



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

FEBRUARY 6, 2023
COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- "Project Superman"
- Special Recognitions
- Public Comment
- Health Dept. Renovation Updates
- TDA Annual Update
- Trinity Museum Request
- Voluntary Ag District Annual Report
- CCPT Annual Report
- Communications Update
- Consider Abolishment of Current Fire Protection Service Districts



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

Carl Warren, President and CEO of North Carolina Railroad, Jim Nance, North Carolina Railroad Board Member, and Jim Melvin of the Bryan Foundation recognized Chairman Darrell Frye at the February meeting.

“We’d like to commemorate his assistance, stewardship, and service to the Megasite project. I’m here tonight on behalf of the NCRR Board and Management Team to simply say thank you. Thank you for your decade of partnership, your vision, and your collaboration. We would not be where we are today without your assistance,” said Warren.

Special Called Joint Public Hearing on Economic Development - Project Superman

Crystal Gettys, Business Recruitment Director, Randolph County EDC, presented details of Project Superman to the Randolph County Board of Commissioners and Archdale City Council in a Special Called Joint Public Hearing on Monday, February 6. Project Superman is contemplating a facility located in Archdale, North Carolina. “Superman” is an Ohio-based packaging products manufacturer with multiple locations in the US, Canada, and Mexico. Project plans include a 200k sq. ft. facility and 129 newly-created jobs at an average salary of \$45,969. **“The EDC believes that Project Superman is an exceptional economic development project for the City and the County, which will increase the property value, generate significant investment in new machinery and equipment, and result in the creation of 129 quality new jobs,”** said Gettys.

Commissioners approved a Resolution authorizing the County of Randolph to enter into an Economic Development Incentives Contract.

Special Recognitions

- Pat Hurley - The Randolph County Board of Commissioners presented Pat Hurley, former State Representative, District 70, with a proclamation in appreciation and recognition of her service to Randolph County. **“The Randolph County Board of Commissioners would like to take the time to acknowledge the talents, knowledge, leadership, and dedication of Pat Hurley and the altruistic manner in which she has devoted herself to the service of her fellow citizens for a total of sixteen years. We take this opportunity to formally express our appreciation and give accolades to a woman who is a true servant in every sense of the word.”**
- Allen McNeill- The Randolph County Board of Commissioners presented Allen McNeill, former North Carolina State Representative, District 78, with a proclamation in appreciation and recognition of his service to Randolph County. **“The Randolph County Board of Commissioners wishes to acknowledge the talents, knowledge, leadership, and dedication of Allen McNeill and the altruistic manner in which he has devoted himself to the service of his fellow citizens continually for the last ten years. We take this opportunity to formally express our appreciation and give accolades to a man who is a true servant in every sense of the word.”**



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Public Comment Period

- Allen Pugh, Randolph County Resident, asked Commissioners to consider extending Randolph County Library operations to include Sunday openings. **"I think this will benefit hundreds of people in the County with little to no expense to the County,"** said Pugh.
- Sharon Castelli, Superintendent of Uwharrie Charter Academy, shared with Commissioners that the school system was awarded a ten-year renewal. **"Today it was voted on by DPI as well as CSAB that we indeed received a ten-year renewal to our Charter. We are thankful for your support and to be a part of the Randolph County community."**

Public Comment Period

- Jane Braswell, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns over the Commissioner's March 2022 vote to leave the Confederate Statue at its current location in front of the historic courthouse. **"We should accept that even in a democracy, morality was not and is not decided by the majority. Without any hope or expectation, I await to see that kind of courage among us today."**
- Clyde Foust, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns about the Commissioner's March 2022 vote to leave the Confederate Statue at its current location in front of the historic courthouse. **"There is nothing that stops us from doing the right thing. The only thing that should stop us is if we feel that it is not the right thing."**
- Jane Gant, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns regarding how she feels a certain subsection of the community has been treated. **"Do you realize that the truth will always prevail? There will come a reckoning of decisions that are made today."**
- Tim Saunders, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns regarding recent attacks on substations. **"These are an existential threat to our country and its wellbeing."**
- Tammy Coley, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns about the location of the Confederate statue. **"I understand the history and wanting to keep the history. What I don't understand is why we need to honor the confederacy right in front of our courthouse."**
- Franklin Suggs, Randolph County citizen, shared reasons why he believes the Confederate statue should be relocated. **"Relocation advocates are a cross-section of Randolph County citizens, and politics have little if anything to do with our beliefs on this issue. Fairness is the only expectation here. And, fairness should be the crux of any topic engaged by this board."**



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Public Health Renovation Update

In July 2022, Commissioners awarded a contract to Smith Sinnett Architecture for the design of the Renovation of the Health Department Facility located at the Ira McDowell Complex.

The renovation involves reconstructing the dental suite and upgrading several clinical and office spaces. The project also includes the possibility of upgrading other ancillary space.

Robert Carmac, Principal Architect with Smith Sinnett presented commissioners with a final design and requested authorization for County staff to advertise the project for bidding.

Commissioners approved a motion authorizing County staff to advertise the project for bidding.

TDA Annual Update

Amber Scarlett, Executive Director of the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority (TDA), presented commissioners with a summary of the 2021 Annual Report on Tourism. **“We remain dedicated to making tourism work harder to positively impact our economy and the livelihood of our citizens who work in and benefit from tourism. The most important measures of our success are those that highlight the combined effort between the TDA, and our tourism destination partners and stakeholders. We were able to continue successes in 2021 with a level of dedication and determination for our organization’s mission.”**

[TDA 2021 Annual Report](#)

Voluntary Ag District Annual Report

Kenneth Sherin, County Extension Director, provided Commissioners with a Voluntary Agricultural District Update. According to Sherin, in 2022, the Voluntary Agricultural District Board admitted farms into the program totaling 191 acres of land. As a result, Randolph County currently has over 26,240.21 acres of land enrolled in the program. Of this, 33 parcels enrolled in the Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture District with 1903.92 acres, and 517 parcels with 24,215.49 acres enrolled in the Regular Voluntary Agriculture District.

Voluntary Agricultural District Board members expressed their appreciation for the Commissioners’ support of the Farm, Food, and Family Education Center. Architects recently completed the design and development phase of the project. The latest cost estimate projections are \$28.9M. To date, \$28.3M has been secured, with approximately \$600k still needed. “We are projected to see dirt moving as soon as October of 2023,” said Sherin. Design and development rendering photos can be accessed on the Cooperative Extension website. (LINK)

“Kenny and his staff have done a great job working with architects and the community at large to pull things together in a cohesive manner. We really appreciate the work they are doing,” said Vice-Chairman Allen.



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Child Fatality/ Community Child Protection Team

Per NCGS 143-576.1(a) (2), an annual report must be presented to County Commissioners by the Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) of recommendations for system improvements in Randolph County. CCPT identifies systemic deficiencies in child welfare services or resources. Once identified, teams develop strategies to address the gaps in the child welfare system within the county.

Over the past year (January 1, 2022- December 31, 2022), the CCPT met virtually six times and reviewed nine current cases of children under the protection of Social Services.

Areas of concern include:

- substance abuse
- adult mental health issues
- sex abuse
- improper discipline
- injurious environment
- physical abuse
- improper supervision
- improper care
- domestic violence
- dependency

The following gaps and recommendations were identified:

- Child deaths related to co-sleeping: CCPT held a safe sleep training during a monthly meeting presented by the Randolph County Health Department.
- Mental Health services for low-income families: CCPT recommended researching additional intensive in-home preservation services.
- Increase public awareness about conditions that impact child protection within the community: CCPT recommended continuous community education with law enforcement, school systems, daycare centers, medical professionals, mental health facilities, and churches.

The following action steps were taken by Randolph County DSS:

- DSS held another targeted training on Safe Sleep to educate all CPS employees on the dangers of parents co-sleeping with their children.
- To increase awareness and open communication between DSS and community partners, DSS was able to take part in Asheboro Police Department and RCSO's In-Service Training, educating them on making CPS reports as well as new child welfare policies and procedures.
- To maintain open and clear communication between DSS and 911 communications, DSS continues to use the 911 communications scheduling calendar. DSS keeps 911 communications aware of the after-hours CPS Supervisor's contact information to ensure someone is readily available to them at all times.
- DSS met with the Uwharrie Charter, Randolph County, and Asheboro City School nurses and social workers to keep them abreast of all new child welfare policies and procedures.
- To increase awareness, DSS met with Randolph County Partnership for Children staff educating them on how to make reports, child welfare policies, procedures, and signs to look for. Each entity was given informational handouts and flyers on how to report abuse, neglect, and dependency.



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Communications Update

Chelsey Butler, Public Information Officer, provided Commissioners with a Communications Update. The Randolph County Communications service area exists to provide timely, relevant County Government information to the Citizens of Randolph County.

The Public Information Officer is an administrative position reporting directly to the County Manager.

Primary methods of communication include the Randolph County Government website, monthly publications of the Randolph-Recap, press releases, and social media, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Consider Abolishment of Current Fire Protection Service Districts

Several years ago, County service districts for fire protection and first responder, rescue, and emergency services were developed. These districts were created with a fifteen-cent cap on the tax rate to mirror the rural fire protection districts they were replacing. Recently, a few of the fire departments servicing these districts indicated the need to request a tax rate over 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. To abolish current districts, a public hearing must be set by Commissioners to consider the matter, and at the close of the public hearing, a resolution can be passed abolishing the district. To create a new uncapped district, a new county service district for fire protection, and for first responder, rescue, and emergency service under North Carolina General Statute 153A-301(a)(2) and (7).

- *Commissioners approved a motion to adopt 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 **Coleridge-Erect** Fire District as presented.*
- *Commissioners approved a motion to adopt 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 **Fairgrove** Fire District as presented.*
- *Commissioners approved a motion to adopt 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 **Farmer** Fire District as presented.*
- *Commissioners approved a motion to adopt 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 **Julian** Fire District as presented.*
- *Commissioners approved a motion to adopt 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 **Northeast** Fire District as presented.*
- *Commissioners approved a motion to adopt 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 **Staley** Fire District as presented.*