 to be used over a twelve-month period; however, it did not provide a line-by-line breakdown of how the funding would be used. He stated the reason he was asking for a breakdown of the costs was because the Town Council made some adjustments to the \$40,000 proposal reducing the number of Naloxone/Narcan Emergency Kits and removing the Wellness Dog reducing the town's funding contribution to \$36,100. Therefore, he stated having some clarity on how the funding would be used would be helpful, noting that they were not trying to micro-manage Ledyard Prevention Coalition, but that they would like to see how the money would be used to help their community. Ms. Muggeo questioned whether their proposal of \$60,000 would be something the Town Council would entertain. Councilor Ryan stated although he could not speak for the Town Council that he did not think \$60,000 was outside their realm, noting that the town has the funding.

Councilor Buhle stated to-date the Town Council has disbursed the National Opioid Settlement Funding to support local Organizations as follows:

- \$36,100 to the Ledyard Prevention Coalition September 27, 2023;
- \$10,000 to Community Speaks Out October 23, 2024;
- \$10,000 to Connecticut Recovery Support January 15, 2025.
- Up-to \$12,500 to support the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 administration of the DARE Program in Ledyard Public Schools April 9, 2025

Therefore, Councilor Buhle questioned whether the National Opioid Settlement Fund balance in the amount of \$\$117,201 included all of the approved disbursements. Mayor Allyn stated the \$117,201 balance has taken into consideration all of the approved disbursements to-date. He stated this fiscal year (fy 26/26) the Town has received an additional \$38,000 to-date. He stated the town recently received notification that three or four manufactures would be settling, noting that the Town would continue to receive National Opioid Settlement Funding though the year 2034. He stated the Federal Government has been pushing that the Municipalities work to get the National Opioid Settlement Funding out into the community for Opioid Prevention and Recovery purposes.

Ledge Light Health District Director of Health Jennifer Muggeo, Director of Health addressed the \$60,000 proposal which was \$20,000 proposed increase from their June 5, 2023 stating that the increase was mainly to increase the staff time that would be allocated. She stated the Staff for the Ledyard Prevention Coalition Program was previously funded by the Federal Drug Communities Grant, which has reached the end of its ten-year cycle. She stated because Ledge Light Health District believed it was important to continue the Ledyard Prevention Coalition Program that funding was needed to pay for the staff to facilitate the Program, organize activities, work with the schools to determine the best interventions, and to work with other organizations to

identify opportunities for resources and other funding sources, etc. Therefore, she stated when the Finance Committee receives the Ledge Light Health District – Ledyard Prevention Collation Opioid Settlement Funding Proposal they will see that the cost for Staffing has increased, noting that it was due to the Federal Drug Communities Grant ending.

Councilor Saccone stated that he would expect the other Organizations that Ledyard has provided National Opioid Settlement Funds come back for additional funding at a later time.

Mayor Allyn stated that the Town was required to submit a Report to the Federal Government on how the funding was allocated such as: Prevention; Training; Patient Care; etc. Therefore, he stated that the Town needed to continue to work with the Organizations that have received funding to obtain their reports on how they used the funding.

Councilor Buhle stated although she was comfortable with the Ledge Light Health District – Ledyard Prevention Collation \$60,000 proposal that she would like to see the line-item expenditure before the Finance Committee acted to allocate the National Opioid Settlement Funding.

Ms. Muggeo stated that she would send a formal Proposal with the line-item expenditures for the next Finance Committee Meeting for consideration.

The Finance Committee thanked Ms. Mansfield and Ms. Muggeo for attending tonight's meeting

Ms. Mansfield and Ms. Muggeo left the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Next Meeting 9/17/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the Finance Committee Minutes as follows:

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2025

Special Joint Town Council & Board of Education Minutes of August 20, 2025

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Ryan

VOTE: 3 - 0 Approved and so declared

VI. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mayor Allyn noted that Finance Director Matthew Bonin was not present this evening.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Allyn noted that Finance Director Matthew Bonin provide the following Year to Date Revenues and Expenditure Reports:

- Budget versus Actuals Expenditures August 27, 2025
- ✓ Land Use Legal Accounts \$75,634 has been expended which was at 756% over the budgeted amount. Mayor Allyn explained that the town had a couple pending lawsuits for Subdivisions; and the Gales Ferry Intermodal (Cashman former Dow/Styrenics Property). He stated these legal fees would continue to mount up.

Councilor Ryan stated that the Town Council authorize the Land Use Department to overspend the Legal Fees Account. Mayor Allyn stated that Councilor Ryan was correct, however, the legal bills continue to come in. He stated one of the three legal disputes was nearing resolution; outside of further court proceedings.

- Budget versus Actuals Revenues August 27, 2025
- ✓ Vo-Ag Agri-Science Grant (ASTE) Councilor Buhle noted the Vo-Ag Agri-Science revenue received to date was at 52% of the amount budgeted. She stated because the State changed the funding stream for Agricultural Science Program by removing the town's tuition-based system to relying on State Grant funding that the Town would be receiving an increase in the amount of \$68,315 in the Agri-Science Grant Revenue from the State. Therefore, she stated after speaking with School Superintendent Hartling that she suggested they increase the Agri-Science Grant Revenue by \$68,315 in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. She questioned whether there was a mechanism in the budget for when the tuition revenues comes in lower than budgeted and the revenues come in higher than the amount budgeted, noting that New Business Items #2 & #3 was requesting that the surplus ASTE Revenues be used for Capital Expenses; however all of this does not line up with the expenditures.

Mayor Allyn stated that they need to discuss the forecasting of revenues in preparing the annual budget. He stated when the Board of Education's revenues do not meet the projection that the Board of Education's assumption was that the Town would cover their revenue deficits. However, he stated that when the Board of Education's revenues exceed the projection the Board of Education expects that the money be given to them. He stated that they cannot have their cake and eat it to, noting that Finance Director Matthew Bonin included comments on the Legislative Files that accompany New Business Items # 2 & #3 that speak to this scenario. However, he stated the Agri-Science/Vo-Ag Grant Funding had to be used specifically for the Agri-Science Program and that the Board of Education uses the additional ASTE Grant Funding for Capital Purchases/Projects for the Agri-Science Program. He stated that he agreed with Councilor Buhle's comments, noting that this was something that should be looked at.

Councilor Ryan stated that the projected/forecasted revenues should be fairly close, noting that when the revenues from any grant source were understated that it inflates the amount requested from the taxpayers. He stated that this was part of what they were arguing about during the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Preparation, noting that what they were trying to limit the exposure to the taxpayers.

Councilor Buhle stated the point she was trying to make was to report anticipated revenue accurately to make sure they were not charging the taxpayers and pocketing the surplus. She stated the goal was not to buy a bunch of capital stuff after the fact, because "Surprise, we have more money", noting that it was like the taxpayers overpaying their taxes all year, and then being really excited about a refund.

Councilor Ryan questioned the reason there was such a difference in the ASTE Grant Funding. Councilor Buhle explained that the State has changed the funding stream for Agricultural Science Program explaining they removed them from a Tuition-Based system to relying on State Grant funding. She stated that the School now had to charge 58% less for the Agri-Science Tuition this fiscal year, which was a loss of \$360,000 less in Tuition than budgeted, however, she stated they received \$658,000 more in State Agri-Science Grant funding because the State was working to subsidize the difference with Grant Funding. Therefore, she stated they had a delta of \$300,000 extra in Grant Funding, which should have been moved back to the operating budget to make up the loss of \$360,000 in Tuition Revenue, that the Town paid. Councilor Saccone stated what Councilor Buhle described was what Finance Director Matthew Bonin has been saying for several years. Councilor Buhle stated that they should be adding the Tuition Received with the ASTE Grant Funding for the total revenue received. Councilor Ryan stated that they would have had a delta net positive. Mayor Allyn stated that the ASTE Grant Revenue was at 177.5%. Councilor Ryan stated that Finance Director Matthew Bonin would have the year over year trend, noting that it would be interesting to see whether the ASTE Grant Funding has been understated. Councilor Saccone noted that the Town could not rely on what was coming from the State.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Continued discussion regarding potential uses for the funding received from the National Opioid Settlement Payments.
 - MOTION to recommend the Town Council accept the Ledge Light Health District-Ledyard Prevention Coalition proposal; and to allocate funding from Account # 0810201-58206-24206 (National Opioid Settlement Funding) to continue to support programs for opioid abatement; expanding access to opioid use disorder prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery options, etc.

Councilor Saccone noted that the Finance Committee received a presentation from Ledge Light Health District – Ledyard Prevention Collation Ms. Mansfield and Ms. Muggeo earlier this evening. He stated they would be preparing a proposal to request the Town allocate \$60,000 from the National Opioid Settlement Funding to continue their programs and activities related to the Opioid Prevention, Recovery, Wellness Programs, Narcan training; as well as providing Narcan Emergency Kits at selected locations in town. He stated that this item would be deferred to the Finance Committee's September 17, 2025 meeting.

Councilor Buhle stated with the new school year starting that she would be interested to see then move forward with the DARE Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education).

RESULT: NO ACTION

Next Meeting 9/17/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Allyn, III, stated Finance Director Matthew Bonin provided an updated ARPA Projects spreadsheet for tonight's meeting. He stated the Town completed about 53 projects using the \$4,327,000 Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding Ledyard received. He noted the many different projects they were able to do around town that ranged from critical infrastructure projects such as the Ledyard Center Sewer Line Extension project, which when completed would allow for responsible economic development, improvements for American Disability Act (ADA) access, to supporting our Regional Agency Partners, to facility maintenance projects, preservation of historical landmarks and park improvements, software upgrades and many others.

Mayor Allyn continued by providing the status of the ARPA Funding as follows:

- Ledyard Center Sewer Line Extension Project Mayor Allyn stated the Sewer Line Extension Projects were coming in as projected. He stated the deficit they had earlier was now \$186,146.90 to the positive. He stated those funds would be allocated to the Undesignated Account to reimburse the account for expenditures that were paid out of that account.
- Juliet W. Long Playscape Solid Surface Mayor Allyn stated the town was waiting for the \$50,000 Solid Surface invoice. Councilor Buhle stated the playscape and solid surface have been completed and she noted with the start of this school year that the kids were using the new inclusive playscape and solid surface. She stated a Ribbon Cutting has been scheduled for September 16, 2025.
- Smart Projectors for the Board of Education Mayor Allyn stated that they were waiting to receive the \$14,999 invoice for the Smart Projectors that cost \$3,000 each.
- Multi-Use Pathway Mayor Allyn stated that they were waiting for some finishing work along the Multi-Use Pathway from Ledyard Center to the High School. He explained that some of the steel pipes that were the curb stop for public water supply needed to be cut down to grade. The Finance Committee and Mayor Allyn noted the amount of use the Multi-Use Pathway has been getting, noting it has been a positive addition to for the community.

RESULT: DISCUSSED Next Meeting 9/17/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

3. Continued discussion regarding potential grant opportunities.

Councilor Buhle stated that she was listening to a Podcast today, noting that she learned about a *Bluebird Philanthropy Organization* that offers grants to foster innovation in small towns and cities across the country to encourage towns to try to do things

differently. She stated that they would help small towns and cities to PILOT things to test to see if they work, however, she stated if the ideas did work, that the towns and cities would have to pay to implement the programs themselves. She stated that she would be doing more research on *Bluebird Philanthropy Organization*, and to look for more opportunities for the town to grown and do things better.

RESULT: DISCUSSED Next Meeting 9/17/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

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

Councilor Saccone stated at their first Quarterly Joint Finance Committee Meeting of the Town Council and Board of Education that was held on August 20, 2025 they agreed with the November 4, 2025 Election that they should leave the scheduling of the next Quarterly Meeting for the new Committees to decide.

Councilor Ryan commented on the August 20, 2025 Quarterly Meeting noting that it was very long. He stated although they had some good conversations that he did not sense that there was a shared sacrifice by the Board of Education. He stated that he hoped when they get back to the table that there would be more willing approach to compromise, and discuss what was really needed, and what they cannot do without; noting that it was town-wide budget; not just a General Government Budget and a Board of Education Budget; but that it was everything. He stated that he did not appreciate the reception to his comment that they *should not be creating new recurring expenses*. He stated the Town Council Finance Committee needed to make sure that the Board of Education Finance Committee comes to the table ready to make hard decision, noting that they have proved that it can be done on the General Government side of the budget.

Councilor Saccone stated that he agreed with Councilor Ryan's comments, however, he noted the number of unfunded mandates the Board of Education was required to provide for the children. Councilor Ryan stated the Town Council had the responsibility of all residents, including the students, the elderly, everybody. He stated there was a lot of things that they cannot fund and that they did not fund on the General Government side of the budget; therefore, he stated that he would like to see everyone come to the table ready to have these types of conversations.

Councilor Buhle stated that she did not support a bifurcated budget; however, she stated that she does support a transparently presented budget that allowed the taxpayers to understand the delineation of their tax dollars. She stated when the Town Council or Board of Education makes choices to reduce Board of Education Capital Expenditures that those reductions should be reflected on the Board of Education's side of the budget ledger. She went on to state that she also supported that when things increase that they cannot control such as Healthcare Expenses, that those increases were reflected on the appropriate side of the budget ledger; so they present the actual costs to the residents for them to understand the actual costs without misconstruing the numbers; and that they explain that some expenses were moved to the appropriate side of the budget ledger and that it did not actually increase by 30%. She stated the budget has to be transparent and honest and understandable to those who do not spend hours and hours in meetings like they do. She stated in the year 2025 that every pdf document that was uploaded to the

website should be searchable, readable and easy to understand. She stated she should not have to look up every Munis Object Code to find out what School and Department the expense line was for. She stated that it should say "Gales Ferry School Elementary"; or "Teacher's Salaries Grade 6 (4 Teachers)" She stated that she understands that Ledyard was not an absorbatively funded School District and that they do very well with what they have. However, she stated that it was valid to show that when they were making budget adjustments and that those adjustments were shown on the appropriate side of the budget ledger. She stated for her, the most important thing was that the budget be presented accurately. She stated there was a separation between the Board of Education and the General Government, however, they were one town with one set of taxpayers and that they should all want to work together. She stated they often hear that they cannot use the schools or the gym for a town function for various reasons, including that it costs money, noting that it then becomes a big problem, stating that they were all town facilities, and that it should not be that difficult. She stated that she believed that there were opportunities for the General Government and Board of Education to work together to eliminate redundancies and expenditures.

Councilor Ryan stated he thought the point of the Joint Finance Committee Quarterly Meetings was to reduce what was perceived as the *Throw Over the Wall Approach*. He stated the way many municipalities prepare their budgets, was for the Board of Education to develop a budget that they throw over to the Town Council. He stated the Town Council then becomes the bad people and make decisions, because they represent all of the town residents, noting that it was not an enviable position. He stated the Board of Education only represents the students and the students' parents in the School District, noting that the Town Council represents all the people, which included the students and the students' parents in the School District as well as all the taxpayers who do not have students in the school system. He stated he hoped that the next people who will be serving on the Finance Committee in the next term will be better educated about the budget process for the Board of Education and how they arrived at their budget before they finalize their budget and submit it to the Mayor.

RESULT: DISCUSSED Next Meeting 9/17/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION to recommend the Town Council appropriate \$3,634.21 to Account #21020301-57300-G0015 (Fire Marshall - New Equipment - State Grant).

In addition, authorize the expenditure of up to \$3,634.21 to purchase the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Server Rack as part of the upgrades to Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The funding source for this project is the Town of Ledyard's FY 2026 Nuclear Safety Emergency Program Funding Allocation.

Moved by Councilor Buhle seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Administrator of Emergency Management/Fire Marshal Jim Mann explained that over the past few years Ledyard has been using the Nuclear Safety Emergency Program Funding (NESP) to upgrade the equipment at the Emergency Operations Center that was located in the lower level of the High School which included the purchase of a new server. He stated about eight months ago a sewer line broke at the High School; and that they were lucky it missed the new server by about two-feet. He stated that MIS Director Justin Dube strongly recommended that the EOC purchase a Server Cabinet to prevent the servers from getting destroyed. He stated that the Town would need to purchase the Server Cabinet and submit the paid invoice to the State to receive the grant funding reimbursement. He stated to date they have spent about \$10,000 from the Nuclear Safety Emergency Program Funding (NESP).

Mayor Allyn, III, stated that Ledyard was awarded \$22,500 from the Nuclear Safety Emergency Program Funding (NESP).

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 3 – 0
MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

The Finance Committee thanked Mr. Mann for attending tonight's meeting. Mr. Mann left the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

2. MOTION to recommend the Town Council appropriate and transfer \$250,636 from Account #10188210-59300 (Transferred Funds) to Account #2250101-49002 (BOE CNR Transfers In)

In addition, appropriate \$250,636 to Account #22570101-58261 (BOE CNR Ag-Science).

Ledyard Public Schools ASTE revenue/VoAgtuition 1017002-42018/47010 FY2025

Date	Received by Town of Ledyard	Town of Ledyard Budgeted Revenue	Variance
7/17/2024	377,163		
10/9/2024	377,163		
1/6/2025	377,163		
4/7/2025	377,163		
Total ASTE receipts	1,508,652	850,000	658,652
Total VoAg tuition	356,160	764,176	-408,016
	1,864,812	1,614,176	250,636

	I	ASTE 2025		
Item	Description	Educational Value to Students/Purpose	Estimate	Vendor
Blue Ridge Ergonomics Stool	7 stools for in the Small Animal Lab for a the veterinary counter (currently do not have any seating)	Will allow students to sit at the counter	\$1,500.00	Global Industrial
Outdoor rabbit enclosures	3 dog kennels to be adapted for rabbit use.	Will provide a secure environment for rabbits to be housed outside, protected from produtors and weather elements	\$6,150,00	Backyard Discovery
Kennel/Dog Guillotine Dog Door nstall	door	Only want this if it is also possible to fence off part of the concrete (working on quote) to allow use of indoor/outdoor area to keep groups of daycare dogs separated.	\$1,600.00	Vendor Quote - Upside Innovations
Fence off additional dog run	to further divded exterior space for multiple dog groups	Only want this if it is also possible to fence off part of the concrete (working on quote) to allow use of indoor/outdoor area to keep groups of daycare dogs separated. price inculdes rabbit area fencing and gate and gates	\$9,325.00	Luther Fence
Shades for windows in cat/rabbit room	room to keep room cooler during hotter months and block out night time exterior	Facility improvement for temperature and light regulation in animal housing area, exhibiting proper animal management standards.	\$700.00	Alpha Aero Draperies
Reef Aquarium Supplies and Upgrades	reef system to the next stage. Upgrades include improved lighting, filtration and testing equipment	Water testing and analysis, control and adustments of chemicals and nutrients, algae control, coral growth and repoduction, aquatic organism health, filtration management	\$4,415,00	Wet Pets
Fish Processing and Cooking Supplies	cooking fish	Students will participate in the 'farm to fork' process. Students will safely and efficiently process, store and cook our Tilapia, Catfish and Trout.	\$572.71	Amazon
Fishing Supplies and Materials	Outdoor recreation equipment.	Students will experience different	\$2,082,82	Amazon
. Same and the sam		methods of fish capture.		
Refrigeration	greenhouse produce and fish	As part food processing and preservation, studets will use the refrigerator to package and store products for display, sale or consumption.	\$2,620,69	Home Depot
Waders	on our stocking and collection field trips. A leaking wader is counterproductive and 10 out of our 12 pairs of waders leak. Like me, they are old and tired.	Assisting the state with distribution of trout in Trout Management Areas by live cart release. We also collect aquatic organisms for research and identification from areas such as Bluff Point and Sawmill Pond.	\$1,359.76	Amazon
Aquaculture Pump, Air Pumps and Chiller Replacements	and chillers for our lab reciruclating	Growth and reproduction of warm water and coldwater aquaculture species.	\$10,409,19	Pentair
Greenhouse Supplies	Testing equipment, germination	Seed germination and protection in an aquaponics greenhouse.	\$1,434,99	Farmtek
Laminar Flow Hood	technique, plant tissue culture and sterile media prep	This provides students the opportunity to learn and practice aseptic technique common in biological and biotech industries.	\$729.00	Amazon
3 Pieces - Uline 72"x 48" steel ssembly table	are damaged after many years of welding	Level and smooth working surfaces facilitate student learning of welding technique.	\$1,830.00	Uline
12 pcs. Radnor Blue Vinyl Welding Curtain 6 x 8	replace worn and torn exisiting curtains	New curtains will increase safety of students in the welding area while allowing better supervision than is	<u>\$754.56</u>	Airgas Waterford

4 sets - 61 in. W x 23 in D Heavy Duty 15-Drawer Mobile Workbench with Mechanics Tool Set (290- Piece)	290 Piece tool set with rolling storage chest.	Tools with rolling tool storage will allow students to easily access and securely store tools when working anywhere in the shop.	\$4,992,00	HomeDepot
2 sets - Husky Rolling Tool Chest Combo	2 Rolling tool storage carts	Rolling tool storage will accomodate existing tools while allowing students to easily access and securely store tools and small parts when working anywhere in the shop.	\$2,196,00	HomeDepot
Millermatic 255 MIG Welding Machine w/ EZ Latch cart 951766	MIG welding machine - Upgrade to existing MIG machines which, while functional, are antiquated (1990's tech), lack features and require maintenance.	MIG welding is a common industrial pratice. Students interested in metal fabrication benefit from familiarity with and skill in using this technology. This is the same model welder used in the metals shop.	\$4,633	Airgas Waterford
Miller® 300 Amp .030" - 1/16" XR- Aluma-Pro ^{vM} MIG Gun With 15' Cable 301568	Push-pull gun to be used with the Millermatic 255 for MIG welding aluminum.	Students will learn to use push-pull welding guns, which are industry- standard for welding aluminum with MIG	\$3,611.00	Airgas Waterford
4 Sets Stihl KMA 135 R power head , each with 2 batteries, charger and Stihl FS-KM Lline trimmer head	Electric power head, battery and charger for the Stihl Kombi system	This will allow up to 4 students to simultaneously practice string trimmer operation or use any of our existing Kombi System attachments with battery power	\$2,967.84	Gano's Colchester CT
				100
Qidi Plus4 3D Printer	Large volume 3-D printer	Expand ability to perform 3-D prints as student interest increases. Currently only one print can be made at a time and may take many hours. Staying with a Qidi proiduct will faciliate using the same software across platforms	\$769,00	Amazon
Jet Model IBG-8 Bench Grinder with light and pedestal stand	Bench grinder and stand for shaping metal	To replace existing antiquated pedestal grinder used for shaping metal in metal fabrication class.	\$918,99	Amazon
EVOR AIUIIIIIUIII TTUCK, 2 III T	mand truck / dony for moving neavy objects	remms students to salely move neavy objects within the shop area and the department	3142.50	Amazon
Mojack Riding Lawn Mower Lift	For lifting lawn tractors up for blade changes and maintenance	Provides the opportunity to practice landscape equipment maintenance.	\$300.00	Amazon
ARCAN Tools 3-Fon Quick Rise Aluminum Floor Jack with Dual Pump Pistons & Reinforced Lifting Arm (A20018,A20019)	Low Profile floor jack	Permits students to safely lift heavy pieces of equipment for maintenance	\$316,49	Amazon
Powermatic 1Hp Mortising Machine with table and bits	Mortising machine with table and bits for making mortises in wood	Facilitates making mortise and tenon joints to hold together table legs, beams, etc	\$1,364	Amazon
Tables & Chairs	New tables and chairs for the Livestock classroom	Provides students with flexible seating and sturdier tables	\$3,641,76	School Specialty
Hay Storage	Provides for a large quantity of hay storage. Metal with a concrete floor	Provides animals with appropriate nutrition while being able to store the hay out of the barn to prevent fire hazards.	\$22,000	Vendor Quote
Livestock Learning Lab Kits	Horse, Beef & Poultry Learning Lab Kits	Supports all livestock classes for all grades to learn about managing livestock, breed charactisterics, veterinary skills and management practices.	\$2.837.00	Ohio 4-H Youth Development
Sheep & Goat Show Equipment	Sheep & Goat Stands, Mineral Feeders	Supports the students as they prepare the animals for show. More students can be actively working when we have more sheep/goat stands.	\$2,845	Sydell
Updated Promotional Materials	Includes up to date signage to replace what is currently in and around our department	Supports educating about our program outside of learning within our classroom	<u>\$6,268</u>	Fast Signs

Food Science Items	Refrigerator	Supports our Food Science Curriculum	\$775	Amazon
Veterinary & Grooming Supplies	A variety of veterinary and grooming supplies for all classes of livestock	Supports keep the animals safe and healthy	\$3,631,90	Premier 1
Official FFA Dress	Includes 15 jackets, scarfs and ties	Supports students attending FFA events by utilizing Chapter owned jackets so they can participate without worrying about financial struggles to purchase their own	<u>\$1,385</u>	National FFA Organization
Official FFA Dress	Include dress skirts, pants, shirts and nylons	Supports students attending FFA events by utilizing Chapter owned pants, skirts and tops so they can participate without worrying about financial struggles to purchase their own	\$3,504	Amazon
Livestock Gates	2 Kidding panel gates and 2 galvanized gates	To add movement between the outdoor animal pens from each pen as well as extra enclosure to the barn	\$866	Shagbark
Duck Shelter	Duck Shelter and Run	To provide housing for a flock of ducks	\$3,135	Flemings Feed Store
CVA Manuals	20 Certification in Veteirnary Assisting Manuals (equals 30 total so each teacher has enough for 15/class)	With Manzi & O'Keefe running concurrent Veterinary Science Courses we need more CVA manuals for students to use.	\$3,474	Texas Veterinary Medical Association
Cold Frame	Expanding the types of plants my students are able to grow and learn about. Introducing fruiting bushes and plants such as blueberries, strawberries, blackberries and raspberries.	another means to growing crops and flowers. Allows students to work with another type of greenhouse. Students will learn how to extend growing seasons and grow flowers for arrangements.	\$3.655	Farmers Friend
Fruit bushes and plants	strawberries, black berries, raspberries and blue berries	Allows stuents to expad their knowledge of different crop growths	\$705	Johnny's Selected Seeds
Indoor dwarf fruiting trees	a variety of tropical and unique fruiting shrubs	Allows students to expand their knowledge ofcrops they are growing and also allows students to be able to grow	<u>\$511.45</u>	Logees
Greenhouse update	Greenhouse electrical update. \$30,000 was approved in the 2022-23 ASTE Purchases, but this transaction was not completed before a major price increase.	This was previously approved in the 2022-2023 ASTE purchases. This is an updated quote showing the cost increases since this was originally quoted. Current greenhouses have a lot of electrical issues and replacement parts are no longer available. Shades don't close automatically and one greenhouse no longer has the time to	\$45,925	Griffin/Bever Electric

Greenhouse Update Electrical	The cost to install the electrical update for the greenhouses.	Students will be able to learn how to use the greenhouses with the updated equipment in the 25-26 school year.	\$15,000	Beaver Electric
mulch	weed barrier	Mulch for the various areas around Ag4, new cold frame and berry patch	\$1,920	EA Quinn
Fishing materials	a variety of fishing equipment	Students in Natural Resource products and Outdoor recreation will be able to practice learn and practice a skill that is currently only discussed in these courses	\$750	
Water containment wall in boiler room		Prevent boiler water or pump leaks from flowing into the carpeted area in the media center:	\$10,000	
Add regested Cameras		Add additional camera to the middle of the east west hall and camera to cover the student restroom entrances.	\$3,040	
New white board and installation of new projectors in Ag classrooms	Includes new white boards projector installation with ceiling speakers same set up at the regular classrooms.	Add new white boards and install the nes projectors purchased by the town with ARPA funds	\$15,000	
		TOTAL	\$249,039,71	

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III noted the Board of Education's letter dated July 29, 2025 and received on August 6, 2025 included a list of capital items that the ASTE Grant Funding would be used to purchase.

Councilor Ryan stated as discussed earlier this evening (see page above page 6-7) that this highlights the need to forecast their revenues more accurately, noting that he understands that the State made some changes to the Agri-Science/Vo-Ag Program Funding this year. He stated when they have a revenue that comes in with a 10% difference that they were in the ball park. However, he stated a difference of \$250,636 in revenues was far off the forecasted projection.

Councilor Buhle noted as she previously mentioned this evening that the State changed the funding stream for Agricultural Science Program explaining they removed them from a Tuition-Based system to relying on State Grant funding.

Councilor Ryan stated that he was not going to argue if the State was going to give the town more money. However, he stated that perhaps their State Legislators could have helped the town understand that the State would be making a change in the funding stream for Agricultural Science Program earlier in the budget process.

Councilor Buhle stated after the townspeople turned down the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget the first time that State Senator Cathy Osten shared a spreadsheet with her that showed all of the State's allocations, which was the reason she proposed increasing the Agri-Science-Vo-Ag Grant funding in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. She stated because the State's budget runs concurrently with the town's budget that it was difficult for Ledyard to project State/Grant revenues. Councilor Ryan noted that Councilor Buhle made his point that some of the State's revenue numbers were available during their budget deliberation work. Councilor Buhle stated that the information she received from State Senator Cathy Osten was after the May 20, 2025 Budget Referendum failed; and the State's budget was still not approved at that time. Councilor Ryan stated although the State Budget may not have been approved at that time; that there was a number that may have been helpful to the town so they would know about what they could expect. He stated the more accurately they can project the revenues the more accurate they would be able to be in terms of the tax burden for their taxpayers.

Councilor Buhle went on to note that the next Agenda Item was to address additional Impact Aid Funding and she commented that they could not make plans for the funding expected from the Federal Government such as the Impact Aid Funding. Councilor Saccone noted for the town to receive the Federal Impact Aid Funding that they have to rely on parents to fill out the forms for their children.

Councilor Ryan requested clarification as to whether these additional funds would be allocated to the Board of Education's Capital Fund. Mayor Allyn explained that the additional \$250,636 ASTE Grant Funding would be allocated to the Board of Education's Agri-Science-Vo-Ag Program to be used to purchase the list of items that accompanied Superintendent Hartling's July 29, 2025 letter (see list above). He went on to explain that the Board of Education was also requesting the additional \$157,133 that was received from the Impact Aid Grant be allocated to their Capital Account, which as Councilor Buhle noted was Item #3 on tonight's Agenda.

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 3 – 0

MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

3. MOTION to recommend Town Council appropriate and transfer \$157,133 from Account #10188210-59300 (Transferred Funds) to Account #22570101-58250 (BOE CNR Reserve Fund);

In addition, appropriate \$157,133 to Account #225670101-58250 (BOE CNR Reserve Fund)

Ledyard Public Schools Impact Aid 1017002-42016 FY2025

Date	Received by Town of Ledyard	Town of Ledyard Budgeted Revenue	Variance
12/18/2024	582,221		
12/31/2024	23,932		
4/17/2025	492,102		
6/10/2025	108,878	EU 08	
	1,207,133	1,050,000	157,133

Item	Building	Estimate	Notes
Gym Ceiling Repair	LHS	\$65,000	Not to Exceed
Bird Nesting Remediation	LHS	\$15,000	Not to Exceed
Baseball Field Renovation	LHS	\$45,000	Not to Exceed
Sewer Line Repair/Replacement	LHS	\$10,000	Not to Exceed
Boiler System/Heating Repairs	LHS	\$22,000	
	TOTAL	\$157,000.00	
*Items requested are directly from the	e		

Moved by Councilor Buhle seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Mayor Allyn stated that every year the Board of Education requests that the additional funding received from the Impact Aid Grant be allocated to their Capital Fund because they had capital needs that were not fulfilled. However, he stated that the General Government also had capital needs that were not fulfilled.

Councilor Buhle stated last year the Town Council asked the Board of Education to provide a list of the Capital Projects that would be addressed with the additional Impact Aid Funding. Mayor Allyn noted that Superintendent Hartling's July 29, 2025 letter included the list (see above) of items that the Board of Education would use the additional \$157,133 for. However, he stated there were a number of projects such as the Bird Nesting Remediation; and Sewer Line Repair that was already funded in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget. Councilor Buhle agreed with Mayor Allyn's observation, noting that the Boiler/Heating System Repairs, were also included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget.

Councilor Buhle stated the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget that was posted on the town's website only lists the dollar amount for the Board of Education's Capital Projects, noting that the list of projects were not available.

Councilor Ryan stated that based on their discussion this evening that he would like clarity before the Finance Committee acted on this request.

MOTION to Table the

MOTION to recommend Town Council appropriate and transfer \$157,133 from Account #10188210-59300 (Transferred Funds) to Account #22570101-58250 (BOE CNR Reserve Fund);

In addition, appropriate \$157,133 to Account #225670101-58250 (BOE CNR Reserve Fund)

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved to Table

RESULT: APPROVE TO TABLE 3-0

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor Jessica Buhle, Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

4. MOTION to recommend Town Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$25,000 from account #21090305-58915 CNR Undesignated to hire a consultant to assist with cost segregation analysis and form 990-T filings in order to secure investment tax credits available under IRC section 6417.

In addition, upon receipt of said tax credit, restore funding in the same amount to the Undesignated line in CNR.

Moved by Councilor Ryan seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Mayor Allyn stated the town's Auditor CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP., recommended that Ledyard conduct a *Cost Segregation Analysis for the Solar Arrays* on the School Buildings to receive tax credits which would cover the 38% non-reimbursable portion from the State for the cost of the Solar Array Panels. He stated the town would receive about \$500,000 from the tax credits, which they would use to lower the amount of money the town would need to borrow in their final financing for the School Projects.

Councilor Saccone stated he was in-favor of conducting the *Cost Segregation Analysis for the Solar Arrays*. However, he questioned the timing noting that the federal government was sunsetting the tax credits for Solar Projects. Mayor Allyn stated that they were trying to get this *Cost Segregation Analysis for the Solar Arrays* done and submitted before the tax credit program sunsets. He went on to explain that the Trump Administration was requiring that the new Solar Array Systems be made in America. He stated the Solar Array System has not been installed on the Gales Ferry School yet, because of the delays in completing the roof replacement; therefore, he stated they were not certain if the Gales Ferry School Solar Array would qualify for the tax credits. However, he stated the town has been assured that the other school solar array system qualified for the tax credits.

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 3 – 0

MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor SECONDER: Jessica Buhle Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

5. MOTION to recommend the Town Council grant a Bid Waiver to Wastewater Services Inc. DBA Skips Wastewater Service due to receiving fewer than the required three bids in response to Bid #2026-01 (Thickened Sludge Solids Removal) in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 (rev 1) "An Ordinance for Purchasing"

Moved by Councilor Buhle seconded by Councilor Ryan

Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, explained the process for the Rotary Drum Thickener at the Wastewater Facility on Town Farm Road. He stated that periodically the Thickened Sludge Solids have to be removed from the Rotary Drum to continue to operate the facility. He stated the Water Pollution Control Authority solicited bids for this work; however, only two bids were received, noting that Wastewater Services Inc. DBA Skips Wastewater Service was the low bid.

Councilor Saccone questioned whether the Wastewater Facility has used Skips Wastewater Service in the past. Mayor Allyn stated that they have used this company in the past.

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 3 – 0
MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

6. MOTION to recommend the Town Council appropriate up-to to \$1,500 from Account #21090305-58920 (CNR Acquisition of Open Space); and authorize the Mayor to hire a professional firm to appraise 480R Shewville Road.

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, explained in 1994 the town purchased property and constructed the Loftus Well Field on Shewville Road when the town created its own public water system to supply water to the Highlands area, when their wells dried up. He stated after the town connected to Groton Utilities Water Supply the Lofts Wellfield was abandoned, the 1,500 square foot steel building they built on the property was cleaned out, and the wells were filled in.

Mayor Allyn went on to explain when the town purchased the property from the Loftus Family it included deed restrictions, noting that the property could only be used for water storage tank. Therefore, he stated because the town cannot use the property for any other purpose, it would like to obtain a professional appraisal of the property to understand the value of the parcel. He stated for full disclosure that the neighbor, who sold the property to the town, was interested in buying the property back from the town. He stated the 11-acre parcel that the Loftus Wellfield was built on was originally part of the Loftus' Family's Farm and they were interested in reacquiring the property. Therefore, he stated before the town entertained an offer, that it would be prudent to know what a professional appraiser thought the property was worth.

Councilor Buhle questioned what the town purchased the property for in 1994. Mayor Allyn stated the town paid \$275,000 for the property and noted the Deed included the following language: "Said premises shall be used solely for the purpose for the construction and maintaining municipal water well sites and related equipment, machinery, structures, piping and utilities". He stated the Town Attorney explained that because the Town free act and deed entered into that restriction; therefore, the town cannot use the property for any other purpose, noting that town cannot even store other equipment in the building on the property. He stated once the original property owner took ownership of the property again that they could undo the Deed Restriction, should they choose to.

Mayor Allyn continued by explaining that once they receive the appraised value of the property and decide that they want to move ahead with selling the property that he would bring to the Town Council the map and related information, noting that the front of the property was on the Whitford Brook. He stated because the usage was so restricted that no one could use the property for anything, therefore, he stated selling the surplus property would be an opportunity for the town to recapture some money and maybe help to do facilitate some capital projects.

VOTE: 3– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 3 – 0
MOVER: Tim Ryan, Town Councilor
SECONDER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tim Ryan, Tony Saccone

- 7. Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee. None.
- X. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: 3 - 0 Approved and so declared, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Saccone, Sr. Committee Chairman Finance Committee