



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

OCTOBER 25 & NOVEMBER 1, 2021
COMMISSIONER AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

October 25, 2021
(Special Meeting)

- Emergency Services Update
- Strategic Planning Grants
- ARP Recovery Funds

November 1, 2021

(November Commission Meeting)

- Public Comment
- Adoption Awareness Month
- Cone Health Update
- Food Systems Assessment
- Historic Courthouse Museum Feasibility Study Update
- Detention Center Update



Critical issues facing our community and county government have never been greater as we progress in the 3rd decade of the 21st Century. The Randolph County Board of Commissioners holds regular public meetings on the first Monday of each month, beginning at 6:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room at the Historic Courthouse, 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C. At each meeting, issues impacting our county and citizens are presented and evaluated by the County Commissioners.

Randolph County government is committed to providing citizens with the opportunity to access information and obtain the latest news and public updates regarding the county and its government. The Randolph-Recap is a new addition to the Randolph County web page. It will provide monthly highlights and summaries from County Commissioner meetings. It will also highlight information on current issues facing the County Commissioners and the Departments and agencies of Randolph County government. The Randolph-Recap will serve as one of many communication outlets that will be used to update and communicate with our Randolph County citizens.

We hope the Randolph-Recap is helpful to you and would appreciate your input and comments as we move forward.



Hal Johnson
Randolph County Manager



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

OCTOBER 25, 2021
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Strategic Planning Grants

Randolph County set aside annual landfill revenues in reserve funds to support well-being initiatives identified in the 2016 Strategic Plan. On October 25th, Commissioners approved the use of Strategic Planning Funds for seven projects.

The Town of Liberty was awarded \$99,000 for outdoor community engagement and depot preservation.

The Town of Seagrove was awarded \$108,000 for downtown Seagrove sidewalks.

The Randolph County Partnership for Children was awarded \$50,000 for an early childhood community survey.

The Randolph County Family Crisis Center was awarded \$134,207 in funding for Emmy's House.

The Randolph County Partnership for Children was awarded \$250,000 for the Library Based Navigators program.

The Town of Liberty was awarded \$99,000 for the Liberty Heritage Museum.

The Asheboro/Randolph Chamber awarded \$50,000 for The Business Gym, an online program to support local businesses.

Emergency Services Updates

Hal Johnson, County Manager, shared that Randolph County has made major advancements in Emergency Services. "This has been a major number one priority of the Board of County Commissioners over the last several years." said Johnson.

Advancements include the addition of three ambulance bases (Coleridge, New Hope, and Trinity), new medical equipment for ambulances and paramedics, new headquarters facility, the addition of a morgue, and transition from twenty-four to twelve-hour shifts with twenty-four new position allocations. Commissioners also authorized a salary and position classification study that allowed Randolph County to make emergency medical staff salaries comparable with adjoining counties.

"The County has addressed every issue facing emergency services in a proactive manner" said Johnson. The pandemic has had a significant impact on Emergency Services and led to a personnel shortage. Currently, there are eleven full-time vacancies and eight paramedic vacancies.

To address current emergency services challenges, Commissioners approved four actions as immediate and ongoing measures to increase and maintain staffing levels. These initiatives include a \$4500 sign-on bonus for paramedic positions, a \$200 bonus per additional shift worked, and reclassification of the Emergency Intake Specialist position to Telecommunicator. Additionally, Holiday Buyback, compensation for accrued holiday leave, was approved as an ongoing measure to recognize and retain emergency staff.

ARP Recovery Funds

Randolph County believes that final approval of American Rescue Plan allotments should wait until US Treasury requirements are final. According to legislation, ARP funds should respond to the negative effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Presently, the US Treasury has only issued an interim ruling defining the use of funds, but there has been no final guidance. Darrell Frye, Commissioner Chair, explained that Randolph County "is giving this a lot of due diligence, we want to be deliberate in this process."



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

COMMISSIONER AGENDA SUMMARY

NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

November is recognized nationally as Adoption Awareness Month. Adoption Awareness Month aims to provide permanent homes to as many children as possible, highlight the number of children waiting for permanent homes, and appreciate the adults who open their hearts and their homes to our children and youth.

The Randolph County Department of Social Services presently serves over 200 children in substitute care who live apart from their birth families.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners recognizes November as Adoption Awareness month and urges its citizens to acknowledge and support this observance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Commissioners were urged to adopt a resolution declaring Randolph County a sanctuary for life. This resolution would encourage Randolph County citizens to promote and defend the inalienable right to life and the inherent dignity of all human beings, including the preborn from conception through all stages of development. "We all have value. We are all worthy of respect, dignity, and protection from oppression, abuse and injustice." said Brent Tysinger.

Mr. Tysinger, a local pastor and lifelong resident of Randolph County, believes that adoption of the proposed resolution by Randolph County Commissioners would be a step in the right direction.

In 2018, one hundred fifty-four abortions took place in Randolph County. Caralynn Vaughn, Executive Director of Your Choices Randolph, and advocate of the proposition, believes that Randolph County has the resources to meet the needs of women and families affected in ways other than abortion. "Abortion is a long-term solution to a very short-term problem." said Vaughn. Commissioners agreed that abortion is prevalent in Randolph County and that the proposed resolution will be an action item on the December agenda.

Randolph County Commissioners also heard discussion from individuals both in favor and opposition of removing the Confederate Monument in front of the Randolph County Historic Courthouse. Maria Foust, a sophomore at Southwestern Randolph High School, believes that although conversations surrounding this issue are uncomfortable, it is a discussion the commissioners must have.

Two Randolph County citizens, who have lived outside of Randolph County, but both recently moved back, spoke in favor of removing the statue from its current location and urged the commissioners to take immediate action.

Dwain P. Roberts, Chief Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, believes that the statue should stay in its current location, as it is a monument erected in honor of past Randolph County citizens and taxpayers.

Roger Johnson, a Randolph County resident, shared that he was a lover of all history and that it would be heartbreaking to erase or change any part of history. He believes the monument does not represent slavery but instead represents those who fought for their home and way of life. Mr. Johnson believes the monument should stay in its current location.



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NOVEMBER 1, 2021
COMMISSIONER AGENDA SUMMARY

Cone Health Updates

Cone Health was originally slated to have a hospital in Randolph County. Although that plan did not come to fruition, settlement of the sale of Randolph Hospital included forty percent ownership by Cone Health of the Randolph Hospital Cancer Center.

For this reason, Cone must build a standalone cancer center in Randolph County. Darrell Frye, Commissioner Chair, reported that Cone Health currently has sixty million dollars budgeted to erect a new cancer center in Randolph County.

“Their new executive leadership is sincere in their willingness and intent to deal professionally and respectfully with Randolph County. They look forward to having this facility here.”
said Frye.

Food Systems Assessment

In 2020, the Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council assessed data in several research areas, including food security, supply chains, food and farm production, and economic development. The assessment returned the following findings.

Randolph County has a 12% food insecurity rate. Also, at 12% is the increase of SNAP/FNS applications in Randolph County from 2019-2020. Currently, Randolph County is home to 620 food businesses in 7 industry sectors. Data shows uneven distribution amongst age groups in Randolph County principal producers, with over half being 55 and over. There is also a sizable gap between men and women that are principal producers, with a 75-25% split. In terms of race, over 97% of Randolph County principal producers are white.

The Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council provided recommendations to address the study findings including, more coordinated support, opportunities for institutional purchasing, and investment in infrastructure. Commissioner Allen noted that these issues have become increasingly important and visible during the pandemic. “These issues will not go away soon, but that there is opportunity for counties to get involved and provide services.” -David Allen, Randolph County Commissioner.



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COMMISSIONER AGENDA SUMMARY

Historic Courthouse Museum Feasibility Update

Ross Holt, Randolph County Library Director, presented a preliminary design and cost estimate study of the feasibility of placing a local history museum on the first floor of the Historic 1909 Randolph County Courthouse is complete.

Report findings conclude that the first floor of the courthouse is well-suited for a museum. However, long-term use of the building, including continued use of the upstairs as the Commissioner's Meeting Room, will require significant modifications to meet fire codes and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

While placing museum exhibits on the first floor is expected to cost in the \$300,000 range, the entire project cost inclusive of building modifications is estimated at \$2,836,321. About one-third of this cost is the addition of a fully ADA-compliant elevator silo on the east side of the building. Other critical items include replacement of the rear stair, HVAC replacement for the basement and first floor, and water intrusion remediation in the basement. The estimated timeline for this project is two years.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners approved a capital project ordinance, with an initial budget of \$198,600 for design, to account for costs related to updating the Randolph County Historic Courthouse, including the plan to use the first floor as a county museum.

Detention Center Updates

Randolph County Detention Center renovations are in the second of four total phases, with project completion expected in 2022. Paxton Arthurs, County Engineer, requested additional fund allocation to address life, safety, and health concerns identified by the sheriff's department.

These issues include; replacement of existing lights in inmate areas, replacement of lights in cells with nightlight features, replacement of glazing in G-pod recreation yard, sneeze guards at officer stations to protect against COVID, and air ionization units to protect against infectious disease.

Randolph County Commissioners approved a change order to the existing contract of \$334,927 to the owner contingency allowance. Commissioners also added \$20,000 to the project budget to purchase air ionization units and approved the associated budget adjustment.

Will Massie, Assistant County Manager and Finance Director, explained that this additional funding would come from interest earned on sales tax refunds, from the detention center project. These funds are accessible without borrowing additional money.

Commissioner Frye thanked Major Phillip Cheek and his team at the detention center for their service and diligence in working through the pandemic for the last two years.

