



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

AUGUST 1, 2022

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Public Comment
- State of Emergency Termination
- Consider Animal Services Ordinances
- Workforce Development Board Realignment
- Sheriff's Office Additional Positions Request
- Consider USDA Loans through REMC for Farm, Food, and Family Event Center
- Consider Rural Transformation Grant for Farm, Food, and Family Event Center
- JDRC Project Change Order
- Wellness 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 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

- Franklin Suggs, Randolph County resident, shared his concerns regarding Commissioners unanimous vote on March 7 allowing the confederate statue to remain located in front of the historic courthouse.

"I would like to remind this board to be more thoughtful in presenting opinions and facts and to understand that blanket statements of any kind can denigrate a great number of Randolph County residents. Please consider my words and use them to serve all 100% of Randolph County's residents as you affirmed you would, not just in this issue but in all that you do," said Suggs.

Chairman Frye expressed that all Randolph County citizens have access to County services. **"100% of citizens in this county have access to every service we provide. 100% regardless of race, creed, or color. Whether its social services, public health or our schools. Every service this county provides is available to every living citizen in this county. This board has voted and taken action, as we were asked to do numerous times by both sides of this issue and we did that,"** said Chairman Frye.

Public Comment

- Dean Brown, Randolph County citizen, shared support for commissioners specifically regarding their handling of two issues within the past year. **"The two controversial votes that were made this year- one to protect the unborn, and one to reverence and respect the dead. We thank you for this and appreciate your support for both,"** said Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown insisted that issues be put to rest in order to move forward. **"The board has voted, they were asked to vote. This is over. Let's move on. Let's work on something to help people. Not only has the board voted in support of the memorial and in support of the unborn. I think the voters have also spoken,"** said Brown.
- Dr. Chuck Edgerton, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns regarding the Confederate Statue on the historic courthouse lawn. **"That statue stands for a lie about our county. Our county has been peaceful. This statue stands as a lie for what the true [Randolph County] history is. As long as that statue stands there, we will be working for justice here in Randolph County."** said Dr. Edgerton.
- Greg Auman, Randolph County citizen, referenced a local newspaper article regarding the commissioner's March vote to leave the confederate statue on the historic courthouse lawn. Mr. Auman raised concerns over information shared in the article, describing half of Randolph County's residents as being enslaved at the height of slavery. **"I guess it is easy to use someone else's quote to spread extreme inaccuracies. I am not condoning slavery by any means. However, the 1860 census of registered slaves by owners in Randolph County was 1,646. Not even close to half the population of this county,"** said Mr. Auman.
- Chip Foust, Randolph County NAACP President, agreed that 50% of Randolph County citizens were not enslaved but asked commissioners to focus on those that were. **"Yes, there were 1,600 slaves in Randolph County which is not half. But it was still 1,600 slaves. It was 1,600 people living in Randolph county in bondage. Those people were citizens of Randolph County. I don't for one second want us to diminish or act like that wasn't a big deal or an atrocity, because it was. It is time for us to stand up and do what is right,"** said Foust.



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State of Emergency Termination

On March 16, 2020, on behalf of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, Chairman Darrell Frye officially declared a State of Emergency for all unincorporated areas of Randolph County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective August 16, 2022, the board has determined that a State of Emergency no longer exists in Randolph County and thereby terminates its declaration of a local state of emergency and all restrictions and orders therein.

“This was primarily in reaction to the state of emergency that was imposed by the governor. But, in the event that things went worse or funds were available it would make Randolph County eligible to receive those funds to deal with the pandemic. We worked very well with our municipalities during those months. We had great help and cooperation not just from our municipalities but our departments as well.” said Chairman Frye.

Consider Animal Services Ordinances and Updated Bylaws

The purpose of Animal Services is to provide for the orderly, humane treatment of domesticated animals, to control and prevent the spread of rabies and other communicable diseases, to regulate the possession and harboring of exotic reptiles and wild and dangerous animals, to provide for the operation of an animal shelter for such animals, to appoint animal services officers as well as animal cruelty investigators, and to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens in Randolph County. At the August board meeting, Jonathan Moody, Animal Services Director, asked commissioners to consider bylaw amendments for the Animal Services Advisory Board. Moody also asked commissioners to consider repealing the previous animal services ordinance in order to adopt a new ordinance consistent with updated state laws and regulations. Full copies of the newly adopted ordinance and Animal Services Advisory Board bylaws are available upon request.

Commissioners voted to repeal the previous animal services ordinance, and adopt the revised version as presented to be effective August 1, 2022, and to adopt the resolution to amend the bylaws of the animal services advisory board.

Workforce Development Board Realignment

Regional Consolidated Services (RCS) is a Randolph-County based nonprofit that administers the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (amongst other programs) in Randolph County, along with a number of other counties. Recently, Governor Cooper requested that the NCWorks Commission conduct a study to assess whether realignment of the workforce development boards should be more consistent with prosperity zones. RCS is the administrative entity for the Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board (RPWDB). The 2022 RPWDB is composed of Alamance, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, and Randolph counties. Two of the five counties have already declared that they will seek realignment. The other three counties have yet to make a designation.

Commissioners voted to delay consideration of a resolution of statewide workforce board realignment to the regular September board meeting.



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Sheriff's Office Additional Positions Request

The City of Trinity's Council has agreed to contract three sheriff deputies for additional law enforcement coverage for the citizens of Trinity. This includes salary, fringe benefits, a one-time program investment fee to cover the costs of equipment and uniforms, annual operations fee to cover the costs of three vehicles, vehicle equipment installations, projected maintenance and fuel costs.

Additionally, the City of Trinity has agreed to remodel an existing office space to establish a sheriff's office annex in the City of Trinity. In return, the City of Trinity will off-set the operation fees paid to the county by \$500 per month, plus the cost of utilities.

"I think it will be great for that corner of the county, when it's all said and done and Trinity gets the help they need. It also frees up our patrol guy in that area that he's not responding to Trinity all the time. I think it is a win-win," said Commissioner Kidd.

Commissioners voted to approve the motion for three additional deputy positions funded by the City of Trinity and the associated budget amendment in the amount \$292,173.

Consider USDA Loans through REMC for Farm, Food, and Family Event Center

Randolph County has the opportunity to work with Randolph Electric Membership Corporation (REMC) to access USDA loan funds that can be used to support the Randolph County Farm, Food and Family Event Center. So far, two loans have been discussed, one specifically for the arena space and one for the event center space. This maximizes the amount that can be pulled down from the USDA. A public hearing was held, in which no speakers came forward to give comments during the hearing.

Commissioners adopted a resolution making the required findings, authorizing and approving the installment of a financial agreement, authorizing the Chairman to sign the loan documents and to approve the associated budget amendment in the amount of \$4M.

"I would like to thank Randolph Electric Membership for their efforts and support. This gets us to a good place as far as funding goes. They have been working on this for a pretty good while and this is a culmination of all their hard work. We do appreciate that," said Vice-Chairman Allen.

Consider Rural Transformation Grant for Farm, Food, and Family Event Center

The County recently applied for a new Rural Transformation Grant through the NC Department of Commerce and has been awarded \$900,000 for the construction of the Farm, Food, and Family Education Center. The Resilient Neighborhoods category offers grants focused on community development and quality of life improvements, such as eliminating food deserts, creating healthy living initiatives, and increasing access to affordable housing options, among other initiatives. This grant program is funded through ARPA and will require compliance with federal guidelines.

Commissioners voted to accept the NC Department of Commerce Rural Transformation Grant for the Farm, Food, and Family Education Center in the amount of \$900k authorized the Chairman to sign the grant documents and approved the associated budget amendment to the Agricultural Center Capital Project Fund.



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JDRC Project Change Order

In April, the County awarded a contract to Garanco Construction for the renovation of the old Child Support space for use by the Juvenile Day Reporting Center. Recently, there was an electrical inspection resulting in the emergence of an unexpected requirement. The inspector is not requiring the entire building be brought to code, however, he would like to see the current construction area be addressed.

Commissioners approved a change order to the contract with Garanco Construction to add \$20,750 for replacement existing non-metallic cables in the JDRC Renovation project, and authorized the County Manager to sign the change order.

Randolph County Wellness Update

Randolph County Wellness Administrator, Sam Varner, gave an update on the County Wellness Program. Recently, the program has added Asheboro Counseling and Wellness as its new counseling and therapy vendor. The critical incident stress management program has expanded from emergency services to Sheriff's Office, DSS, and Public Health. The wellness program is also currently working to expand the peer-to-peer support program for employees working in high-stress roles. The Pet Therapy program is also growing, now with additional support from Public Health to increase therapy dog visitations to all departments. Also, a longitudinal study is being conducted to analyze the county's biometric and claims aggregate data. The program is also working with Public Health to restart and expand its annual health fair to make it a community health fair.

"In our mission statement, the first phrase is critical. Our employees and their families are our most valuable resource. Without them we don't offer anybody, any services in Randolph County," said Commissioner Haywood.