



**LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
COMMITTEE REPORT
REVIEW OF YFSB/SENIOR CITIZENS ORDINANCES (RTC 8/5/24)**

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Background

Aug. 15, 2024 Committee Meeting. Initial consideration of issue; Senior Citizens Commissioner who had been told RTM planned to combine the board and commission and wanted to comment was invited to participate in the discussion. Chair explained that the purpose of review was to determine what changes were involved in the 2021 “reorganization” and whether ordinances that lay out responsibilities and reporting structure in town government needed revision to remain accurate. Committee assured Commissioner that all meetings were open to the public, members of both parties would be invited to provide information on the new arrangement, and that there would be a public hearing if ordinance revisions were proposed.

(Referral request, ordinances, and legal opinions available with meeting agenda at waterfordct.org)

Feb. 13, 2025 Committee Meeting. Human Services Administrator offered public comment and was included in discussion later in the meeting. She stated that everyone, including her union, was happy with the new arrangement and urged the committee to report the issue out with a recommendation to take no action because the RTM did not have authority to challenge the First Selectman’s authority. Several committee members explained that under a checks-and-balance system—and as the legislative body—the RTM did have authority to review/revise ordinances and assured her that members of both the YFSB and Senior Citizens Commission were invited to participate in future discussions, to ask questions and provide information before any decisions were made.

Current Committee Action

Jan. 21, 2026 Committee Meeting. Initial committee meeting; general overview of all pending issues. Committee discussion resulted in consensus that this item should be given discussion time at a future meeting and that Dani Gorman, human services administrator, the Senior Citizen’s Commission, and the first selectman should be invited to that meeting to participate in the discussion. Scheduling will be attempted to accommodate committee members and invited participants.

Feb. 9, 2026. Committee Meeting. The Committee discussed the combined position of Director of Youth and Family Services and Director of Senior Services. The Committee noted that the First Selectman has authority over staffing decisions and that the joint position was created in consultation with advisory groups and the union, with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) governing the arrangement. Dani Gorman, who serves as Director of both departments, spoke in support of maintaining the current ordinance language. Based on the discussion, the Committee concluded that no ordinance change is necessary at this time.

Recommendation: The Committee voted unanimously to report this item out of committee with the recommendation that the RTM take no further action because there is an MOU that covers this position.

Submitted by:
Erica Casper
Chair, Legislation & Administration Standing Committee
Representative Town Meeting
Town of Waterford