



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

JUNE 6, 2022

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

June 6, 2022)

- Public Comment
- Fire Tax Districts
- Children's Home Society TogetherWorks Program
- Seagrove Sewer Design
- Sandhills Center Update
- Contract Addendum for I-74 Industrial Site
- Ramseur Public Library Considerations



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 the various communication outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and print media, that will 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



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Public Comment

- Tim Saunders, a Randolph County resident, expressed his appreciation and thankfulness for the Randolph County Board of Elections staff. **“The ladies that work at the board of elections are real jewels. They are excellent, honest, straightforward people who deserve our everlasting appreciation for the job they do,”** said Saunders.
- Pat Chamberlain, a Randolph County citizen, expressed concern about what she considers a rushed vote in March regarding the issue of the Confederate statue at the historic courthouse. **“The problem is not going to go away. There are people all across the country and across this state removing confederate monuments because it is the right thing to do. I am asking you to take some sort of action to move this problem forward,”** said Ms. Chamberlain.
- Dwain Roberts, Randolph County resident, and Commander, Sons of Confederate Veterans, individually thanked commissioners for their vote to leave the statue in front of the Randolph County Historic Courthouse.

Public Comment

- David Poe, a Randolph County resident, expressed concern over potential flooding and damages that could be caused to his Asheboro property if nearby trees are cut down. **“Our property and that of others will be affected. Erosion and soggy areas become worse with mold, possible structural damage, and collapse of home walls. I have this concern,”** said Poe.
- Josh Britton, Executive Director, Mt. Shepherd Retreat Center, shared concerns about the increasingly overwhelming burden on the foster care system and Randolph County Department of Social Services. **“I speak tonight to urge you our county commissioners to seriously considered a creative proposal for a public-private partnership to address this crisis. The fact of the matter is that whether we do it on the front end or back end our county will spend exorbitant resources caring for this crisis,”** said Britton.
- Franklin Suggs, Randleman resident, shared concerns over the handling of the Confederate monument issue. **“This indifferent attitude from public servants is alarming but not surprising. Is this how you treat your constituents like they don’t matter?”** asked Suggs.
- Ken Rhoads, a Randolph County citizen, expressed concerns over potential damages to his Asheboro property that could occur if nearby trees are cut. **“The problem is that the land is sloped. The last time they clear-cut that section there was an infestation of rodents in the Pincroft Village neighborhood which is overwhelming. We have children in the neighborhood,”** shared Rhoads.
- Chip Foust, President, Randolph County NAACP, expressed concerns about the recent decision by commissioners to leave the Confederate statue in front of the historic courthouse. **“We will not be quiet in the face of this injustice,”** said Foust.
- Brad Barber, a Liberty resident, expressed concerns about property grade elevation changes. **“The tax office can go in and look at your taxes and decide to make an arbitrary change to the overall value of your property. I am asking you to look into this matter and seek a review,”** said Mr. Barber.



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Fire Tax Districts

Current fire protection districts have a fifteen-cent cap on the tax rate. At the March meeting, commissioners officially moved forward to abolish the currently capped county service districts for fire protection for Climax, Franklinville, Guil-Rand, and Westside areas and replace them with districts that do not have that limitation on taxation.

Each proposed new service district contains the same properties currently contained, in the capped districts, for those areas.

Commissioners voted unanimously to abolish the fifteen-cent cap on Climax, Franklinville, Guil-Rand, and Westside fire protection county service districts and create new uncapped service districts.

Children's Home Society TogetherWorks Program

TogetherWorks is a resident-driven process grounded in research that supports families and decision-makers in determining key drivers for child welfare involvement, identifying local priorities that strengthen the community and keep families together, and developing and testing solutions to prevent costly child welfare interventions. The program is founded on research showing that civic participation in addressing shared priorities reduces rates of substance use and violence in communities while improving physical and mental health, all of which are strongly correlated with child welfare involvement. The process relies heavily on the expertise of families with "lived experience" to develop community-based solutions. The program also works to facilitate the prevention of child maltreatment through research-based strategies such as economic security and social connections.

The Children's Home Society is seeking \$200,000 per year for three years to develop the TogetherWorks program in Randolph County. If the requested funding from the County is awarded, CHS intends to raise and invest an additional \$750,000 over the same three-year period. Earlier this year, Randolph County awarded Strategic Planning Grant funding to CHS to complete a community assessment analyzing areas of need for Randolph County.

"The overwhelming conclusion is that outcomes are moving in the wrong direction for families. At every stage of data received from DSS, we saw more and more family stress. More services being required, increased intensity of those services, and we saw repeatedly more and more families cycling through the system. This was found to be very overburdening to the DSS System. They are really feeling the impact of this increased stress on families." said Donna Wood, Strategy Director, Institute for Family.

"The big result of this would be to work towards declining the consistent increase of families within the foster care system," said Commissioner McDowell in response to the presentation.

Commissioners did not vote or make any decisions at the June Board Meeting on whether the proposal would be accepted or project funded.



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Seagrove Sewer Design

Ulah Metropolitan Water District has applied for ARPA funds for an expansion of their Waste Water Treatment Plant to 175,000 gallons per day at a cost due to anticipated development.

The County received only one bid from LKC Engineering Firm. The firm anticipates a two-year turnaround for design and construction if awarded the contract.

Commissioners voted unanimously to award the contract to LKC Engineering for design, bidding, and construction administration for the expansion project, and the associated budget amendment in the amount of \$343,500.

Sandhills Center Update

Sandhills Center is requesting \$844,000 in county funding for the fiscal year 2022-2023. All county funding received is directed in support of local County Behavioral Health Urgent Care Centers and other designated services/programs.

Sandhills Center staff will continue to meet with Randolph County management to review the use of current county allocations and identify behavioral health service areas in the county that may have been underserved and identify how available funding could be used to impact those areas.

Victoria Whitt, Sandhills Center, CEO, shared that Sandhills corporate offices would soon be relocating to a newly constructed building on New Century Drive in Asheboro.

“I would like to commend Victoria and her staff. In the last couple of years, there have been many changes, with consolidations and the staff just continues to push through. The staff has been a pleasure to work with and very well thought of and respected amongst the other LME-MCOs. I appreciate all you do,” said Vice-Chairman Allen.

The Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organization serves Randolph County, along with ten other counties, by offering treatment and support for mental health, intellectual/developmental disorders, and substance use disorders.



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Contract Addendum for I-74 Industrial Site

At the March Board Meeting, a contract was awarded to the Wooten Company for design, bidding, and construction administration for the sewer to serve the I-74 industrial site.

Indications are that the capacity of the proposed industrial site is estimated at 150,000. To serve the entire sewer basin capacity would need to be increased from 150,000 to 350,000 gallons a day, increasing the size of the gravity sewer and force main from 8 inches to 12 inches and also, extending the line by an estimated 8,800 feet.

The preliminary cost estimates for a full upgrade was slightly above \$7 million.

Commissioners voted to approve the amendment to the contract with the Wooten Company for \$82,350.

Ramseur Public Library Consideration

The operation of public libraries in Randolph County is a cooperative venture between the county and municipalities. Over time, governance arrangements between individual libraries and municipalities have changed.

The Randolph County system is currently comprised of four libraries operated by the county with significant municipal support (Asheboro, Archdale, and Franklinville) and three libraries operated by their municipalities with significant county support (Liberty, Ramseur, and Randleman).

The town of Ramseur has asked Randolph County to take over the operation of the Ramseur Public Library.

“The recommended county operation of the library will hopefully be helpful in bringing expenses more in line with revenue and also act as a best practice. This is in fact a best practice, especially when municipal budgets are tight and local libraries are not getting what they need. Library service in Archdale, Franklinville, and Seagrove has flourished since those library services came under the auspices of the County,”
Ross Holt, Randolph County, Library Director.

Commissioners did not move forward with a decision to take over operations of the Ramsuer Public Library at the June Board Meeting but plan to continue the discussion in the future.