



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

OCTOBER 3, 2022

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Hurricane Ian Update
- Public Comment
- Northstate/
Lumos GREAT grant
- 2023 Revaluation
- CISM
- Excise Tax Issues
- Detention Center Update
- Close-out of TMS Project
- 2023 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule
- Set Annual Special Joint Meeting



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.



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Hurricane Ian Update

On Friday, September 30th, at 1 pm, Chairman Darrell Frye issued a Local State of Emergency in anticipation of potential impacts from Hurricane Ian. The Randolph County Emergency Operations Center was activated shortly thereafter, at 2 pm.

Between 2 pm and 11 pm, Randolph County Emergency Services; answered, dispatched, or transferred 487 calls for service, EMS responded to 31 calls and transported 13 people, local fire departments responded to 174 dispatched calls, NCDOT and local fire departments responded to over 200 calls processed in the EOC, and local law enforcement responded to 109 calls.

North Carolina has officially been granted a FEMA Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Ian with an incident period beginning on September 28. Chairman Darrell Frye officially terminated the Local State of Emergency for all unincorporated areas of Randolph County on Monday, October 3 at 6 pm.

"I would just like to say thank you to all of our first responders of any kind that were out in the Hurricane," said Commissioner Haywood.

"We also can't thank enough our utility workers, electrical folks, our firefighters. They got out there and got roads cleared as quickly as they could. It was a very dangerous time and the folks who were out there in it absolutely deserve our appreciation," said Donovan Davis, Chief, Randolph County Emergency Services.



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Public Comment

- Joel McClosky, Randolph County citizen, shared support for a resolution recently passed by Asheboro City Council seeking relocation of the Confederate statue. **“As part of this community, we firmly support the recently adopted resolution by our city council without equivocation or hesitation. In doing so, we join with Asheboro City Council shoulder to shoulder that hate has no home here, and all are welcome,”** said McClosky.
- Kathleen Gee, Randolph County resident, shared a poem entitled Take It Down, authored by Randolph County resident Molly Bunch-Lyons. **“Take it down so we can move forward. Put it up somewhere else to remember the ancient war and how it shapes today’s fight.”**

Public Comment

- Nancy Bunch, Randolph County resident, shared her support for the local NAACP in their effort to relocate the Confederate statue. **“I support the Randolph County NAACP in their efforts to move the statue to a more suitable location. The continued display of this statue on the public lawn is the opposite of the stated policy of the City of Asheboro, to be a welcoming community to people of all backgrounds. We should love all people and welcome all people,”** said Bunch.
- Tim Saunders, Randolph County resident, urged citizens to consider volunteering opportunities with the Randolph County Board of Elections. **“It is your duty as a citizen, and too few of us feel that duty,”** said Saunders.
- Kevin Franklin, Director, Randolph County EDC, shared that Friday, October 7 is nationally designated as Manufacturing Day. Rather than celebrating for just one day, Randolph County EDC has proposed the celebration of Industry Appreciation Month throughout October. **“We celebrate Randolph County industry because of the positive impact that they have on our community. Nearly 30% of all jobs in Randolph County are in manufacturing specifically. That is over 14,000 jobs in manufacturing directly. Manufacturers are among our largest employers here in the community, and also the County’s largest taxpayers,”** said Franklin.

Commissioners officially adopted a resolution designating October as Industry Appreciation Month in Randolph County.
- Franklin Suggs, Randolph County resident, urged commissioners to consider relocation of the Confederate statue. Mr. Suggs feels that relocating the statue would not be synonymous with erasing history. **“History does not exist solely in monuments, nor does it cease to exist in the absence of them,”** said Suggs.



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Northstate/Lumos GREAT Grant

Derek Kelly, Senior Director of Marketing, Lumos, provided Commissioners with an update on the GREAT Grant program. Lumos, formerly known as Northstate Communications, was selected by the state of North Carolina as the GREAT Grant winner. The company recently committed to building fiber to 1M homes over the next five years.

“We are making a \$51M investment in Randolph County and Winston Salem. The Randolph County portion of that is about 15k homes that we will be building fiber to in Asheboro, and is about a 15 or 20-million-dollar investment that we will be making in Randolph County outside of grant programs,” said Kelly.

Commissioners approved a motion to amend the MOA with Lumos to state a \$50k local match and approved the associated budget amendment.

Public Comment

- Susan Richards, Randolph County resident, thanked commissioners for their hard work and commented on the high level of service received from various County departments. **“I’ve noticed some great things happening with our County. I’ve had some great experiences recently, and I wanted to share that. I’ve had experiences with planning and zoning, tax, and sheriff’s department and they are all awesome,”** said Richards.
- Clyde Foust, Randolph County NAACP President, shared reasons why the NAACP believes the Confederate statue should be relocated. **“We want the monument moved for two very specific reasons. The first reason is that as a true veterans memorial it would have to acknowledge the citizens of Randolph County who fought for the United States, and that monument does not. The second reason is because of the number of people and families in Randolph County who were adversely affected by the Confederacy. Those are the reasons we do not believe that monument belongs in front of where this body meets,”** said Foust.
- Eli Harmon, Randolph County citizen, expressed appreciation to commissioners for their March vote to keep the statue located on the Randolph County historic courthouse lawn. **“I would like to express my appreciation. I believe the correct determination was made in March. I believe there is a tiny minority who is keeping this issue alive in Randolph County. There is no logical endpoint to this whole thing. So, where does it end?”** asked Harmon.
- Bobby Allen, Randolph County resident, suggested that Commissioners put the Confederate statue issue to vote during the 2024 election. **“If the commissioners feel that this should be revisited it should go on the 2024 ballot. You can see what the true feeling of this county and community is,”** said Allen.



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2023 Revaluation

County Tax Administrator, Deborah Hill presented the proposed Schedule of 2023 Revaluation – Deborah Hill, Randolph County Tax Administrator, presented the proposed Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules for the 2023 countywide reappraisal of all real property, as required by NC General Statute 105-317(c), at the October Board Meeting.

The uniform schedule of values, standards, and rules used in appraising real property is to reflect the true value in money (market value) as defined in North Carolina General Statute 105-283.

Randolph County Commissioners approved a motion to set a public hearing on the Proposed True Value, Schedules, Standards, and Rules for November 7, 2022, at 6 pm.

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

Research shows that individuals in certain high-stress occupations, including first responders, are at increased risk for suicide. Mental health-related programs have proven to increase longevity in high-stress fields of work as well as decrease employee turnover. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) is best defined as a group of peers teaching others that they are normal human beings having normal reactions to an abnormal event. CISM components include; pre-crisis preparation, individual crisis intervention, demobilization and staff consult, diffusing, and critical incident stress debriefing. The program goals include; early recognition of potentially stressful situations, activation of the CISM team, suppression (setting up intervention), burnout prevention, and encouragement of overall well-being of personnel, careers, and families.

Randolph County's Emergency Services CISM program, created more than 20 years ago, specializes in first responders and is certified through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. The team now collaborates with the Randolph County Departments of Social Services and Public Health to create Peer-to-Peer programming. The Randolph County Sheriff's Office has already developed its own Peer-to-Peer support program within its department.



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Excise Tax Issues

It has been requested that the Board of Commissioners approve the refund of an overpayment of North Carolina Real Estate Excise Tax, as provided for in North Carolina General Statute 105-228.37.

Stegall & Clifford, PLLC requested the refund of excise tax paid on a deed that was accidentally recorded twice in Randolph County. Each deed was filed with excise stamps in the amount of \$580.00. Stegall & Clifford, PLLC is requesting a refund of the \$580.00 overpayment.

Randolph County commissioners approved the request to refund excise tax.

Randolph County Commissioners adopted a resolution to allow the County Manager and Finance Officer to approve a refund of excise tax.

Consider Abolishment of Current Fire Protection County Service Districts

Several years ago, county service districts were created for fire protection, first responder, rescue, and emergency services. These districts were created with a fifteen-cent cap on the tax rate to mirror the rural fire protection districts they were replacing. Recently, some fire departments servicing these districts indicated the need to request a tax rate in excess of the fifteen-cent cap, and it is expected that others will need to do so in the future. To remove the fifteen-cent tax cap, the current districts need to be abolished and replaced with districts that do not have the cap.

“The creation of a new county service district does not change the current fire tax rate, nor does it guarantee an increase in said rate. The County Commissioners shall continue to set tax rates in the same manner as before,” explained Chairman Frye.

Randolph County Commissioners adopted a Resolution Making the Required Findings, Setting a Public Hearing on the Matter, and directing the Associate County Attorney to Oversee the Publication and Mailing of Required Notices and Preparation of Required Reports for the Bennett Fire District, as presented.

Randolph County Commissioners adopted a Resolution Making the Required Findings, Setting a Public Hearing on the Matter, and directing the Associate County Attorney to Oversee the Publication and Mailing of Required Notices and Preparation of Required Reports for the Seagrove Fire District, as presented.

Randolph County Commissioners adopted a Resolution Making the Required Findings, Setting a Public Hearing on the Matter, and directing the Associate County Attorney to Oversee the Publication and Mailing of Required Notices and Preparation of Required Reports for the Southwest Fire District, as presented.

Randolph County Commissioners adopted a Resolution Making the Required Findings, Setting a Public Hearing on the Matter, and directing the Associate County Attorney to Oversee the Publication and Mailing of Required Notices and Preparation of Required Reports for the Ulah Fire District, as presented.



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Set Annual Special Joint Meeting

Randolph County Commissioners set the annual joint meeting with Randolph County School Board of Education for January 9, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

Detention Center Updates

Over the past few months, multiple construction security items were addressed using a large portion of the Owner Contingency approved by commissioners in July. The changes have resulted in a 48-day loss to the construction schedule. Also, at the start of construction, some site conditions indicated necessary plan changes requiring additional funding.

Despite a multi-year capital project fund already being established to account for Detention Center project costs, many of the aforementioned issues were identified during the renovation phase. To address these additional construction costs, budgeted funds can be moved from contingency. These funds were initially advanced to initiate the project design but were reimbursed from debt proceeds in 2019.

Randolph County Commissioners voted to approve the additional Owner Contingency in the amount of \$100k, to allow a 48-day time extension to the contract with Bordeaux Construction, and approved the budget amendment to the Detention Center Capital Project Fund.



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2023 Board Meeting Schedule

Randolph County Commissioners approved a resolution adopting the 2023 meeting schedule.

- Tuesday, January 3
- Monday, February 6
- Monday, March 6
- Monday, April 3
- Monday, May 1
- Monday, June 5
- Monday, July 10
- Monday, August 7
- Tuesday, September 5
- Monday, October 2
- Monday, November 6
- Monday, December 4

Close-out of Trinity Middle School Project

The County established a capital project to account for the construction costs of the Trinity Middle School (TMS) project. The project is now complete and came in under budget. Now that the project has been completed, the current project ordinance needs to be amended to reclassify the transfer of unused funds. \$1.9M was transferred to the General Fund for debt service. \$1.19M was transferred to the Northwest Randolph Human Services Center Capital Project.

Randolph County Commissioners approved budget amendments for the close-out of the Randolph County School's Capital Project Ordinance.