

**Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services  
Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, January 2, 2024; 5:00 PM**

**YFS Commission Meeting Playlist:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbEt7-HiGQ8lg0PvMBKyiD3YRDhLnur-W>

*“To collaboratively support and advocate for positive relationships in an inclusive community.”*

<p><b>I. Roll Call</b></p>	<p><b>Attendant Members:</b> Mike Rafferty, Chair; Michael Spera, Chief of Police; Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation; David Plotkin, At-Large Member; Mary Ann Iadarola, Public Health Nursing Board Representative; Lisa Castro, Old Saybrook Middle School Counselor; Jeff Harder, Community At-Large Member <b>Absent Members Excused:</b> Jonathan Paradis, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation</p> <p><b>Attendant Student Representative(s):</b> C. Castro <b>Absent Student Representative(s):</b> B. Cassella, W. Percival</p> <p><b>Attendant Staff:</b> Heather McNeil, Executive Director</p>
<p><b>II. Call to Order</b></p>	<p>Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by M. Rafferty Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<p><b>III. Comments from the Public</b></p>	<p><b>Member of Public:</b> Brittany Eckert No Comments</p>
<p><b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Motion</b> made by D. Plotkin to approve the minutes of Tuesday; December 5, 2023, as presented. The motion was seconded L. Castro and approved. Abstain: M. Spera</p>
<p><b>V. Chairman’s Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy December Holidays. Healthy &amp; Happy 2024!</li> </ul>
<p><b>VI. Director’s Report for 1/02/2024</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>H. McNeil – Budget for approval</u></b> -S. Consoli (Social Services Coordinator) present FY25 SS budget \$116,555 (up 1% over FY24 led by increases in salary and benefits – standard yearly increases) FT hours and PT Assistant hours have remained the same. -Chief Spera motion to approve budget as presented by S. Consoli, M. Iadarola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. -Quiana Peralta filling in temporarily as assistant. Previously worked/interned at OSYFS. Bi-lingual, very knowledgeable &amp; experienced.</li> <li>-YFS budget: FY25 \$625,375 (up 1.41% over FY24) increase in salary and benefits- PT coordinator in place. -Chief Spera motion to approve budget as presented by H. McNeil, M. Iadarola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. -Chief Spera: how much the ARPA funding is to keep the 5 additional hrs. for the positions currently using ARPA? -Chief Spera: Review programs again at YFS, P&amp;R, Acton Library, not duplication of programs &amp; services – to streamline YFS staff to report to another agency. Ongoing, especially as registration for after school programming has gone down -needs assessment to see what community needs, partner with P&amp;R and Acton Library. -YFS also does billing (i.e. outside billing service) – not done at town hall.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Holiday Giving Stats</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No reported issues. Thank you to the Chief, his staff, YFS staff.</li> <li>-167 children, 64-67 families (decrease of approx. 30 families) – some children aged out, some moved away, or other various reasons.</li> <li>-Thank you to the schools for getting forms to us.</li> <li>-Scheduled 2 evenings with a bilingual assistant to help fill out the forms.</li> <li>-Others helped from surplus of OS Holiday Giving – families of DCF, ACES.</li> <li>-Still interested in adding a Bi-lingual social worker to YFS (ongoing since ARPA funding)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b><u>Proposed Meeting Schedule 2024</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Months commission not meeting, would like people working on our bylaws.</li> <li>- Plan not to meet Feb, April, July, August</li> <li>- Chief Spera motion to approve schedule, L. Castro 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b><u>Other</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congrats to C. Castro on Fairfield Univ. (Business Mgmt) &amp; running scholarship.</li> <li>- Commend M. Iadarola on consistently reporting back to PHNB about YFS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>VII. Old Business</b>	Nothing to report.	
<b>VIII. New Business</b>	Nothing to report.	
<b>IX. Other Business</b>	Nothing to report.	
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn M. Spera, motion seconded by D. Plotkin Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.	

Submitted by,  
Angela Gaidry, Recording Clerk