



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

MARCH 6, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Public Comment
- Friends of the Historic Patterson Cottage Museum
- Medical Assisted Therapy
- Request Special Meeting for Review of Opioid Settlement Funding Applications
- Cooperative Extension Positions
- Public Hearing Update on Farmer Fire Tax District
- Real Estate Reappraisal Process Overview



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

- Josh Britton, Randolph County resident, shared concerns about the Confederate statue in front of the historic courthouse. **"I invite us today to be reconstructed. I invite you to consider the question which Randolph County are we?"**
- Judy Saunders, Randolph County resident, asked Commissioners how much was paid for the fence surrounding the Confederate Statue. **"That fence costs the tax payers \$37,000. Could that have been used for other things that should be done in this County?"**

Public Comment

- Doug Nixon, Randolph County resident, shared his concerns about a potential rock quarry coming to the Staley area. **"This quarry will benefit no one except the landowners who sell their property and the person who builds this quarry."**
- Margie Staley, Randolph County resident, shared concerns about zoning changes. **"We request the governing body substantially lower the number of approved zoning changes for mobile home permits that allow the influx of Class A double and singlewide mobile homes in northern Randolph County. This has had an adverse effect on surrounding property values, water levels, generating tax revenues, as well as created an unaesthetic appearance in our community located in the Northern part of Randolph County."**
- Chip Foust, Randolph County resident, shared concerns about the Confederate monument. **"We are full tonight of people who have a disagreement or see a problem in Randolph County and have come to their commissioners for a resolution. We are doing the same thing when it comes to the monument."**
- Faye Holt, Randolph County resident, shared concerns about the noises coming from the Toyota Battery Plant construction. **"It is ridiculous what we are having to put up with. You can't sleep at night, there are lots of noises and lights."**



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Historic Patterson Cottage Museum

The Friends of the Historic Patterson Cottage Museum in Liberty, NC is requesting \$15,275 to address unexpected expenses stemming from the replacement of an HVAC system as well as the replacement of upstairs windows. The fully remodeled building will host several community events, offer lectures and classes, host open houses, and support and preserve community artifacts.

I appreciate all the work that you all have done, and hopefully this can become an anchor for tourism in the Liberty area,” said Commissioner Allen.

Commissioners approved the funding request for Friends of Historic Patterson Cottage Museum and the associated budget amendment.

Medical Assisted Therapy

The Randolph County Sheriff’s Office (RCSO) requested \$95,736 to assist in facilitating a Medication Assisted Treatment Program. The program will emphasize the use of medication in conjunction with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat opioid use disorders. If approved, the funding will provide the services of two nurses to administer the program. RCSO currently uses the services of Mediko, whose contract with the department expires on June 30, 2023.

“I am really glad that we are going in this direction. I think it will make your jobs easier and it has the potential to help many people,” said Commissioner Haywood.

“Let’s make sure we look after those funds and try to get some grant funding if you can, this would be much appreciated,” said David Allen.

Request Special Meeting for Review of Opioid Settlement Funding Applications

Commissioners approved the special meeting request for review of Opioid Settlement Funding applications for March 27, 2023, at 6pm.



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Cooperative Extension Positions

In September 2021, Randolph County Commissioners approved ARPA funding for two Extension Agent positions; a local community food systems agent position and a digital literacy and skills agent. The Local/Community Food Systems Agent will collaborate with partners to develop a support network that provides resources and guidance to local communities, conduct food assessments, and identify priority food-related projects. The Digital Literacy and Skills Agent will work to establish Randolph County as a leader in digital skills training.

As ARPA guidelines became better understood, it was revealed that a sub-award contract would be required between the County and North Carolina State University to adhere to regulatory policy. To avoid requirements of additional funding that were not originally included in the budget the County Extension Director proposed moving both positions from ARPA funded to permanent positions paid 100% by County budgeted funds.

Commissioners approved the funding source of the local food systems agent and digital literacy and skills agent and the associated budget amendments.

Public Hearing Update on Farmer Fire Tax District

Commissioners set a public hearing for the abolishment of the current Farmer Fire Service District and the creation of a new identical district with the current cap for April 3, 2023. State law requires that notice of the hearing be mailed to owners of real and personal property in the district at least four weeks in advance. A pre-mailing check of the letters for the Farmer district revealed irregularities in the list of personal property owners for the Farmer service district. Therefore, the letters were unable to be mailed within the required time frame. For this reason, it is requested that the Farmer district public hearing be postponed until May 1, 2023.

Commissioners approved a motion to move the public hearing for abolishment of the capped service district in Farmer to May 1, 2023.



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Real Estate Reappraisal Process

Will Massie, County Finance Officer, gave an overview of the real estate reappraisal process. The property tax levy is the largest source of revenue in the County budget. State law defines how we are to assess property taxes, which are required to be based on current market values. The property tax base is made up of two components, real estate, and personal property. Real estate values are appraised every four years based on actual local sales prices, including land, residential, commercial, and industrial property. Personal property values are adjusted annually and include business equipment, motor vehicles, utility infrastructure, and farm equipment. State legislation requires counties to conduct a revaluation of real property at least every eight years. Several years ago, Randolph County Commissioners chose a four-year cycle in an attempt to avoid the “sticker shock” commonly associated with large valuation increases in an eight-year cycle. Randolph County’s reappraisal process (revaluation) of real estate occurs this year, 2023.

The real estate reappraisal process is the first step in this year’s county budgeting. Property value is only one piece of the tax levy. This information will assist the Board of County Commissioners set the property tax rates during the June budget process. With rising valuations, the property tax rate generally can be reduced. North Carolina General Statute 159-11 requires calculation and disclosure of a revenue-neutral tax rate during reappraisal years. The revenue-neutral tax rate comes from a statutory formula, and represents the new adjusted property tax rate that would be needed to generate the same amount of tax revenue expected in the county’s current budget year, adjusted for growth during the past four years.

“This rate does not tie the board's hands and just like any other year the board will carefully evaluate what services are needed and set the tax rate during the budget process,” said Mr. Massie. The Randolph County Board of Commissioners will meet in June to discuss the budget and set the tax rate.

“Commissioners do not set values, which removes the element of politics from this process. If a citizen feels that there is an error in their value they should make an appointment with the Board of Equalization and Review. Under the Machinery Act, we are required by law to set values at their fair market value. Simply, what a willing buyer and seller would agree to. This is not an easy process, and we attempt to conduct it in the fairest way that we can,” said Chairman Frye.

The following speakers addressed Commissioners regarding the County’s 2023 reappraisal:

Pat Hall, Dr. Sam Keith, David Adcock, Benjamin Landreth, Carol Campbell, Lance Shaffley, Barry Betts, Walter Krysewski, Sean Walker, Ryan Snipes, Mike Brinkley, Justin York, William Farias, Joe Millikan, Michael Pardon, Josh Langley, Chuck LaPrade, Rob Steiner, Carol Lobeser, Kristy Caughron, Steven Manness, Melody Gwynn, Pat McGrath.

“As a reminder, this is the beginning of a process. This board will continue working on this until June. I encourage you that if you have any questions, or believe there is an issue, please raise your concerns by filing an appeal. We will go through this process together,” said Chairman Frye.