



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Public Comment
- Recognition of Community Navigators
- Public Safety Market Analysis Update
- Recognition of Leia Gearhart
- F3EC Bid
- Needs-Based Grant for South Asheboro Middle School
- Voluntary Ag District Ordinance Update and Public Hearing
- Centralized Permitting Ordinance Amendment
- Consider Adding Deputy Medical Director to Classification Plan
- Establish Opioid Abatement Fund/Close Opioid Settlement Project Ordinance
- County Manager's Updates



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



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Public Comment

- Tina Voncannon, Randolph County citizen, shared safety concerns regarding the homelessness issue in Randolph County and thanked the County for the work they had already done to take a deeper look at addressing the issue. **“Safety has become a big issue.”**
- Michael Hayes, Randolph County citizen, also express concern about increased homelessness in the community. **“We are really appreciative of the actions that have been taken this far.”** Mr. Hayes shared concerns about property close to county and city lines that create minor confusion amongst law enforcement departments when responding. He also shared concerns about the potential of fires being set as the fall and winter months approach.

Recognition of Community Navigators Winning NCACC Innovation Award

The Randolph County Public Libraries Community Navigator Program has received a 2023 Civic Excellence in Innovation Award from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. The award is one of ten given annually to successful programs around the state that demonstrate innovative solutions and cost/resource savings for counties.

The Navigator initiative embeds two social workers on the library staff to address individuals’ human service needs that can be resolved by referral to community support sources. The goal is to prevent individuals and families from sliding into deeper levels of dependency or intervention, such as by Social Services or law enforcement.

The navigators – veteran social workers Angi Polito and Dana Nance – receive clients who walk into libraries, are referred by library staff, are referred by other agencies/organizations, or otherwise learn about the program. The navigators have become integral to the human services safety net in Randolph County, receiving an average of two new clients each working day and collaborating with some 120 community agencies, organizations, professionals, and individuals to receive and refer clients.



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Public Safety Market Analysis Update

On August 21, 2023, Randolph County received the results of a market study performed by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. This study looked at positions within the Sheriff's Office, Environmental Health, and Building Inspections.

Recommendations for reclassifications and salary increases were made as a result of the study. The total cost of the recommendation is \$444k with \$376k allotted within the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Public Safety reclassifications and increases as presented in the amount of \$446,309 and approve the associated budget amendment.

Recognition of Leia Gearhart, Strategic Program Coordinator

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Strategic (NCACC) Member Services team offers support for counties to address a wide range of technical, personnel, and governance challenges through subject matter experts and recent masters-program graduates. Randolph County partnered with the NCACC to host Leia Gearhart beginning in October 2022.

In July 2023, the County hired Ms. Gearhart into a full-time position as the new County Strategic Program Coordinator. A few of the projects supported by the Strategic Program Coordinator include the opioid funding process, ARPA funding projects, Golden LEAF Community Based Grants initiatives, and strategic planning project funding.

Consider Awarding Bid for the Farm, Food, and Family Education Center

At the July meeting, Commissioners approved the final design of the Farm, Food, and Family Resource Center and the Training and Event Center. The results of the bidding process were presented at the September Board Meeting.

"This will support so much more than agriculture. This is not just an agricultural center but also a center for the community," said Kenneth Sherin, Cooperative Extension Director.

Commissioners unanimously voted to award the F3EC bid to Holden Building Co. in the amount of \$28,913,936 and approved the associated budget amendment and project ordinance amendment.



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Needs Based Grant for South Asheboro Middle School

South Asheboro Middle School was built in 1962 and has limited ADA accessibility, cafeteria seating, as well as aging infrastructure. Asheboro City Schools (ACS) has explored available funding options through the North Carolina Department of Instruction. Lottery Capital Funds support the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund. This grant is available for new construction and renovations. Asheboro City Schools can apply for this grant with a 15% match from county funds. The matching funds would be spread over four fiscal years based on the estimated construction timeline.

ACS has selected a Design-Build Team made up of Bobbitt Construction and Brady Services to assist with the project. Preliminary design and budget work have already been completed to assist with the grant application. A preliminary budget of \$35 million has been estimated to address ADA accessibility, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, window replacement, cafeteria seating, and security concerns. The required match for \$35 million would be \$5.25 million from the County. Additional costs not supported by the grant would include the rental of mobile classroom space at an estimated cost of \$675,000.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the application of the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant and allow the Chairman to sign any necessary documentation related to the grant application.

Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance Update and Public Hearing

Recent changes to North Carolina General Statutes require the amendment of the Randolph County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. Most of the changes in the amendment reflect things that are already being done. There are two substantive changes. Previously, to qualify as a Voluntary Agricultural District, the property was required to be “engaged in agriculture” as defined by North Carolina General Statute 106-581.1. Now, to qualify the property must be “used for bona fide farm purposes” as that term is defined in the North Carolina General Statute. The second change is that a landowner whose property is removed from a Voluntary Agricultural District or an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District by the advisory board has a right of appeal to the Board of County Commissioners. Previously, the only right of appeal existed if the advisory board denied an application.

A public hearing was held to consider approval of the amendments to the Voluntary Agriculture District Ordinance. No speakers came forward during the public hearing.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the amendments to the Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance, as presented.



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Centralized Permitting Ordinance Amendment

On September 8th, 2020, the Board of Commissioners adopted a new Centralized Permitting Ordinance to replace the original ordinance adopted in 1991. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of Randolph County citizens by streamlining the development permit process through a centralized County permitting system, integrating all development information by parcel identifier into a computerized land records management system.

Article D of this ordinance outlines the Fire Marshal's authorities and responsibilities as it relates to permitting and inspections. This code currently consists of 45 chapters and over 200 referenced standards. The appendices of the code were not included in the 2020 adoption because some of the appendices did not apply to the county. The current fire code offers flexibility for rural areas. It is recommended that these appendices unanimously approved by the Central Permitting Committee on May 4th, 2023, be approved by the Randolph County Board of County Commissioners at the September Board Meeting.

A public hearing was held to consider approval of the amendments to the Centralized Permitting Ordinance. No speakers came forward during the public hearing.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the amendment to the Centralized Permitting Ordinance, as presented.

Consider Adding Deputy Medical Director to the Classification Plan

Randolph County Emergency Services asked for Board approval to create a Deputy Medical Director position in the Randolph County classification plan and add one Deputy Medical Director position to the Emergency Services department. In the past, the position has been funded via a standard contract. The current medical director is considered a part-time County employee with a contract outlining his responsibilities and other expectations.

The Deputy Medical Director will assist and share responsibilities with the Medical Director, including providing instruction at monthly in-service training and the new paramedic academy, reviewing patient care reports for quality management, responding to emergency calls in the community, and more. The cost for this part-time position will be \$8,000 annually. Funding for the position is already available in the Emergency Services Department budget.

Commissioners unanimously voted to create and add a Deputy Medical Director position to the classification plan and authorize the County Manager to sign the contract.



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Establish Opioid Abatement Fund/Closeout Opioid Settlement Project Ordinance

On August 3, 2021, the Board approved the N.C. Memorandum of Agreement (NCMOA), which specified how opioid settlement funds could be used. Under the terms of the NCMOA, the County has certain responsibilities before the funds can be utilized to address community needs.

A special revenue fund was established to account for the settlement fund distributions, which was adopted as a multi-year grant project by the Board in 2022. However, state law requires an annual budget ordinance to be adopted instead.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the resolution to establish the Opioid Abatement Special Revenue Fund with the associated budget amendment and close out the Opioid Settlement Fund, transfer resources to the Opioid Abatement Special Revenue Fund, and approve the associated budget amendments.

County Manager's Updates

At the August Board Meeting, County Manager Hal Johnson announced plans to retire in December 2023. Mr. Johnson has been employed with the County for 48 years and has served as the Manager for the last nine years.

"It has been an honor to work for Randolph County for the past 48 years. I have had the honor of seeing so much change and growth in this county and being an integral part of that," said Johnson.