



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

JULY 10, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Public Comment
- F3EC Update
- Opioid Settlement Funding Applications
- Aging Services Bid
- Tax Settlement FY22-23
- Consider Adoption of 2023-24 Classification and Pay Plan
- Historic Courthouse Elevator Addition Bid Results
- Northgate Wellness Center Bid Results



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

- Jonathan Burris, Randolph County resident, and Pastor, shared concerns with commissioners regarding harm reduction strategies. **“Harm reduction has actually exacerbated these problems. This is not solving a problem.”**
- Carl Hicks, Randolph County resident, shared that he believed harm reduction strategies can be reasonable, but not the only strategy employed. **“Harm reduction is just a path to provide assistance to our fellow citizens and keep them alive.”**
- Jamaricus Bunn, Randolph County resident, and Pastor, shared a resolution with commissioners recommending the removal of the Confederate monument from the Courthouse lawn. **“We as a community of faith are called to be advocates for justice and equality.”**
- Bob Wilkerson, executive director of Pierce Ministries, shared that he is in leadership at a faith-based treatment program in Randolph County. **“We must get to the root of the issue. Drugs are the manifestation of much bigger issues.”**
- David Mabe, Randolph County resident, shared his story of recovery with Commissioners. **“Harm reduction programs help keep individuals alive long enough to make the decision to try again.”**
- Ken Jackson, shared with Commissioners that he believes there are benefits of syringe-service programs. **“These programs help protect communities by preventing infectious disease outbreaks and facilitating safe disposal of used syringes.”**
- Michael Trogdon, Randolph County resident, and Pastor, shared his experiences as a former director of Asheboro’s local soup kitchen, Our Daily Bread. **“Harm reduction doesn’t mean accepting substance use, it means accepting the person who has a substance use disorder.”**
- Eldora Allen, Randolph County resident, shared a resolution with commissioners recommending the removal of the Confederate monument from the Courthouse lawn. **“It is our hope that our community will be a beacon of hope. We respectfully ask that the appropriate action be taken to remove the Confederate statue from the Randolph County Courthouse lawn.”**
- Jane Ledwell-Gant, Randolph County resident, thanked commissioners for allowing the NAACP to use the Courthouse lawn for their recent Juneteenth celebration. Ms. Gant also shared her concerns regarding a recent event held at the historic courthouse and the commissioner’s decision to leave the Confederate monument located at the Courthouse. **“We can bring unity and justice to this city with representatives that acknowledge that we are a diverse community that should be embraced by the leaders we elect.”**



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Public Comment

- Clyde Foust, Randolph County resident, and NAACP President, shared concerns with Commissioners about the location of the Confederate statue on the courthouse lawn. **“Justice means that everyone works together to build a better Randolph County.”**
- Paul Sanders, Randolph County resident, shared his recovery experience with Commissioners. **“We have to show compassion. It is not just about needle exchange it's about showing these people that someone cares.”**
- Tim Saunders, Randolph County resident, shared concerns about gun violence with children. He also shared that poll workers are needed for the upcoming elections. **“Your help is needed on election day.”**
- Bobbie Frazier, Randolph County citizen, shared her thoughts on harm reduction strategies with Commissioners. **“Do I agree with all aspects of harm reduction? I do not, but I can not share the gospel unless people are alive. We have to fight this battle in every way that we can.”**
- Lisa Robbins, Randolph County resident, shared her experience of her son's recovery with commissioners. **“I am a supporter of love, and meeting people where they are at. If it had not been for the needle exchange programs, my son would not be with me today.”**
- Tyler Yates shared his work and long-term recovery experience with Commissioners. **“Overdose deaths are 100% preventable. Harm reduction initiatives are proven to save lives and prevent the spread of infectious disease.”**
- Kevin Price, Randolph County resident, shared concerns about a recent event that took place at the historic courthouse. **“This is a place where everybody should be treated equally, everyone should be done right, and there should be justice for all.”**
- Boyd Byerly, Randolph County resident, and Pastor, discussed the ongoing efforts the faith-based community has made to address substance abuse. **“I believe there is compassion on both sides. But, for us to say to individuals we want to help you continue in the drug addiction and not take advantage of the things that are here, to me is a travesty.”**
- Bobby Allen thanked the Commissioners for their support. **“I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your support of the Food, Farm, and Family Education Center.”**



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Farm, Food, and Family Center (F3EC) Update

Approximately one year ago, Commissioners authorized HH Architecture to move forward with designing the Farm, Food, and Family Education Center (F3EC). Daniel Jencks, the project architect, presented the final design at the July Commissioners' meeting.

“I’d like to recognize Allen McNeill for his efforts in securing funding, as well as Kenny Sherin and his staff at the Cooperative Extension. I’m excited to get to this point. It is not everything that we’d like to see, because we have cut back on things as we try to be good stewards. But, there are options for future growth that can be added later if need be.”

Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the architects and County staff to proceed with the bidding of the F3EC project.

Opioid Settlement Funding Applications

Jennifer Layton, Assistant Health Director, and Leia Gearhart, Strategic Project Coordinator, presented resolutions identifying eight recommended opioid abatement proposals for using Randolph County’s opioid settlement funds. The process began in July 2022 and sought to accomplish three goals:

- Enhance community efforts to develop/expand evidence-based programs and resources addressing opioid use disorder.
- Build capacity and infrastructure to measure program impact and prevent fatal overdoses.
- Strengthen community partnerships to improve access to care for opioid use disorder.

Totaling \$1.2M (\$50K for one year, with the option to renew for two additional years), the eight recommended proposals for FY2024-2026 representing six opioid abatement strategies were as follows:



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Opioid Settlement Funding Applications CNTD.

1.) Randolph County Juvenile Day Reporting Center- Early Intervention

Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to Randolph County Juvenile Day Reporting Center.

“These funds will be used specifically for the over 150 students we serve that have opioid use disorders within our program,” said Pam Resch, Randolph County Juvenile Day Reporting Center.

2.) Randolph County Detention Center – Naloxone Distribution

Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to Randolph County Detention Center for Naloxone distribution.

3.) Community Hope Alliance- Naloxone Distribution

Commissioners voted 3-2 to adopt the Resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to Community Hope Alliance for Naloxone distribution. (Commissioners Frye and Kidd opposed.)

“I think it is important for everyone to know that this organization’s proposal reads that with this strategy, this expansion will mean more sterile injection supplies, and safer sex supplies for the population that needs them most. That is the goal of this organization, to hand out drug and sex supplies. That is the problem that I have with funding this organization for any of these funds,” said Commissioner Kidd.

4.) Randolph County Detention Center – Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for incarcerated persons

Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to Randolph County Detention Center for the MAT program.

5.) Community Hope Alliance – Syringe Service Program

Commissioners voted 2-3 and did NOT approve the Resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to Community Hope Alliance for a Syringe Service Program. (Commissioners Frye, Kidd, and McDowell opposed.)

“We have heard that it is critical to meet people where they are and to build relationships. We have failed at that, and I’m thankful that we have non-profits that have come together from their passion and compassion, and gotten this work started. In talking with other counties, the counties that have the most success with their numbers are those that have something for everyone. We are talking about \$50k for one year. In that year, we can look at the numbers and look at what’s happening, but I am inclined to give it a try. If it will help somebody or get someone in the door, then I say give it a try,” said Commissioner Haywood.



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Opioid Settlement Funding Applications CNTD.

"I've gotten many phone calls, and I have not had one that said vote for it. All of them have said to vote against it. I think this one issue has probably created the most polarization of our people in Randolph County since I've been on the board. I am looking at what the constituents tell me they want and need, and the constituents are saying they do not want that program" said Commissioner McDowell.

"I think what the constituents are saying is that this is a pretty conservative and common-sense county. I can't understand how we can say that distributing 190k needles last year makes sense for Randolph County. Randolph County is different, Randolph County is good. There are 144K people in this County, which is a needle for every man, woman, child, and more, that was distributed just last year in this County. When I look at the statistics, all the overdoses got exponentially worse year over year. Deaths got exponentially worse year over year. But, we are handing out a whole lot more needles. I'm not sure if this is working or not. What other illegal act do we treat this way by enabling it? I just can't wrap my head around how it would be safe to distribute 192k needles in our county to be stepped on by our children at parks." said Commissioner Kidd.

"In attending the Opioid Summit, and talking with commissioners who have had children that have lost their lives to this. To me, it is the compassion of it. If we can save a life or two, that to me is worth it. I think we need to get away from the stigma. We seem to think this a moral failing. Sometimes people make bad decisions. I understand the anxiety and angst, but it's a way to reach some folks that we will not be able to reach otherwise. To me, \$50k for a year, let's see what the results are, and we can reevaluate." said Commissioner Allen.

"Nobody has said to me individually that they are in support of this idea or that it makes any sense. So, I cannot support the motion," said Chairman Frye.

6.) Randolph County DSS – Recovery Support Services

Commissioners voted 5-0 to adopt the Resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to the Department of Social Services.

7.) Keaton's Place - Recovery Support Services

Commissioners voted 5-0 to allow Maxton McDowell to recuse himself from voting on the Keaton's Place Application.

Commissioners voted 2-2 and did NOT approve the resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to Keaton's Place. (Commissioners Frye and Kidd opposed, and Commissioner McDowell abstained.)

8.) Morse Clinic- Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment

Commissioners voted 3-2 to approve the resolution by the County of Randolph to direct the expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds to Morse Clinic. (Commissioners Frye and Kidd opposed.)

"My concern is if I look around, and I look at counties who have invited a methadone clinic into their county or town it is a train wreck. So, with this funding, I don't know what this will look like, what downtown Asheboro will look like, or how this will transition. But, from what I understand, the methadone clinic is a for-profit business, and they are in profit to ensure you stay hooked on methadone which can be addictive. The rate of people that graduate out of a methadone clinic is pretty low," said Commissioner Kidd.



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COUNTY DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Tax Settlement 2022-23

Tax Administrator, Debra Hill, presented the 2022-2023 Annual Tax Settlement Report to the Board at the July meeting. This report must be accepted for the tax collector to collect the next year's levy.

Commissioners voted unanimously to charge the Tax Administrator to collect taxes, and to accept the 2022-23 Annual Tax Settlement Report, as presented.

Aging Services Bid

At the May meeting, Commissioners accepted the Aging Services Planning Committee's (ASPC) recommendation to award the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) for three years beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2025. The Fiscal year 2023-24 will be year two of this period. The Funding amounts approved for Randolph County will be allocated to Randolph Senior Adults Association (RSAA) and Regional Consolidated Services (RCS). The state recently announced an allocation of \$956.5K for Randolph County. The ASPC recommends the funds be split between the two service providers, with RSAA receiving \$667.8K and RCS receiving \$288.7K.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the second-year bids with RSAA and RCS, to approve the 23-24 fund allocation, and to approve the associated Budget Amendment.

Consider Adoption of 2023-2024 Classification Pay Plan

Human Resources Director, Jill Williams presented the 2023-2024 Randolph County Classification Plan, effective July 1, 2023. Board approval of the plan is required. The complete classification plan consists of 5 tables: Emergency Services, General Employees, Law Enforcement, Medical, and Tourism Development Authority. Eighteen position classifications were added, removed, or reclassified from the 2022-2023 plan.

Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the 2023-2024 classification and Pay Plan as presented/amended.



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Historic Courthouse Elevator Addition Bid Results

At the May meeting, County Engineer, Paxton Arthurs, recommended rebidding the Courthouse elevator addition project with alternates and a lower pre-qualification requirement. Commissioners approved the action, and on June 2nd, a new bid notice was advertised. Arthurs presented the results of the bid opening to Commissioners at the July meeting.

Commissioners decided to table the request until August.

Northgate Wellness Center Bid Results

At the June Meeting, Smith Sinnett Architecture presented the final design of the Northgate Wellness Center and commissioners authorized moving forward with the bidding of the project. Paxton Arthurs, County Engineer, shared the results of the informal bidding process with Commissioners at the July Board meeting.

Commissioners voted unanimously to award a contract to Lomax Construction for \$314.5k for the Northgate Wellness Center and authorized the County Manager to sign the contract.