



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Office of the Board of Selectmen

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

Telephone (860) 395-3123 • FAX (860) 395-3125

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) AD HOC COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES HYBRID MEETING

Thursday, September 29, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First-floor Conference Room

To access a recording of this meeting: <https://youtu.be/7WK49Hic7Do>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the chair, Mr. Carlson.

Members Present: Bruce Carlson (Chair), Susan Esty (Vice-chair), Judy Sullivan, Kacie Hand, Brad Thorpe and Elizabeth McEvily.

Members Absent: Maureen Zavatone (Secretary) and Kristen Roberts.

Others Present: Carl Fortuna, Matthew Pugliese, Heather McNeil, Susan Consoli, Jennifer Donahue, Elizabeth Steffen, Mike Rafferty and Eric Dussault.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Rafferty noted that he was joining the meeting as the chair of YFS Committee, thanking the ARPA Committee for the chance to present their requests.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 13, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McNeil from Youth & Family Services and Ms. Consoli from Social Services attended the meeting to answer questions for committee members about their funding requests. Both reiterated that their departments have expertise in these areas and that money is used very wisely to stretch every dollar and leverage other available funding. Ms. Consoli explained that much of the requested money would be used to reduce the social service need in Old Saybrook, which is too high since the pandemic to remain sustainable. This will be done by helping people get back to work by accessing available job and training services, teaching budgeting skills, and purchasing computer hardware in bulk to distribute to those who need it to be connected. This is a two-year plan to

help reduce the social service rolls and get people back to a baseline who were disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Ms. McNeil discussed her addendum to the request and answered many inquiries about the funding request for a bilingual therapist. Discussion centered around what languages would be addressed, what needs were COVID-related versus pre-existing, would this service overlap what is being done in the schools, and how would this be sustainable beyond the funding. Ms. McNeil explained that the need was not redundant and noted upcoming ways that they intended to secure further funding in the future.

Mr. Fortuna complimented Ms. McNeil and Ms. Consoli on their good work and committee members thanked them for clarifying their requests and the town's needs.

Committee members discussed remaining applications.

- It was agreed that the Social Service request for \$247,000 should be sent to the Board of Selectmen for recommendation for approval.
- The Fire Department request was put on hold pending discussion amongst town stakeholders regarding the best approach and whether other grant funding is available
- HOPE Partnership request for \$25,000 was sent to the Board of Selectmen for recommendation for approval.
- The American Legion request was put on hold pending more information related to net loss related to COVID. Mr. Carlson will contact.
- The VFW request was put on hold pending more information related to net loss related to COVID. Mr. Carlson will contact.
- The Connecticut Cancer Foundation request was put on hold following discussion. Need clarification on how much funding is directed to OS community, why projected losses are included and whether funding is being sought from other communities. Mr. Carlson will contact.
- UR Community Cares request was not recommended for funding after discussion.
- Maritime Education Network request was put on hold pending more information. Mr. Carlson will contact.
- Variety Video's SBA Loan request was not recommended for funding after discussion.
- Himalaya Café needs to provide more back up on how loss was determined. Mr. Carlson will contact.
- Pier Blue needs to provide more back up on how loss was determined. Mr. Carlson will contact.
- Sandra Roberts request was discussed with some additional clarification needed. Mr. Carlson will contact.
- OS Works request was not recommended for funding as it is redundant with other established programs.
- KUR's request was put on hold so that small businesses could be dealt with together for uniform treatment.
- Mind Matters request was not recommended for funding.

- \$aybucks giveaway administered through ScierkaLang was sent to the Board of Selectmen for recommendation for approval.
- The Old Saybrook Coastal Restoration request was put on hold.
- The Maple Court Water Main request was not recommended for funding.
- The Riverside Cemetery request was not recommended for funding.
- Ms. McNeil's request for YFS will be addressed in two weeks.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no additional comments from the committee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thorpe made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Ms. McEvily seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on October 11, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Town Hall first-floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue