



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

Chairman S. Naomi Rodriguez

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

5:30 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	Remote	5:00 pm	5:28 pm
Tim Ryan	Town Councilor	Excused			
Tony Saccone	Town Councilor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:28 pm
S. Naomi Rodriguez	Town Council Chairman	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:28 pm
Fred Allyn, III	Mayor	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:28 pm
Matthew Bonin	Finance Director	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:15 pm
John Rich	Police Chief	Present	In-Person	5:03 pm	5:28 pm
Christine Dias	Administrator of Human Resources	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:28 pm
Joe Gush	Permanent Municipal Building Committee Chairman	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	
Wayne Donaldson	Board of Education Director of Facilities and Grounds	Present	In-Person	5:00 pm	5:28 pm
James Harwood	Conservation Commission Member	Present	In-Person	6:00 pm	5:28 pm
Roxanne Maher	Administrative Assistant	Present	Remote	5:00 pm	5:28 pm

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

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

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

MOTION to approve the Finance Committee Minutes as follows:

- Regular Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2025
- Special Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2025

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

VOTE: 2 – 0 Approved and so declared

V. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Matthew Bonin reported that today he filed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Report with the US Treasury. He explained that the Town was required to annually file a report which goes through the end of March. He stated that all of the ARPA Funding the town received has been obligated. He noted as he reported at the Finance Committee's April 2, 2025 meeting, that the US Treasury would be going after cities and towns that did not properly obligate their ARPA Funding by the December 31, 2024 Deadline. He stated that Ledyard was in good shape.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORTS - None.

III. OLD BUSINESS

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

Councilor Saccone stated that at their April 9, 2025 meeting the Town Council allocated \$12,500 from the National Opioid Settlement Funding to support the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 administration of the DARE Program in Ledyard Public Schools.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Next Meeting 5/06/2025 : 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.

Councilor Saccone noted that Finance Director Matthew Bonin provided an update regarding the ARPA Projects during his report earlier this evening.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Next Meeting 5/06/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

3. Continued discussion regarding potential grant opportunities.

Councilor Buhle noted the Town's \$1 million 2025 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Application; and she stated because of the number of Applications that the State received that the STEAP Awards would be announced later this month, which was not as early as she had hoped for.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Next Meeting 5/06/2025 : 5:00 p.m.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION to waive the reading in its entirety the “Resolution Amending the Resolution Entitled “*Resolution Appropriating \$8,550,000 for Various School Improvement Projects; And Authorizing the Issue of Bonds And Notes in the Same Amount to Finance Said Appropriation*” To Increase the Appropriation And Borrowing Authorization To \$9,800,000”.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: None.

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tony Saccone

EXCUSED: Tim Ryan

2. MOTION to approve the “Resolution Amending the Resolution Entitled “*Resolution Appropriating \$8,550,000 for Various School Improvement Projects; And Authorizing the Issue of Bonds And Notes in the Same Amount to Finance Said Appropriation*” To Increase the Appropriation And Borrowing Authorization To \$9,800,000”.

Res. 300–2022/Apr 16 (a)

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RESOLUTION
ENTITLED “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$8,550,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND
NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION” TO
INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO
\$9,800,000

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2022, the voters of the Town approved a resolution entitled “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$6,725,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION” (the “Original Resolution”) for various school improvement projects, including in part HVAC upgrades at Juliet W. Long School (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2023, the voters of the Town approved a resolution entitled “RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$6,725,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION” TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO \$8,550,000” (the “Amending Resolution”, and together with the Original Resolution, the “Resolution”) increasing the appropriation and borrowing authorization of the Original Resolution by \$1,825,00 for an aggregate of \$8,550,000; and

WHEREAS, after opening bids received for the Project, the building committee has determined that an additional \$1,250,000 will be needed to complete the Project; and

WHEREAS, in order to proceed with and finish the Project, the Resolution will need to be further amended to increase the appropriation and borrowing authorization.

RESOLVED,

(a) The Resolution adopted February 22, 2022 and amended October 17, 2023 by the voters of the Town, entitled “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$8,500,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION” (the “Resolution”), which is hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted, is amended by increasing the appropriation and bond authorization by \$1,250,000 to a total of \$9,800,000.

(b) The title of the Original Resolution is hereby replaced in its entirety by the following:

“RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$9,800,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION”

(c) In each of Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Resolution, the amount of EIGHT MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,550,000) is hereby deleted, and the amount of NINE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,800,000) is hereby inserted in its place.

(d) Sections 4 through 9 of the Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed, adopted and incorporated into this resolution.

(e) This resolution shall become effective after approval at referendum vote.

(f) If the above Sections (a) through (e) are enacted, the Amended Resolution will read in its entirety as follows:

“RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$9,800,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED,

1. That the Town of Ledyard appropriate NINE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,800,000) for various school improvement projects, including: replacement of the roofs at the Central Office, Gales Ferry School, and Juliet W. Long School; installation of solar equipment at Gales Ferry School and Juliet W. Long School; upgrades to the building management systems at Gales Ferry School; and electrical and HVAC upgrades at Juliet W. Long School. The appropriation may be spent for design, engineering and construction costs, equipment, materials, legal fees, net interest on

borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Permanent Municipal Building Committee shall be the School Building Committee for the project and is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project. The Permanent Municipal Building Committee may reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

2. That the Town issue bonds or notes or obligations in an amount not to exceed NINE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,800,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes or obligations authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-369 and 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes or interim funding obligations from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations for the project or the receipt of grants for the project. The amount of the notes or obligations outstanding at any time shall not exceed NINE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,800,000). The notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-378 and 10-289a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes or obligations shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes or obligations that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

4. That the Mayor, the Director of Finance and the Treasurer, or any two of them, of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes or obligations by their manual or facsimile signatures. The Treasurer shall keep a record of the bonds or notes. The law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes or obligations. The Mayor, the Director of Finance and the Treasurer, or any two of them, are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes or obligations; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes or obligations at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes or obligations; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes or obligations.

5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 and, if applicable, pursuant to Section 54A(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings, including qualified tax credit bonds, in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Mayor, the

Director of Finance and the Treasurer, or any two of them, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes or obligations authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

6. That the Mayor, the Director of Finance and the Treasurer, or any two of them, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes or obligations to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes or obligations.

7. That Building Committee for the project is vested with the following powers and duties: (i) to approve design and construction expenditures for the project; (ii) to recommend to the Mayor the execution of any contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the Town to complete the project; and (iii) to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project. Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Mayor, the Director of Finance, the Treasurer, the Town Council, the Board of Education and the Town.

8. That the Board of Education is authorized to apply for and accept state grants for the project. The Board of Education is authorized to file applications with the State Board of Education, to execute grant agreements for the project, and to file such documents as may be required by the State Board of Education to obtain grants for the costs of financing the project. Any grant proceeds may be used to pay project costs or principal and interest on bonds, notes or temporary notes.

9. That the Mayor, the Director of Finance, the Treasurer, the Board of Education, the Building Committee for the project, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds, notes or other obligations to finance the aforesaid appropriation.”

Approved by the Ledyard Town Council on: April 16, 2025

S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone
Discussion: Mr. Joe Gush, 57 Town Farm Road, Ledyard, Chairman, Permanent Municipal Building Committee, provided some background regarding the Committee’s request for the Town Council to take the necessary actions to increase the “*Board of Education \$8,550,000 Roof Replacement and Various School Projects*” by an additional \$1,250,000; bringing the

total requested Bond Authorization to \$9,800,000 to proceed with the Juliet W. Long Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System Project (HVAC).

Mr. Gush continued by noting the following:

- The PMBC and Ledyard Public Schools solicited bids for the Juliet W. Long School HVAC project several times, and each time the project has come in higher than the estimated cost based on a number of issues which included the need to redesign the HVAC System to meet the State's new guidelines for the project to be eligible/qualify for the grant reimbursement.
- The original cost estimate for the Juliet W. Long School HVAC System was based on the initial designed Split System; which recirculated the in-door air. However, the State changed the design requirements for the HVAC System to be a full air conditioning system with outdoor CO2 (carbon dioxide) monitoring and outdoor intake. Mr. Gush stated to meet the State's Grant Eligibility Requirements the HVAC System for the Juliet W. Long School HVAC System was redesigned as a full air conditioning system with outdoor CO2 monitoring and outdoor intake.
- With the redesigned HVAC System the bids came at about \$3.6 million, which was higher than the amount designated for the Project. Therefore, Mr. Gush stated that he and Board of Education Director of Facilities & Grounds Wayne Donaldson met with the Engineer and the Architect in Farmington, Connecticut to see if the design could be modified to lower the cost. The estimated costs for the redesigned HVAC System was \$2,225,000.
- In soliciting Bids for the Juliet W. Long HVAC System a second time only one bid in the amount of \$3.1 million was received. Mr. Gush noted that the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) later learned from the Architect that the reason only one bid was received was because the contractors did not think they could complete the project within the required timeframe, noting that they would need two summers for the project.
- The PMBC and Ledyard Public Schools solicited Bids a third time for the Juliet W. Long School HVAC Project. This bid allowed Contractors the ability to complete the project over the summers of 2025 and 2026; and to work during school holidays and breaks, and with limited work while school was in session.
- With the third solicitation of Bids, the town received the required three bids, in accordance with Ordinance #200-001 "*A Purchasing Ordinance for the Town of Ledyard*". However, the low bid in the amount of \$2,673,520 that was received from Nutmeg Companies Inc., was higher than the estimated project cost of \$2,225,000.
- The Juliet W. Long School HVAC Project would need to be completed by December 31, 2026. Mr. Gush explained that the State provided an extension from the original date of December 31, 2025, for the town to be eligible to receive 61.78% grant reimbursement. However, he stated their grant eligibility was only for a cost of up to \$2,225,000. Therefore, he stated any costs over/above \$2,225,000 would not be eligible for the grant reimbursement, noting that the Town would be responsible for those costs. He also noted that if they were not able to commence the HVAC Project this summer (2025), that due President Trump's Tariffs and other escalation costs the project could come in higher.

- Nutmeg Companies, Inc., indicated that work could be completed by November 2025 if work could begin this summer (2025).
- The PMBC has requested a supplemental authorization in the amount of \$1,250,000 be presented to the townspeople at the May 20, 2025 Annual Budget Referendum, in an effort to get this project underway at the end of this school year (2025); and to the finish line.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated based on the assumption of a 4% Interest Rate for 20-years for the additional \$1,250,000 that they would be looking at an additional cost of \$91,000 a year, which represented about .007 of a mil increase in taxes for the next 20-years. However, he stated that these numbers were based on assumptions, and they do not know what the Interest Rates or Bond Market would look like when the town was ready to move forward with the Bonding. He stated in looking at the big picture that this was not a huge amount of money spread out over 20-years.

Chairman Rodriguez stated that she knew how important this HVAC Project was, noting that Parents have been expressing concerns that the Juliet W. Long was so hot because they did not have air conditioning; and that their children were practically having heat stroke, and they were throwing up when they got home from school. Therefore, she stated that this project was well overdue and that it needed to move forward. She went on to comment that she remembered how hot the School was during the months of May and June, and sometimes September, when her son went to school.

Mr. Gush stated that he agreed with Chairman Rodriguez's comments, noting that there was a real need to install the HVAC System in the Juliet W. Long School. However, he stated that in accordance with the town's procedures the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) cannot proceed with the Project without the townspeople's approval to increase the Bond Authorization by \$1,250,000.

Councilor Buhle noted that the Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC) requested the Bond Authorization be increased by \$1,250,000. However, she noted that the Tabulation Spreadsheet was showing a shortfall of \$1,138,000 million; which included 10% for the Owners Representative and Contingency Costs. Therefore, she questioned the \$112,000 difference; and whether they rounded the cost up in their requested additional appropriation.

Mayor Allyn addressed the \$112,000 that Councilor Buhle noted, and he explained there were other costs such as the Builders Risk Policy, and Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency Insurance, (CIRMA) Coverage during the construction.

Councilor Buhle questioned the cost for the Owners Representative. Board of Education Director of Facilities and Grounds Wayne Donaldson stated the cost was about \$50,000 - 60,000. Mr. Gush noted when the Town Council amended Ordinance #100-015 (rev 1) "*An Ordinance Establishing a Permanent Municipal Building Committee*" that it included a requirement to have an Owner's Representative for Projects that cost over

\$500,000. Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained that the purpose of having an Owners Representative was to have an independent third-party. He stated if they had the Architect acting as the Owner's Representative that they would not be an independent third-party.

Mayor Allyn addressed having an Owners Representative noting that the HVAC System that was installed in the Police Headquarters Facility when the building was constructed in 2016 has been disastrous. He stated if they had an Owner's Representative and a Commissioning Agent that the town probably could have saved tens of thousands of dollars in repairs to get it to work properly. He stated Owner's Representative, and a Commissioning Agent was like an insurance policy for all of us to know that the project was being done properly. Councilor Buhle stated that \$50,000 was not a lot of money, however, she stated to make sure their project was completed correctly and efficiently, that it makes sense to have the Owners Representative.

Mr. Gush stated in working with Finance Director Matthew Bonin that he suggested they request an additional appropriation of \$1,250,000 because of the uncertainty of inflation and the tariffs that the project could come in more than expected, noting he was airing on side of caution. Mayor Allyn explained if the project comes in higher than the approved Bond Authorization that they would have to go back through the Referendum Process again, noting that this was already the third time the townspeople were being asked to vote on these Various Board of Education Projects. He explained that if they do not spend the full amount that the Town would not Bond (borrow) more than the amount that was spent.

Councilor Saccone questioned how much State Grant Reimbursement the Town would receive for the Total Projects Cost of \$9,800,000. Mayor Allyn stated that the Town expected to receive a 61.78% Grant Reimbursement which was about \$5,282,190 for the total combined cost of the Board of Education Various Projects. However, he explained for the Juliet W. Long HVAC System that the State would only provide 61.78% reimbursement on the estimated project cost of \$2,225,000. He stated any cost over the estimated \$2,225,000 for the HVAC Project, that the Town would be responsible to pay.

Councilor Saccone questioned whether the Juliet W. Long School HVAC System was designed so that they would not have the same humidity problems that occurred with the Middle School and Gallup School HVAC Systems. Board of Education Director of Facilities & Grounds Wayne Donaldson stated that the Juliet W. Long School would not have humidity issues. He explained that the HVAC System would have a dehumidification built into the system. He went on to explain that the System would use a heat pump system, noting that the hot gas generated from the heat pumps would reheat the air. He stated when you dehumidify, you have to super chill the air to get the water out of it; but then it was too cold to put into the rooms, so they reheat the air a little bit to bring it to an acceptable temperature to go back in the rooms. He went on to explain that the Juliet W. Long HVAC System has been designed with a fresh air input that would take care of the carbon dioxide that we naturally produce. He stated that the HVAC System was designed as a 100% input of fresh air, noting that there was a recirculating wheel on the roof that would take the heat coming out and being exhausted and transfer that into the incoming air to try and make it as efficient as possible. He also noted with the Solar Array System that was being installed on the roof that it would offset a lot of the operational costs.

Councilor Buhle noted that Mr. Gush stated that they were planning to install the HVAC System over two summers (2025 & 2026). However, she stated that Mr. Donaldson mentioned that Nutmeg Industries was saying the HVAC System would be completed by November of 2025; therefore, she questioned the actual schedule. Mr. Donaldson stated the Contractor provided a time schedule for the work to completed sometime in November,

2025, because the System was designed as a heat pump system which would supplement or replace the existing boilers; and that they anticipate having functional air conditioning before the end of the school year for those hot days in May (2026).

Councilor Garcia-Irizarry noted when they were doing the construction work on the Gales Ferry School that they could not have the contractors working on the roof/overhead when the kids were in the building. Therefore, she questioned whether Nutmeg Industries would be working at the Juliet W. Long School when the kids were in the building. Mr. Donaldson explained that most of the work would hopefully be done during the summer. However, he stated that there would be some work that would continue into the school year, explaining that Nutmeg Industries would work a second shift, and would be on-site at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. He also explained that depending on the enrollment for next school year that the School would have 2 or 3 rooms, that they could use as supplemental classrooms to allow for quiet work during the day.

Mr. Donaldson continued by addressing working overhead with materials on the school roof and he explained that the Contractor could not lift any materials onto the roof when the kids were in the building. Therefore, he stated the Contractor would do some preparation work and would lift materials on to the roof on the weekends; after hours; or very early in the morning before the students arrive.

Councilor Buhle stated that there were a lot of residents and parents who were not paying attention to all of the details that have been delaying the Juliet W. Long HVAC Project, noting that they were just not seeing action. Therefore, she stated that she thought that they were ready to see action; and that they need to move forward on this Project.

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0	
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
AYES:	Jessica Buhle, Tony Saccone
EXCUCED:	Tim Ryan

3. MOTION to waive the reading in its entirety the “*Town Council Resolutions Approving Bond Resolutions And Calling Town Meeting*” to be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard to consider said Resolution; and adjourn to a vote at a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Lower Level – Registrar’s Office, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway.
Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: None.

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tony Saccone

EXCUSED: Tim Ryan

4. MOTION to approve “*Town Council Resolutions Approving Bond Resolutions And Calling Town Meeting*” to be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard to consider said Resolution; and adjourn to a vote at a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Lower Level – Registrar’s Office, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway.

Res: 003/2025/Apr 16 (b)

TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
APPROVING BOND RESOLUTIONS AND
CALLING TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED,

That the resolution entitled “**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$8,550,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION” TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO \$9,800,000**” is hereby approved and a copy of said resolution shall be attached to and incorporated into these minutes.

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Ledyard Town Council recommends that a town meeting, adjourned to referendum, adopt the above resolution entitled “**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$8,550,000 FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION” TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO \$9,800,000**” in accordance with Chapter VII, Sections 7 and 12 of the Town Charter.

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Chairman of the Town Council is authorized to call a hybrid (In-Person & Video Conference) Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89828041846?pwd=55NUbF7GikenhMJhLvnxAaCOcqakPo.1> or by audio only telephone 1-646- 558-8656; Meeting ID: 898 2804 1846; Passcode: 767185 Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, in the Town of Ledyard to consider said Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Town Council, pursuant to Section 14 of Chapter III and Section 9 of Chapter VII of the Town Charter, hereby designates for submission to the voters at

referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Lower Level – Registrar’s Office, 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway in the Town of Ledyard, in the manner provided by said Sections, action on the aforesaid Resolution to be presented to said Special Town Meeting, and directs the Town Clerk to give notice of such referendum vote.

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Chairman of the Town Council cause notice of the time, place and purpose of said Special Town Meeting and Referendum to be posted and published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the aforesaid Resolution shall be placed upon the ballot under the following heading:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF LEDYARD APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$1,250,000 (INCREASING THE APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION TO AN AGGREGATE \$9,800,000) FOR VARIOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?”

Voters approving the Resolution will vote “Yes” and those opposing the Resolution shall vote “No”. Voting will be held at the usual polling places in the Town. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

Approved by the Ledyard Town Council on: _____

S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: It was noted that this Resolution was to set the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. which would adjourn to a Referendum on the voting machines on Tuesday, May 20, 2025; along with the Annual Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget.

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tony Saccone

EXCUSED: Tim Ryan

5. MOTION to recommend the Town Council to authorize overspending Account #10110101-5310 (Legal Fee) thru June 30, 2025.
Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Brunelle

Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, noted that this Legal Fee Account was for Land Trust Issues, and he noted that as the Finance Committee was aware the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation was actively seeking to take four other parcels In-Trust.

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Buhle

VOTE:

2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

MOVER: Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor

SECONDER: Tony Saccone, Town Councilor

AYES: Jessica Buhle, Tony Saccone

EXCUSED: Tim Ryan

6. MOTION to recommend the Town Council adopt a “*Fair Housing Resolution - Town of Ledyard*” as contained in the draft dated April 14, 2025.

[DRAFT: 4/14/2025](#)

Res : 004–2025/Apr _____

**FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION
TOWN OF LEDYARD**

WHEREAS, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

WHEREAS, Federal Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, veteran status, or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, veteran status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Ledyard is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Ledyard hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Ledyard or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any

person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Ledyard and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Adopted by the Ledyard Town Council on _____

S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

I Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk of the Town of Ledyard, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Town Council held on April 23, 2025, and that such resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked, and is at present in full force and effect:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has affixed his signature and corporate seal on this _____ day of _____ 2025.

(Town Seal)

Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

Moved by Councilor Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Mayor Allyn, III, stated the "*Fair Housing Resolution*" was a "housekeeping" type of items that the Town Council was required to annually adopt a "*Fair Housing Resolution*" for the Town to be in compliance with state regulations and to be eligible to apply for and receive certain Grant Funds to support fair housing.

VOTE: 2- 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

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

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

The Finance Committee discussed the importance for the Finance Committees of the Town Council and Board of Education to meet on a regular basis in an effort to have open conversations regarding the many issues that face both the community and the school district as they work to collaborate and find solutions for the town.

Councilor Saccone stated that he would contact Board of Education Finance Committee Chairman Ty Lamb to obtain some dates that they would be available.

RESULT: CONTINUED

Next Meeting 5/07/2025: 5:00 p.m.

8. MOTION to recommend the Town Council authorize the resubmission of the 2025 COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Grant Application in the amount of up-to \$240,000 through the 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending initiative, to replace the Ledyard Dispatch Emergency Communications CAD/RMS System.

Moved by Chairman Buhle, seconded by Councilor Saccone

Discussion: Councilor Buhle, attending remotely via Zoom, provided some background explaining at their April 10, 2024 meeting the Town Council approved to submit the 2025 Grant Application *COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Grant* Application in the amount of up-to \$240,000 under the 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending initiative, to replace the Ledyard Dispatch Emergency Communications

CAD/RMS System. She explained that Ledyard's Project/Grant Application received approval through the Appropriations Committee and that they were waiting for Congress to approve the Continuing Resolution to allocate the funding. However, she stated in March, 2025 Senator Richard Blumenthal's Office provided an update regarding the Continuing Resolution that Congress passed, noting that the Resolution did not fund the Congressionally Directed Spending Program for Community Projects that had been submitted for the current fiscal year (fy 24/25). She went on to note that Senator Blumenthal's Office explained that should Ledyard choose to resubmit their request in 2026 for the \$240,000 COPS Technology Grant that Ledyard's Application would have top priority at the top of the list.

Councilor Buhle went on to explain on April 14, 2025 she and Chairman Rodriguez were notified that the Application Period for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Program for Community Projects had opened but that it would close on April 20, 2025. Therefore, she stated because of the short Grant Application submission period they needed to act quickly to authorize resubmitting Ledyard's 2025 *COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment Grant* Application in the amount of up-to \$240,000 for the 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Program.

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0

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

9. Any other New Business proper to come before the Committee

- MOTION to recommend the Town Council authorize the transfer (carry over) of all remaining funds the Conservation Commission CNR Fund #21090305-58922 (Trail Maintenance) from Fiscal Year 2023/2024 to Fiscal Year 2024/2025, in accordance with Ordinance 300-018 "*An Ordinance Establishing a Conservation Commission for the Town of Ledyard*".

Moved by Councilor Saccone, seconded by Councilor Buhle

Discussion: Mr. James Harwood, 10 Eska Drive, Ledyard, Conservation Commission Member, explained that in accordance with Ordinance #300-018 “*An Ordinance Establishing a Conservation Commission for the Town of Ledyard*” that annual surpluses from the Conservation Commission’s operating budget, starting with the end of the Fiscal Year 2018 budgetary year, were to be appropriated to the CNR Account #21090305-58922 (Tree Removal from Trails). He stated that Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained that once the Annual Audit for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 was completed that the funds could be transferred.

Councilor Saccone questioned the balance of the Conservation Commission CNR Fund #21090305-58922 (Trail Maintenance). Finance Director Matthew Bonin stated the current balance was 3,083.75.

VOTE: 2– 0 Approved and so declared

RESULT: APPROVE TO RECOMMEND 2 – 0	
MOVER:	Jessica Buhle, Town Councilor
SECONDER:	Tony Saccone, Town Councilor
AYES:	Jessica Buhle, Tony Saccone
EXCUSED:	Tim Ryan

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE: **2 - 0 Approved and so declared**, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Saccone, Sr.
Committee Chairman
Finance Committee