



# THE RANDOLPH RECAP

DECEMBER 9, 2021  
COMMISSIONER AGENDA SUMMARY

## AGENDA ITEMS:

- Public Comment
- Community Based Navigators
- Resolution to Declare Randolph County a Sanctuary for Life
- Purchase of New Radios for County Depts.
- Braxton Craven School Feasibility Study
- Farm, Food, & Family Education Agriculture Center Funding
- EMS Peer Review Committee Updates
- Closure of Browns Meadow Road



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.



# THE RANDOLPH RECAP

OCTOBER 25, 2021

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

## Community Based Navigators

Randolph County Board of Commissioners recently appropriated strategic planning funds to the Randolph County Partnership for Children for a Library Based Navigators Program.

Commissioners approved the addition of Community Navigator-Social Worker and Community Navigator-Social Worker Lead titles to the Randolph County pay plan.

Ross Holt, Randolph County Library Director, expects the positions to be filled no later than February 1st.

## Public Comment

On Monday, December 6th, automaker Toyota announced its decision to build an electric battery production facility in Randolph County, the single greatest private investment in North Carolina history. The plan includes 1,750 direct new jobs and a \$1.29 billion investment. Darrell Frye, Chair, Randolph County Board of Commissioners, explained that the success of the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite project was due to the collaborative effort of many Randolph County departments and employees. **"Our employees played a significant role in making that day possible,"** said Frye. The Greensboro-Randolph Megasite project promises economic prosperity for Randolph County, the region, and the state.

Several Randolph County citizens spoke regarding the proposed Safe Sanctuary Resolution. Linda Daves, Randolph County resident, implored commissioners to take a stand by adopting the resolution. She believes there is a shared responsibility to speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Suzie Scott, Randolph County resident, urged Commissioners to **"carefully consider the effect this would have on women who face unimaginable decisions."** Ms. Scott shared that **"one in fifty pregnancies are deemed medically unviable or atopic, and are therefore potentially hazardous to the mother's life without the intervention of a performed abortion or medication."** She believes a better solution includes more support for prenatal medical services and affordable access to healthcare for all women.

Citizens also spoke during the public comment period about the confederate statue at the Randolph County Courthouse. Joyce Bass, and her third-grader Cameron, would like to see it moved. Cameron shared a list of names, sourced from Randolph County deeds of sale, of children her age transacted as property in Randolph County. **"These kids could have been me. They could have had dreams that went unfulfilled,"** said Cameron. Ms. Bass believes commissioners should vote to move the confederate statue to a museum where its historical value can be appreciated.

Dwain P. Roberts, Commander, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, believes it is important to remember that the statue is **"not a monument but a memorial to those who fought for Randolph County."** Randolph County resident, Dean Brown, feels the monument honorably represents and memorializes Randolph County soldiers. **"It was placed for the brothers, sons, and fathers who died in the war and had no opportunity for a decent burial. They had no funerals, services, or tombstones placed for them. Citizens erected it to honor their memory."** He believes the confederate statue should stay in its current location.



# THE RANDOLPH RECAP

NOVEMBER 1, 2021  
COMMISSIONER AGENDA SUMMARY

## Braxton Craven Feasibility Study

Randolph County School System recently completed the construction of a new middle school. In August 2021, Trinity Middle School welcomed its first-ever students, leaving Braxton Craven School vacant. With the ongoing possibility of Medicaid expansion, the prospect of using the newly vacated campus as additional office space for the Randolph County Department of Social Services has been raised.

Paxton Arthurs, County Engineer, presented a total estimated project cost of \$5.1 million. Commissioner Maxton McDowell described the expansion of Randolph County Social Services to the Archdale area as an ultimate need.

In response to the proposed idea, Tracie Murphy, Director of Randolph County Department of Social Services, said, **“I would love to have a fully functional Department of Social Services on that side of the county so that those residents can be served closer to where they live. They deserve it.”**

## Resolution to Declare Randolph County A Sanctuary for Life

Mark Wilburn, a local pastor at Balfour Baptist Church, presented commissioners with a resolution to declare Randolph County a Sanctuary for Life. The resolution urges citizens of Randolph County to promote and defend the inalienable right to life, and the inherent dignity of all human beings, including the preborn, from conception to fertilization and through all stages of development.

Pastor Wilburn believes there is an exciting opportunity for Randolph County **“to have two history-defining moments in one week.”**

Randolph County Commissioner, Hope Haywood, commented that **“valuing all lives starts right here and should extend to the preborn, as well as children of all ages and their families, all races and ethnicities, citizens from all income brackets, and to people of all faiths and religious and political beliefs.”** Commissioners unanimously adopted the resolution to declare Randolph County a Sanctuary for Life.

## Purchase of New Radios for County Departments

Mobile and portable radios and repeaters for relevant Randolph County departments (Animal Services, Emergency Services, Public Health, and the Sheriff's Department) were purchased in 2011 and will reach their end of life between 2020 and 2025.

Donovan Davis, Randolph County Emergency Services Chief, requested authorization to purchase new equipment for all relevant departments. The cost for equipment is \$2.29 million, in addition to \$170k for hardware and software upgrades. Randolph County, Commissioner, Kenny Kidd asked if competitive bids had been obtained for the radios. Chief Davis explained that the radios were being purchased off of state contract where competitive bids had been obtained. County staff could program the recommended radios which would save money over other models. Prices of the recommended radios were expected to increase within the next week.

Randolph County Commissioners approved a budget amendment to the General Fund to purchase the equipment.



# THE RANDOLPH RECAP

NOVEMBER 1, 2021  
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## EMS Peer Review Committee Updates

Donovan Davis, Chief, Emergency Services, shared updates to the EMS Peer Review Committee Bylaws.

These changes reflect new voting member positions (27, increased from 20), and allow the Chairperson to appoint a designee in his/her absence.

Commissioners voted to adopt the updated EMS Peer Review Committee Bylaws and appoint the recommended committee members as required by North Carolina Administrative Code.

## Closure of Browns Meadow Road

Commissioners unanimously approved a request made by Aimee Scotton, Randolph County Attorney, to permanently close the portion of Browns Meadow Road in Liberty, that runs across the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite.

According to Scotton, closure is necessary for the continued development of the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite.

## Farm, Food & Family Agriculture Education Center Funding

Kenneth Sherin, County Extension Director, shared plans for a Farm, Food, and Family Education Center in Randolph County. **“This will secure the future of agricultural education in Randolph County,”** said Sherin. The proposed educational facility would serve as a hub for innovative and collaborative sharing of resources and ideas. The Farm, Food, and Family Education Center would be located near the intersection of Highway 64 and East Salisbury Street in Asheboro and has an estimated project cost of \$25 million. To date, nearly 16 million dollars have been secured in the state budget, as well as a two-million-dollar USDA loan through Randolph Electric Membership Corporation.

**“We are especially thankful to Allen McNeill for his efforts in getting this through the legislature, as well as Dave Craven for making sure that those funds were secured for Randolph County.”**- Commissioner David Allen, Vice-Chair, Randolph County Board of Commissioners.

Agriculture is a prominent industry in Randolph County. The county ranks seventh or above statewide in the following areas: number of beef cows (ranked first), dairy cows, goats, cattle, hay production, and poultry. Randolph County is also recognized as one of the top ten counties in North Carolina, for the value of food sold directly to consumers. A trend that Mr. Sherin believes will only continue to expand because of the ongoing pandemic. **“When the grocery store shelves were empty, people turned to the farmers to get their food. We are a top go-to county for direct sale of food by farmers.”**

For this reason, The Farm, Food, and Family Educational Center would also seek to partner with academic institutions and regional educators to research and demonstrate agricultural practices that support ecological resilience and farm viability. Mr. Sherin believes this would be beneficial in helping producers better market their livestock and increasing livestock profitability.

The center would also provide continuity for the existing agricultural curriculums offered by our school systems and a central location for students and 4-H participants to attend workshops, presentations, and practices. **This project has never gotten out of sight for us and is still a top priority. I think this is a project that we can put on the forefront and move as quickly as we can.**” said Darrell Frye in response to the proposed agricultural center.