



THE RANDOLPH RECAP

MAY 1, 2023

COMMISSIONER MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Public Comment
- GWCC Inc., Request
- Rural Healthcare Stabilization Loan Debt Service Waiver
- Mediko Inc., Contract
- Creation of Human Services Planner/Evaluator II Position
- Abolishment of Farmer Capped Service District and Formation of District Without Cap
- Onsite Medical Clinic Funding Request
- OneNC Grant for Superman Project
- Historic Courthouse Elevator Addition & Renovation Bidding
- Requests for Qualification - Infrastructure Projects



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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Chairman's Comments

Chairman Frye shared that the Opioid Settlement Funding Applications item had been pulled from the May agenda to be addressed at a later date.

Public Comment

- Joe Millikan, Randolph County citizen, shared ideas concerning rural growth. **"The growth management plan is not to stop growth but to channel the more intense growth to areas where the public infrastructure allows growth to be sustained over the long term."**
- Clyde Foust, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns about the Confederate monument on the historic courthouse lawn. **"I want to reiterate to this board that it is an injustice for us to have a Confederate monument in front of where this board meets. This is a fact, not an opinion."**
- Dwain Roberts, Randolph County citizen, spoke about the Energizer plant located in Asheboro. **"It is great to see that they are doing well with their expansions and contributions to the community, both in Asheboro and Randolph County. I am really pleased to see they will be doing well and hiring new employees."**
- Lydia Davenport, Randolph County citizen, spoke about the Confederate monument on the historic courthouse lawn. **"I find it so hard to understand why our white community can't understand why the statue is offensive. I love statues and believe it is a beautiful statue, but I agree that it does not need to be in front of the courthouse."**
- Tim Saunders, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns about gun violence. **"It has come to soul-searching time. There are morally correct things, and things that are not morally correct. We need to stop this before it gets here."**
- Kevin Price, Randolph County citizen, shared concerns about the Confederate Statue. **"Jesus helped everybody. We all deserve liberty and justice. You can make a change. I guarantee you can do more with everybody than what can be done with just a few people."**



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George Washington Carver College Inc., Funding Request

The George Washington Carver College Inc., (GWCC) is a multi-use facility on Asheboro's east side that hosts several activities, classes, and performances. The mission of GWCC is to create unity and pride within the community. GWCC seeks to address several problems in Randolph County, primarily the education crisis created by the pandemic causing a significant number of students to fall below proficiency in math and reading. Also, GWCC seeks to focus on curbing the rise in gang activity in Asheboro. Both issues are addressed with the GWCCEC After-School Program. GWCC requests \$10k from the County to purchase needed supplies and tools for its after-school program.

Commissioners unanimously approved the request of George Washington Carver College, Inc. for \$10k in Strategic Planning Funds and the associated budget amendment.

Rural Healthcare Stabilization Loan - Debt Service Waiver

In 2022, Randolph County received the \$12M Rural Healthcare Stabilization Loan from UNC Health, to be used to finance capital improvements at Randolph Health. American Healthcare Systems, LLC (AHS) operates Randolph Health and signed a Promissory Note and Loan Agreement with the County to access these funds. Their debt service amount was to be the same annual amount as the County's payment schedule to UNC Health. The intent of this arrangement was for the County to waive the debt service obligation for the year as long as the hospital maintained a certain level of operations and other covenants. The Board of County Commissioners annually assesses the performance of American Healthcare Systems, LLC to determine whether the May debt service payment, of \$1 million plus interest at 1% due from AHS, should be waived.

"Where I have issues is that for the first 18 months, we received no written financial information. Further, while we are on a board, I think the understanding of the LGC was that this would be a board of directors. When signing this covenant, it specifically mentioned a board of directors and that we were to have voting rights. Part of the reason the LGC put these requirements in was so that the County could have some supervision and responsibility over the \$12M. I believe that our expectations along with the LGC were that this board not operate in an advisory capacity, but in a governing capacity," said Vice-Chairman Allen.

"The County has had other discussions with the principals involved at the hospital over coming forth with information and letting us know what is going on, how well the hospital is, and if it remains financially sound with the ability to continue delivering services for the citizens of this county. This is why we are expressing our concerns now," said Chairman Frye.

Tim Ford, CEO, Randolph Health, said **"This hospital has been here, we want to continue to grow and provide services needed to this community. We are committed to this community."**

Commissioners decided to table the request until the June meeting.



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Mediko Inc./Inmate Medical Services Contract for Detention Center

The Randolph County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) has reviewed Mediko, Inc., its current inmate medical provider, and wishes to renew its contract. RCSO requests an additional Licensed Nurse Practitioner (LPN). This position would be responsible for completing medication distribution and medical screenings during intake. The current LPNs provide this service, as well as sick calls and medical emergencies. The added position would provide additional coverage Monday through Friday. The cost for renewed services with Mediko, Inc. is \$1,420,762 for the year, totaling \$118,397 per month.

Commissioners voted 4-1 to approve the contract for Mediko, Inc. for inmate medical services for FY23-24 and to allow the County Manager to sign the contract.

Creation of Human Services Planner/Evaluator II Position

As the Opioid Settlement Funding work has progressed, it has become clear that the County will benefit from having a specialist (Human Services Planner/Evaluator II) that will provide support for the settlement funds project. The Human Services Planner/Evaluator II will work closely with organizations that apply for and receive funding. This new position request includes an addition to the Classification Plan (Grade 121). It is requested that the position be funded using Opioid Settlement Funds for the duration of fund availability. Once settlement funds are expended, an evaluation and decision regarding the continuation of the position will be made.

Commissioners unanimously approved the addition of a new position, Human Services Planner/Evaluator II, to the County's Classification Plan effective May 1, 2023, and approved the associated budget amendment.



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Consideration of Abolishment of Capped Service District for Farmer and the Formation of the District without the Fifteen-Cent Tax Rate Cap

All Randolph County current fire protection tax district's fifteen-cent caps have been removed, except Farmer. At the February meeting, Commissioners officially considered moving forward to abolish the current capped county service district for fire protection for Farmer and replacing it with a district that does not have limitations on taxation. The proposed new service district contains the same properties currently contained in the capped district for our area.

The Board held a public hearing considering the abolishment of the current district and the creation of a new uncapped district for the Farmer area.

Paul Lambert, Randolph County citizen, spoke during the public hearing about the potential of an uncapped tax rate. **"I understand that everything in today's economy is more expensive. So, for there to be a need to raise the tax, I can understand. But, what it sounds like we're doing right now is, we now have a capped tax, were just going to open it and give them an open checkbook."**

Tracy Boyles, Chief, Farmer Fire Department, also spoke during the public hearing and said **"Farmer Fire Department has been very diligent with the taxpayer's money. We've been the fourth lowest tax for almost 25 years."**

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a resolution abolishing the current fifteen-cent capped Farmer fire protection county service district and creating a new service district without the cap.

Requesting Funding for Onsite Medical Clinic

Sam Varner, Randolph County Wellness Administrator, requested that Commissioners approve the funding and building of an onsite medical wellness clinic for County employees and their dependents. Projected clinic costs are \$405k annually, with startup costs estimated at \$50k. A clinic selection committee picked Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist to staff and manage the proposed clinic.

Commissioners voted unanimously to award the contract to Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist for Medical Clinical Services in the amount of \$405k, authorize the County Manager to sign the contract, and authorize the County to contract with Smith Sinnett Architects for the design of the Wellness Clinic.



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OneNC Grant for Project Superman

In February, the Board of Commissioners held a joint public meeting with the City of Archdale for an economic development project called Project Superman. The company, Axium Packaging LLC., also applied for a OneNC grant, which would pass through the County.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has awarded \$365k to this project. The existing announced local incentive package meets the required grant match.

Commissioners voted to accept the OneNC Grant for Axium Packaging and approve the associated budget amendment.

Additional Funding Need for Software Renewal

County Manager, Hal Johnson, presented the details of additional funding needs for software renewal to the Board of Commissioners. The County's current contract with Microsoft expires in May. Historically, the County purchasing model for Microsoft Office and Windows programs has been a "per-user" model. While Microsoft still offers this purchasing model, the company seeks to steer customers to a subscription-based model. Support and operability for Microsoft Office 2019 will end on October 10, 2023. The County currently has nearly 700 users with the Microsoft Office 2019 version, due to frugal use of technology and related licenses. Failure to update these programs by October 10 will not only result in loss of email functionality and programming support but also cause other infrastructure issues and increase network security concerns. Remediating this issue under the current purchasing model would cost approximately \$888.6K.

Three years ago, the County entered an agreement with Microsoft Office on the basic level of their Office 365 product, for this reason, there is an existing vehicle to easily transition County Office and Windows products from a basic level to an enterprise level. Transitioning to the enterprise level will allow the County to update all versions of Microsoft software on all county computers. In addition to funding already available in the FY23 IT budget, upgrading from basic level to enterprise level would require an additional \$268k.

Commissioners unanimously approved the renewal of the Microsoft 365 contract at an Enterprise Level with an additional \$268k, allowing the County Manager to sign the contract, and approving the associated budget amendment.



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Historic Courthouse Elevator Addition and Renovation Bidding

At the April Board Meeting, Paxton Arthurs, County Engineer, updated Commissioners on the bidding of the Historic Courthouse elevator addition. Since then, Hobbs Architects has been working with Samson Construction to negotiate an acceptable cost. The proposed negotiated cost for only the elevator addition was \$2.57M. Arthurs recommended rebidding the project with lower prequalification requirements now that the project scope is simpler.

Commissioners unanimously approved dropping the prequalification requirement and rebidding the Historic Courthouse project with a smaller request.

Requests for Qualifications – Infrastructure Projects

Randolph County's Water and Sewer Master Plan was completed in December 2022. The plan showed extensive future utility needs in the eastern and northeastern portions of the County due to residential and industrial growth. By 2040, Randolph County expects a population increase of over 16K. The County desires to seek Requests for Qualifications (RFQ), inviting interested engineering firms to provide professional services for projects identified by the plan. County staff intends to form a selection committee to review RFQ submissions.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a Request for Qualifications for engineering firms to provide professional services for projects identified in Randolph County's Water and Sewer Master Plan.