



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Public Comment
- Special Recognitions for Governor's Volunteers of the Year
- Adoption Awareness Month
- Children's Home Society Study Results
- Waste Management Annual Report
- Community Funding Allocations
- 100 Healthiest Workplaces in America Award
- Public Hearing-Proposed Schedules, Standards, and Rules for 2023 Reappraisal
- RFID Bid Results-Library
- Purchase of I-74 Property
- Consider Purchase of Sheriff's Office Vehicles
- Consider Request for Randolph County Elementary Schools SRO's
- 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.



Hal Johnson
Randolph County Manager



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Public Comment

Sharon Castelli, Superintendent, Uwharrie Charter Academy, briefed commissioners on the school system's latest updates and thanked them for their support.

"I am here to say thank you on behalf of the staff and students. Because without the community of stakeholders and your support, UCA would not be the successful school it currently is," said Castelli.

Dwain Roberts, Commander, Sons of Confederate Veterans, shared with Commissioners that he did not feel the confederate statue harm's the County's ability to attract new business.

"The rhetoric around our confederate monument is untrue. I recently learned that Archdale is receiving a new housing development. I also noticed two new businesses on Sunset Avenue," said Roberts.

Special Recognitions for Governor's Volunteers of the Year

Elizabeth Mitchell, Executive Director, United Way of Randolph County, and North Carolina Senator Dave Craven presented the Governor's Volunteer of the Year Awards at the November Commissioners Meeting. Volunteers who were selected are as follows:

- Phil Brown (posthumously) – Randolph County Senior Adults
- Annika Bestmann – Spirit Horse Ranch Rescue & Education Inc.
- Deborah Knapp – Randolph Health Volunteers Services
- Kyle Martin – Disabled American Veterans
- Kenita Matthews & Joanne Bostic – Our Daily Bread Kitchen, Inc.
- Drew Maerz – Boy Scouts of America, Old North State Council
- Sandra Lail – Randolph-Asheboro YMCA

Adoption Awareness Month

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. The National Adoption Month campaign seeks to increase awareness of adoption issues, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for teens in the foster care system, and emphasize the value of youth engagement. To learn more about National Adoption Awareness Month, visit the [National Child Welfare website](#).

The Randolph County Department of Social Services currently has 237 children living in foster care. One hundred eight of those children have adoption as their permanent plan.

Randolph County Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt a proclamation designating November as Adoption Awareness Month in Randolph County.



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Children's Home Society Study Results

In November of 2021, the Randolph County Partnership for Children requested funding from the County for an early childhood development survey to more effectively identify the needs of children and caregivers in Randolph County. The Partnership used the Institute for Families, a division of The Children's Home Society of NC, to complete this study. Donna Woods, Strategy Director, The Children's Home Society, presented the assessment findings to commissioners at the November meeting. The survey assessed trends around family well-being and provided insights on reducing the rising patterns of kids in foster care in Randolph County. The process took place between January and July of 2022 and included; an analysis of population health and DSS data, an environmental scan of assets and opportunities, over 100 resident interviews, and a media analysis of stories about child maltreatment. Recommendations from assessment findings are as follows:

- Enhance relationships between overburdened caregivers and historical decision-makers
- Expand shared decision-making processes that include caregivers that are most overburdened and co-create new solutions
- Invest in addressing the economic hardships that families are experiencing and transportation needs
- Shift investments more upstream to prevent families from entering the child welfare system
- Assess history of Randolph County to identify how past policies, practices, and investment patterns may link to present conditions
- Prioritize resources in areas with lower community health and wellness scores
- Supporting the digitization of DSS data to increase efficiency, information access, data-driven decisions, and ability to measure change over time
- Build community awareness about factors that overburden families and how the community can help

You may access the entire assessment at the Randolph County Government [website](#). A community breakfast will be hosted on Wednesday, December 7, from 7:30 – 9:00 am, at the Randolph County Senior Adults Association to share assessment results with citizens. All are welcome to attend.



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Waste Management Annual Report

In June 2014, Randolph County and Waste Management executed its original agreement to build and operate Great Oak Landfill. The agreement was amended in 2019 to reflect an increase in daily allowable tonnage. The landfill began receiving waste in 2017. Since June 2014, Waste Management has contributed nearly \$13M to Randolph County, with the 2021 payment being \$1.21M. The landfill continues to operate at a capacity average of about 3,000 tons per day.

“I will point out that you mentioned that about \$13M in funds has been generated. A lot of that money has gone to fund our strategic plan initiatives. That is something that I think has been really good for the community. We are hopeful to continue doing that, and are really appreciative of that,” said Vice-Chairman Allen.

“We really appreciate what you guys are able to do. I recognize that it is not an easy job, but we truly appreciate what you do for Randolph County,” said Commissioner McDowell.

“We learn something every time we have a meeting or are out in the community. It allows us to see what is most important and that is the citizens of Randolph County. We are honored to be a part of this community.” said Bob Peeler, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, Waste Management.



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Community Funding Allocations

With funding obtained in the State budget by Senator Dave Craven, the County was provided a grant for any public purpose. Since those funds were used to assist with ambulance replacement, the County can consider using the fund balance for special appropriations to community organizations that provide public services. Those appropriations total \$500k and support a number of community programs.

In addition, there has also been discussion around assisting Seagrove-Ulah with repairs to its existing wastewater treatment plant. The County has already contracted to have the repairs performed but has not formally designated the source of funding.

“It is because of the relationship we have in Raleigh with our state and county elected officials that we are able to be here and do this tonight. Often our citizens hear about the larger investments that are made from the state in our communities. However, sometimes there are needs that don’t always make it to the top of everyone’s list. Tonight, we are here to make some appropriations. The state sent the County \$600k to look at some of these areas,” said Craven. The following recommendations were made:

- Experience Liberty - \$25k
- Your Choices Randolph - \$50k
- Randolph County United Way - \$50k
- Former Civitan Club - \$10k
- Randolph County Family Crisis Center/Emmy House - \$20k
- Asheboro Downtown Development - \$10k
- Randolph County Sheriff’s Office - \$20k
- Randolph County Crime Stoppers - \$20k
- Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen - \$10k
- Randolph County Animal Shelter - \$20k
- Honoring Our Veterans - \$20k
- Asheboro Raiders Youth Football - \$5k
- Ramseur Food Pantry - \$5k
- Randolph County Honor Guard - \$5k
- Petty Family Foundation - \$20k
- Habitat for Humanity - \$10k
- Municipal and Volunteer Fire Departments - \$200k

“I think that the fire departments are appreciative of that. Especially, the smaller ones are very appreciative of those funds. We appreciate the funding that is coming down and putting those dollars to work,” said Vice-Chairman Allen.

“Thank you for what you have done, Dave. It is absolutely fantastic and very needed. I think it shows not only your commitment to the County but what this county means to so many people,” said Commissioner McDowell.

“We really appreciate you and your efforts in bringing these tax dollars back to Randolph County and our agencies here that touch people’s lives,” said Commissioner Kidd.

“I’d like to thank Chairman Frye, our county manager, and our finance director for ensuring that we had the ability to get this out. The paperwork has gone out, and folks have been able to submit that back with the grant application,” said Senator Craven.

Commissioners unanimously approved the funding allocations provided by Senator Dave Craven.



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100 Healthiest Workplace in America

Randolph County hired its first Wellness Director, Sam Varner, in 2015. Since then, the program has grown through initiating programming and building community partnerships that benefit the health and well-being of County employees. For the past three years, Randolph County has been named one of the Top 100 Healthiest Workplaces in America. Recently, Randolph County Government received an official ranking of 14th Healthiest Workplace in America. The designation of 14th in the nation secures the County's third consecutive increased ranking in as many years.

Award applicants are evaluated in six key categories; Culture and Leadership, Foundational Components, Strategic Planning, Communication and Marketing, Programming and Interventions, and Reporting and Analytics. The top 100 companies are recognized due to their commitment to workplace wellness and exceptional health and benefits offerings. Randolph County Government's wellness program mission is to establish and facilitate a workplace environment that supports a healthy and holistic lifestyle through education, engagement, and accountability.

"Randolph County's focus on the health and well-being of our employees shows how much we value each employee. We not only have a healthier workforce, but we are contributing to the health of the families of our 900+ employees. One does not fully realize what a gift health is and how valuable it is until it is lost. I am grateful not only to Sam Varner but most importantly to our Randolph County employees," said Commissioner Haywood.

"The key to our program is relationships. Our employees are the most valuable resource. This award shows that we put our money where our mouth is. We value our workforce. We value our families. And this would not be possible without our team," said Varner.

"We certainly appreciate what the wellness program does. This not only means dollars saved and long-term health benefits for our employees and a better work environment, but it also allows us to be more competitive. We are in a very competitive employment market right now, and these types of initiatives and programs are what people look for that can differentiate Randolph County. This is definitely something we can hang our hat on, that will likely become more and more important," said Vice-Chairman Allen.



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Public Hearing on Proposed Schedules, Standards, and Rules for the 2023 Reappraisal

North Carolina General Statute 105-317 prescribes the procedure that the assessor and county commissioners must adhere to for the reappraisal process. On October 3, 2022, the proposed Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules for the 2023 countywide reappraisal. The next step in the process was to set a public hearing to allow the public to comment on the true market and present use schedules, standards, and rules to be used in the 2023 Reappraisal. The public hearing was set for November 7, 2022.

No public speakers came forward during the public hearing held on November 7, 2022.

RFID Bid Results- Library

The library has planned a project to implement Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) for items in the library collection to further automate materials handling, providing self-checkout capability and free staff for more substantive interactions with patrons. The project will be funded by a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant and a local match. The library conducted a formal bid process to select a vendor for the project. Mk Solutions Inc. was the low bidder in terms of initial equipment and installation, and ongoing maintenance costs. The low bid came in at \$15.4k above the available grant amount and local match funding; the library will make up the difference using funds from the one-time SFRF State Aid distribution.

Commissioners unanimously approved a motion to award the bid for the RFID project to MK Solutions in the amount of \$125,875 and to allow the County Manager to sign the contract.

Purchase of I-74 Property

Design of the I-74 Force Main and Pump Station is underway. Due to grade and site features, an area to the Northeast of the project has been identified as the most suitable location for a pump station. It was originally anticipated that approximately 1 quarter of an acre would be needed. However, because the property is located in a critical watershed, approximately 2.5 acres will be needed to meet impervious surface requirements. After authorization in a closed session meeting, the Economic Development Corporation has negotiated with the property owners for the purchase of this property for \$76,398.

Commissioners unanimously approved the negotiated price of \$76,398 for 2.5 acres for a pump station at the I-74 Industrial Site and to allow the County Manager to sign the contract.



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Consider Purchase of 15 Sheriff's Office Vehicles

The Randolph County Sheriff's Office wishes to purchase 10 Dodge Chargers through the NCSA Procurement Program. Ilderton Dodge was awarded the bid for FY2021-2022 and has been extended by one year. The Sheriff's Office also wishes to purchase 5 Ford Police Interceptors through the North Carolina Statewide Vehicle Contract. Performance Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram was awarded the bid under North Carolina Statewide Vehicle Contract. The total purchase price for 5 Ford Police Interceptors and 10 Dodge Chargers comes to \$528,745. Funding for these purchases was included in the Sheriff's 2022-2023 budget.

Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase of 5 Ford Police Interceptors and 10 Dodge Chargers in the amount of \$528,745.

Consider Request for Four New Deputy Sheriff Positions for Randolph County Elementary Schools

The Randolph County School System and Randolph County Sheriff's Office are requesting four additional School Resource Officers to serve the elementary schools. This includes salary, fringe benefits, vehicles, vehicle equipment, installation, maintenance, fuel, and uniform/equipment for the positions. The total cost is \$384,004.

The addition of four new deputy sheriff positions will provide coverage for all 17 elementary schools. Coverage will occur as follows:

- Deputy 1 – Archdale, Hopewell, John Lawrence, Trinity, and Trindale
- Deputy 2 – Level Cross, New Market, Randleman, and Grays Chapel
- Deputy 3 – Seagrove, Southmont, Farmer, and Tabernacle
- Deputy 4 – Franklinville, Liberty, Ramseur, and Coleridge

"I would like to thank the Sheriff's Department. This is another example of the great partnership we have with the Sheriff's Department. I'm very proud of this. This only helps our kids. It's a good day for Randolph County School System," said Dr. Gainey, Superintendent, Randolph County School System.

"I appreciate Captain Arrington and the Sheriff working together with the school system on putting this together. Because I know our students, families, and parents will all feel more comfortable seeing this presence on campus," said Commissioner Kidd.

Commissioners unanimously approved additional Deputy Sheriff positions for Randolph County Elementary Schools and approved the associated budget amendment in the amount of \$384,004.

Set Annual Special Joint Meeting with Asheboro City School Board of Education

Commissioners approved a motion to set the annual Joint Meeting with the Asheboro City School Board of Education for February 9, 2023, at 6 pm.