



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

DECEMBER 5, 2022

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Special Recognitions
- Administrations of Oath of Office
- Public Comment
- RCPH Dental Services Update
- Historic Courthouse Design and Museum Preparation
- Consider Abolishment of Capped Fire Service Districts
- Mid-State Trailers Economic Development Project
- Consideration of Adoption of Orders Concerning 2023 Revaluation
- Opioid Updates
- Veteran Services Updates
- Set Special Meeting for Annual Planning Retreat



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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Special Recognitions

- Debra Hill, Randolph County Tax Administrator, was recognized at the December meeting for her selection by the North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers as North Carolina's 2022 Tax Assessor of the Year. Hill has served the county tax department for 40 years, holding the title of tax administrator for the past 15 years. Visit the Randolph County [website](#), to access the full press release.
- Allison Walker, Randolph County Cooperative Extension, joined commissioners in recognizing Jonathan Scarlett for his 4-H achievements during livestock season. Scarlett received two top awards at the North Carolina State Fair for the doe he raised.
- Commissioners recognized Randolph County citizen Louise Duncan Brewer in the recent celebration of her 100th birthday on December 3rd.

Administration of Oaths of Office

Commissioners David Allen, Darrell Frye, and Hope Haywood were sworn in during the December 5, Randolph County Commissioners Board Meeting after being reelected during the midterm elections.

Judge James (Jimmy) Hill administered the oath of office to the three commissioners as well as three Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, William T. Alston, Carrie Guess-Slatosky, and Brian Ward.

At the meeting, the board elected Darrell Frye as Chair, and David Allen as Vice Chair of the Board, effective January 2023. Both Frye and Allen served as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively in 2022.

To view the full press release, visit the Randolph County Government [website](#).

Public Comment Period

- Alan Pugh, Randolph County resident, asked Commissioners to act on revamping Randolph County library schedules to include Sunday afternoon openings. Mr. Pugh noted that local libraries are widely used, and that Sunday's present a unique opportunity for working parents to visit and bring their children. Mr. Pugh also recognized the library as a vital resource for many patrons who are otherwise unable to access the internet and various technology. **"We have a fine public library system in Randolph County blessed with good leadership and a professional staff dedicated to customer service. Unfortunately, many people are unable to take advantage of our libraries and all they have to offer,"** said Pugh.
- Tim Saunders, Randolph County resident, expressed his appreciation for the Randolph County Board of Elections staff. **"I would like to voice my appreciation for the ladies who work at the Board of Elections. They do a supreme job under some really trying conditions,"** said Mr. Saunders.
- Lester Rivenbark, Randolph County resident, shared that the North Carolina Senate recently passed a bill to legalize medical marijuana. Mr. Rivenbark presented commissioners with an ordinance. **"The ordinance I have drafted and shared with you would ban the cultivation, manufacturing, and distribution of medicinal and recreational marijuana in Randolph County."**



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Public Comment Period Continued...

- Deanna Hurley Chamberlain, New Hope Volunteer Fire Department, thanked the Commissioners and Senator Dave Craven. **“On behalf our Board and fire fighters, we want to express our gratitude to you and the efforts of Senator Craven in your recent allocation to sponsor the community grants.”**
- Tammy Coley, Randolph County resident, shared a resolution drafted by the Asheboro Circuit of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. **“Be it resolved we call on all Randolph County Commissioners to seek equity, racial healing, understanding, and to love one another. Be it further resolved that the Asheboro Circuit of the Western North Carolina Conference calls on the Randolph County Commissioners to remove the confederate monument in Asheboro, North Carolina.”**
- Kenny Ramsey, Lieutenant, North Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, thanked commissioners for the timely response to the November 22 vandalizing of the Confederate Veterans Memorial. **“I came to thank you ladies and gentleman for your quick action. I also wanted to thank you for your action in following the state law that says the monument should stay.”**
- Charlie P. Lyons, Randolph County resident, read a resolution by First United Methodist Church to reach a peaceful consensus on the issue of the Confederate Veterans Memorial. **“We pray this resolution and the growing number of Christian organizations across denominations will open your heart to the possibility of real conversations and resolution.”**
- Anne Hoover, Randolph County resident, continued the resolution. The resolution asked commissioners to form a committee to explore options to reach a peaceful consensus on moving the confederate Veterans memorial. **“We desire pathways to peace and desire the statue be moved in order to resolve this issue and promote community healing. We ask that the elected commissioners of Randolph County create a committee to investigate the options that the county has to find a place that the statue can be relocated, that a date be set for the committee to present its report to commissioners, and that after receiving the report commissioners take action to relocate the statue to some other respectable location.”**
- Eli Harmon, Randolph County resident, questioned the ideologies of those in support of relocating the statue. **“Many of those who have advocated the statue’s removal have cast themselves as vanguards of historical inevitability. This is a Bolshevik view of history that is progressing linearly towards some more or less perfect end state, represented by whoever is doing the telling. But, is this really what is happening?”**



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RCPH Dental Services Update

For several years, recruitment and retention of a full-time dentist has been a challenge for Randolph County Public Health. To remedy this issue, Randolph County Public Health and Kintegra Family Dentistry have entered into a discussion regarding a partnership that will create a sustainable option for consistent dental services.

Tara Aker, Randolph County Health Director, and William Donigan, Chief Dental Officer with Kintegra Family Dentistry, updated commissioners on plans for dental services at Public Health.

Historic Courthouse Renovation, Design, and Museum Preparation

The design of the proposed Historic Courthouse Renovation project is in its final stages. The project includes an elevator addition compliant with ADA requirements, removal of the existing elevator and fire safety upgrades to stairway exits, electrical and mechanical system upgrades, provisions for drainage and waterproofing in the basement, and upgrades to the first floor of a future museum and exhibit space.

Chevron Moore, Hobbs Architecture, presented details of the final design along with an updated budget estimate and timeline to the Commissioners.

Commissioners approved a motion authorizing the historic museum project to be advertised for bids and approving the prequalifying document for use in the selection process.

Consideration of Abolishment of Capped Service Districts for Bennett, Seagrove, Southwest and Ulah

Many current fire protection tax districts have a fifteen-cent cap on the tax rate. In October, commissioners officially considered moving forward to abolish the currently capped county service districts for fire protection for the areas of Bennett, Seagrove, Southwest, and Ulah and replacing them with districts that do not have that limitation on taxation. The proposed new service districts contain the same properties currently contained in the capped districts for those areas.

For each district, commissioners determined that the current cap on taxation has rendered or will soon render the district obsolete for providing the necessary protection to citizens in the area. Also considered was resident or seasonal population and population density of the proposed district, the appraised value of property subject to taxation in the proposed district or any portion thereof is located, and the ability of the proposed district to sustain the taxes necessary to provide the services planned for the district.



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Consideration of Abolishment of Capped Service Districts for Bennett, Seagrove, Southwest and Ulah

After careful consideration of the matters, commissioners passed resolutions, respectively, declaring intent to create the proposed districts and calling for a report to be prepared for each district per North Carolina general statutes. The resolutions also set public hearings on the abolishment of current districts and the creation of new districts for 6 pm on December 5, 2022. Changes will go into effect on July 1, 2023.

“As a reminder, this is not a tax increase. The process for a tax increase is the same as it has always been. Only the elected board of commissioners has the authority to change that tax. Also, the \$1.50 is not all for fire tax. As stated in the resolution, all tax rates in the district taken together can not exceed \$1.50. Any change in any rate will have to be done before this board, following a public hearing.” said Chairman Frye.

- A public hearing was held to consider the abolishment of the current district and the creation of a new uncapped district for the Bennett area. No one came forward during the public hearing.

Commissioners approved a resolution abolishing the current fifteen-cent capped Bennett Fire protection county service district and creating a new service district without the cap.

- A public hearing was held to consider the abolishment of the current district and the creation of a new uncapped district for the Seagrove area. No one came forward during the public hearing.

Commissioners approved a resolution abolishing the current fifteen-cent capped Seagrove Fire protection county service district and creating a new service district without the cap.

- A public hearing was held to consider the abolishment of the current district and the creation of a new uncapped district for the Southwest area. No one came forward during the public hearing.

Commissioners approved a resolution abolishing the current fifteen-cent capped Southwest Fire protection county service district and creating a new service district without the cap.

- A public hearing was held to consider the abolishment of the current district and the creation of a new uncapped district for the Ulah area. No one came forward during the public hearing.

Commissioners approved a resolution abolishing the current fifteen-cent capped Ulah Fire protection county service district and creating a new service district without the cap.



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Veterans Services Updates

Randolph County Veterans Services is working on a new project for the homeless and at-risk veteran population in Randolph County. Through collaboration with the Register of Deeds office, it has been decided that the new program will operate out of the Old Veterans Services office through both donations and volunteers.

Veterans Services will use the space as a center for local veterans to find resources in their time of need. The space is planned to be operational by January of 2023.

Mid-State Trailers Economic Development Project

Mid-State Trailers was acquired in spring of 2022 by ITZ NC Inc., who will continue to operate Mid-State Trailers. Denton is the company's first North Carolina location. The company will take over the manufacturing of trailers from Mid-State and add their HandiRamp line to production. HandiRamp manufactures handicap ramps and industrial material ramps, and will require the addition of approximately 26,000 sq. feet to the current Mid-State Trailer's Denton facility.

The company anticipates investing \$527,829 in real property and will create 19 new jobs paying an average wage of \$46,967. The company is seeking a building use grant of \$100k, with no anticipated match for Randolph County. Randolph County EDC believes ITZ NC, Inc. will be an exceptional economic development partner by generating significant investment in a building addition and upgrades, increasing the property, and creating 129 quality new jobs.

- A public hearing was held on the County's proposal to apply for the building reuse grant on behalf of the Mid-State Trailers project. No one came forward during the public hearing.

Commissioners approved the resolution authorizing Randolph County to apply for the Building Reuse Grant for Mid-State Trailers Economic Development Project.

Set Special Meeting For Annual Planning Retreat

Commissioners approved a motion to set a special meeting on February 23, 2023 for the Annual Planning Retreat.



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Consideration of Adopting of Orders Concerning 2023 Reappraisal

The final step of the process leading up to the 2023 Reappraisal is the adoption of the Orders adopting the True Value and Present Use Schedules, Standards, and Rules, pursuant to NCGS 105-317. These documents were presented to the Board at the October meeting, and a public hearing was held at the November meeting. Following the December meeting, a notice will be published stating that the orders were duly adopted and are available for inspection in the Office of the County's Assessors.

The Board approved an Order Concerning the Present Use Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules to be used in appraising Real Property at its Present Use Value for the January 1, 2023 Revaluation.

The Board approved an Order Concerning the True (Market) Value Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules to be used in appraising Real Property at its True (Market) Value for the January 1, 2023 Revaluation.

Opioid Update

Jennifer Layton, Assistant Director, Randolph County Public Health, shared updates with commissioners on progress in preparing the funding application package regarding opioid settlement funds. The following goals were set forth during the process; ensure use of evidence-based programs and resources, build infrastructure to measure the impact of programs, and strengthen community partnerships to improve access to care related to substance abuse disorders.

In October, the NC Association of County Commissioners assigned Leia Gearhart, Strategic Project Coordinator, to assist the County in preparation and implementation of the opioid funding package. Ms. Gearhart has supported the county in nearing completion of the document. An appointed executive committee will evaluate the funding applications.

“Randolph County is being used as an example statewide for the way we are processing our opioid settlement requests and how we intend to use that money. I am thankful for the work our team is doing in this highly complex environment,” said Hal Johnson, County Manager.

Commissioners approved a motion to approve the formation of the Executive Committee of opioid Settlement Funding and appoint the Juvenile Day Reporting Center Director, Department of Social Services Director, the Randolph County Emergency Management Chief, Adult Day Reporting Center Director, a Sandhills Center representative, a Sheriff's Office representative, the Assistant Health Director, and the Health Director as voting members, and the county manager as an Ex Officio member.