

October 7, 2013

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the 1909 Randolph County Historic Courthouse Meeting Room, 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC. Commissioners Holmes, Frye, Haywood, Kemp and Lanier were present. Vice Chair Darrell Frye gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was led by Randolph County 4-H youth. The Randolph County 4-H youth also recited their pledge to the 4-H flag.

Recognition of Retirees

Vicki Barton, who is retiring with 20 years of service to the Randolph County Sheriff's Office, was recognized by Col. Fred Rutledge. Col. Rutledge presented information about her career in law enforcement. Chairman Holmes presented Ms. Barton with an engraved clock on behalf of the Board.

DSS Director Beth Duncan paid tribute to Carolyn Maness for her 24½ years of service by expounding on her dedication to the citizens of Randolph County, after which, Chairman Holmes presented Ms. Maness with an engraved clock on behalf of the Board.

Public Comment Period

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 153A-52.1, Chairman Holmes opened the floor for public comment. County Attorney Ben Morgan read aloud the Public Comment Rules of Procedure.

Alan Ferguson, 4794 Troy Smith Rd., Liberty, NC, inquired about what Bonnie Renfro had learned from the State concerning funding for the proposed Greensboro/Liberty mega site. He said that he and his neighbors are very eager to hear if the State is going to support it or not.

Note: See "Update on Greensboro/Liberty Mega Site" later in these minutes for EDC President Bonnie Renfro's response.

Terry Hildebrand, 4593 Crutchfield Farm Rd., Liberty, NC, said he knows the Commissioners have been bombarded with facts and figures concerning the mega site. And, by the way, he's never seen anyone speak in support of the mega site except for Ms. Renfro. He and his wife have lived on 10 acres just outside the mega site footprint for 18 years. Before that, they lived in cities and suburbs in New York and now appreciate rural living, as they are tired of the cold weather and high taxes of New York. They love this beautiful state and the Liberty area. Except for an occasional loud truck on Hwy. 421, it's quiet and peaceful. There is no recognizable air pollution. They can see stars and the Milky Way. Now, they are afraid everything they love about Northeastern Randolph County could change. A mega site could mean noise, light and air pollution, with increased trucking and rail traffic. Trucks will be barreling up and down Hwy. 421 and across Julian Airport Rd., and heading to and from Route 62. The huge amount of lighting on buildings and parking lots will flood the night sky. He doesn't care what environmental studies have been done; they're rarely correct. The chlorine in the site alone could change the water table. Wells could dry up. Property values could go down. Taxes could go up due to zoning changes. Taxes and fees would surely go up to pay for this mega site. Without wages going up, how are they supposed to keep up with these increases? Also, tax revenues from the properties within the footprint would be lost and not replaced because the land would be given to large, rich corporations with the added incentives of tax abatements. Has anyone considered talking about the thousands of people around and within the

perimeter of the site whose lives would be altered, disrupted, even decimated? There will be those who will be losing property or the use of their property through rights of way or eminent domain in order to run water, sewer and rail lines, and they will be obligated to tie into those lines at their own expense. Why are we even doing this? For a couple thousand jobs? Jobs that can't even be promised? Build it and they will come? If there would be jobs created, they would go to Burlington, Greensboro, and Siler City—out of the county. Mr. Hildebrand said that the only thing he sees coming from this proposed mega site is disruption and higher taxes, while the company gets richer. In North Carolina, the NC Constitution says we are endowed by our Creator the right to enjoy the fruits of our own labor. He said he is enjoying those rights now but won't be if his life is disrupted. Our environment and way of life is at risk here.

Hearing no further comments, the public comment period was closed.

Addition to Consent Agenda

Chairman Holmes announced that *Item Q. Decline Opportunity to Obtain Randolph County School Surplus Property (2 CTE-Built Houses) & Permit Board of Education to Dispose of Said Property* had been added to the Consent Agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On motion of Frye, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended:

- *approve minutes of the special meeting of 8/20/13 and regular meeting of 9/3/13;*
- *appoint the following Firemens' Relief Fund designees: Coleridge--Benny Beck, C.E. Teague; Eastside--Jim Pell; David Creason; Farmer--Roger King, Steven Hughes; Franklinville--Kyle Dixon, Danny Burgess; Guil Rand--Dustin Smith, Arch Hamilton; Level Cross--David Davis, Kenneth Adams; Northeast--Larry Williams, William Flowe, Jr.; Randleman--Melissa Blalock, Ruth Allen; Seagrove--Patty Gatlin, Bernard Needham; Sophia--Edwin W. Beeson, Chuck Powell; New Hope (Southwest)--Troy Powell, Wiley Hurley; Staley--Yancy King, Terry Williams; Tabernacle--Darrell Owenby, Joy Ann Sexton; Ulah--Norris Whatley, Ted Scott; Westside--Wesley Garner, James Lamonds;*
- *adopt Proclamation Designating 4H Week (October 6-12) in Randolph County, as follows:*

WHEREAS, *4-H youth across the nation are leading efforts to solve problems in their communities and make a difference for their futures; and*

WHEREAS, *4-H is the largest youth development organization in North Carolina and the largest in the nation with over six million participants; and*

WHEREAS, *4-H in North Carolina claims 218,669 youth members and 21,413 volunteers, while Randolph County's 4-H program reaches more than 4,000 youth and more than 300 volunteers; and*

WHEREAS, *4-H, as part of the NC Cooperative Extension System of NC State University and NCA&T State University, is a program where youth learn through opportunities that provide them hands-on experiences in 4-H's mission mandates of science, engineering and technology; healthy living; and citizenship; and*

WHEREAS, *4-H has connected youth and their communities with the innovative research and resources from our nation's 106 land-grant universities and colleges for more than 101 years;*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** the Randolph County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2013, as National 4-H Week in Randolph County and urge the people of this community to take advantage of the opportunity to become more aware of this special program that enhances our young people's interests in their futures as part of Randolph County 4-H Youth Development and to join us in recognizing the unique partnership between our county and our state University System.*

- *appoint Sandi Rudzinski, Allison Brown, Cindy McBaine, Jean Harris & Mac Whatley to the Randolph County Aging Services Planning Committee for 1-year term;*
- *approve Budget Amendment #9 to Reflect Revisions to the 2013-14 HCCBG and ROAP Grants--Authorize Chairman & Finance Officer to Sign Revised Form DOA-731 for 2013-14, as follows:*

2013-2014 Budget Ordinance--General Fund—Budget Amendment #9		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	<i>\$ 41,023</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Other Human Services Appropriations</i>	<i>\$41,023</i>	

- *approve Budget Amendment #10 for Social Services (Duke Energy Funds for Crisis Energy Program); as follows:*

2013-2014 Budget Ordinance--General Fund—Budget Amendment #10		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	<i>\$ 111,842</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Social Services</i>	<i>\$ 111,842</i>	

- *adopt Resolution Establishing Administrative Value for Minimum Public Records Retention Period for Retention Schedules, as follows:*

***WHEREAS,** public records retention and disposition are governed by Chapters 121 and 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and*

***WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, in cooperation with and with the approval of, the Department of Administration, is charged with the duty to establish standards, procedures, and techniques for effective management of public records; and*

***WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources establishes records retention and disposition schedules for all state and local government agencies that must be approved by the appropriate governing authority; and*

***WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has charged the governing authority of each government agency to establish and enforce internal policies setting minimum retention periods for the records that the Department of Cultural Resources has scheduled with the disposition instruction “destroy when administrative value ends”;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners hereby has established and shall enforce “three years” as the minimum*

retention period for records that the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has scheduled with the disposition instruction “destroy when administrative value ends.”

- *approve Records Retention & Disposition Schedules issued by NC Dept. of Cultural Resources, Div. of Archives & Records, Gov’t Records Branch, as follows:*
 1. *Approve Tax Department Schedule as Recommended by the Tax Assessor & Approve Amendments to Standards 5 & 12 issued 9/3/13;*
 2. *Approve County Management Schedule as Recommended by the County Manager & Approve Amendments to Standards 4 & 11 issued 8/28/13;*
 3. *Approve Amendments Issued 8/29/13 to Standards 2 & 5 of Register of Deeds Schedule as Recommended by Randolph County Register of Deeds;*
- *appoint Luke Hollingsworth to Tourism Development Authority;*
- *approve Budget Amendment #11 for Sheriff’s Office (2013 Bureau of Justice JAG Grant Approval), as follows:*

2013-2014 Budget Ordinance--General Fund—Budget Amendment #11		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	<i>\$ 10,110</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Sheriff</i>	<i>\$ 10,110</i>	

- *approve lease of courthouse space to NC Dept. of Public Safety and authorize County Manager to sign;*
- *approve Budget Amendment #12 for Economic Development Reserve Fund (Ennis Flint Project), as follows:*

2013-2014 Budget Ordinance--General Fund—Budget Amendment #12		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Transfer from ED Reserve</i>	<i>\$ 3,500</i>	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Other Economic and Physical Development ppropriations</i>	<i>\$ 3,500</i>	

- *reappoint Douglas Curtis, Lydane Reddick & Terry Sheppard to Climax Fire Protection Commission;*
- *reappoint Barry Ward, William Collier & John Shepard to Julian Fire Protection Commission;*
- *adopt Resolution Approving Abandonment of SR 3236 Evelyn View Drive in Trinity from the Division of Highways’ Secondary Road System, as follows:*

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has investigated the 0.10 mile SR 3168 Evelyn View Dr. in Randolph County for purposes of abandonment; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that road should be abandoned from the Division of Highways' Secondary Road System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners that the 0.10 mile SR 3168 Evelyn View Dr. in Randolph County be abandoned from the Division of Highways' Secondary Road System.

This is the 7th day of October, 2013.

- *decline opportunity to obtain the following surplus property from the Randolph County Schools: 2 Career and Technical Education built houses, House #1 located at 420 Kimrey Street, Ramseur and House #2 located at 1188 Arabian Drive, Asheboro, and permit Board of Education to dispose of said property, pursuant to NCGS 115C-518.*

Chairman Homes read aloud the Proclamation designating 4H Week (October 6-12) in Randolph County that was adopted in the Consent Agenda.

Change to New Business Agenda

Chairman Holmes announced that DSS Director Beth Duncan had requested that Agenda Item J. *Position Requests at DSS—Beth Duncan*, be tabled until a future meeting.

Child Fatality Prevention/Community Child Protection Team Annual Report

MiMi Cooper, Public Health Director, in accordance with NCGS 143-576.1(a)(2), gave an annual report of the Child Fatality Prevention/Community Child Protection Team for recommendations for systems improvements that may prevent child fatalities in Randolph County. She said that the team met four times during the past year and reviewed 10 child deaths and 11 current cases of children under the protection of Social Services. Causes of death were Perinatal Conditions—6, SIDS—2, Accidents—2. The purpose of the Child Fatality Prevention Team is to review the deaths of all children to determine if system problems exist that contribute in any way to the delay of or lack of services that might have prevented this death. If gaps exist, the team works to improve/add services that will prevent problems for families in the future. The team made the following recommendations: 1) Continue “VIP” demonstration program visits to local schools for education on various topics related to teen drivers (distracted driving, DUI, seat belt laws) and 2) The team held a roundtable discussion regarding SIDS and how the process works in Randolph County with coordination between the Sheriff's Office, EMS, Health Department, and DSS. The team discussed the individual agency responsibilities with a suspected SIDS death and the collaboration that needs to occur between agencies.

Ms. Cooper said that the purpose of the Community Child Protection Team is to review current cases selected by DSS staff that are particularly complex or that the case worker would like a review of the services provided. The CCPT makes suggestions to the staff that may improve the care for that child. The CCPT reviewed 11 cases concerning children during the past year and identified the following gaps/recommendations: 1) No initial report on a sibling who was failing to thrive. DSS is working on a strategy to improve communications between medical providers and DSS staff; 2) A family was not making good choices on home heating and

putting their family at risk. Health Department staff were involved in this case and have included now in their check lists to determine the method of home heating to assure that it is a safe choice; and 3) A family was having difficulty getting a protection order without having to go through the Family Crisis Center. The team asked the Family Crisis Center and the Sheriff's office to help the team understand this process better.

Ms. Cooper also reported that the CCPT was also involved in two State Intensive Death Reviews during this reporting period.

Approval of Flooring Purchase at Library & Budget Amendment

Ross Holt, Public Library Director, said that the library has received a proposal to provide new flooring for the Asheboro headquarters library in the amount of \$112,708.47 from Shaw Industries through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), a cooperative purchasing group. NCGS 143-129(e)(3) provides an exception to formal bidding procedures for a purchase made through a cooperative group purchasing program. The flooring project will include replacement of worn out carpet and vinyl tile throughout the building, and walk-off material in entry areas. The project includes after hours work in high traffic areas so that the library can remain open to the public during the process. It also provides for a "stack lift" to carpet under shelving without removing/storing the books; this will allow staff over the long term to reconfigure the library's space, if needed, without requiring more carpet work. The work will begin in January 2014. Mr. Holt said that the library has raised \$117,969 in private and public funding to pay for new flooring. Mr. Holt also requested approval of a budget amendment to enable the library to receive \$117,969 in funding from the various sources.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of carpet, installation and related material from Shaw Industries through the NJPA contract in the amount of \$112,708.47, using private donations and Library Trust Funds, and authorized the County Manager to sign the documents and to approve Budget Amendment #13, as follows:

2013-2014 Budget Ordinance--General Fund—Budget Amendment #13		
<i>Revenues</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$117,969	
<i>Appropriations</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<i>Public Library</i>	\$117,969	

Approval of Expenditure of Public Funds on EDC's W. Randleman Business Park & Budget Amendment

Bonnie Renfro, Randolph County EDC President, said that in 2000, the Randolph County EDC purchased a tract of land in Randleman for development as an industrial park. The purchase was financed by a group of local banks at attractive terms and structured as a line of credit with interest paid annually. The Randolph County Board of Commissioners voted in February 2000 to support this project by assisting the EDC with the annual interest payment as needed, and the Board has voted annually to appropriate funds for that purpose following a public hearing. Over the last ten years, the EDC has purchased additional tracts and made various improvements to the site. A portion of the site was sold in 2004 for Rheem's new distribution center. The total remaining acreage is 36.66 acres. The property is marketed for sale and presents various options

for additional development. Twenty+ acres have been graded to provide a shovel ready site. Site layouts show development options for multiple facilities ranging in size from 40,000 to 400,000 square feet. Asking price for the property is \$35,000 per acre for the graded portion of the site. The site is broker listed and the EDC has been working with a client over the last several months that is interested in the site. The EDC has transferred a one-acre tract to the county as the site for a new ambulance base to serve the Randleman area. The loan matured on September 1, 2013 and the EDC is currently renewing the loan. The proposed terms are to renew a credit facility for the WRBP at a principal loan balance of \$520,300.21 for a five-year term, amortized over seven years, at a fixed rate of 4.85%, with annual repayment of 10% of the principal balance, single annual interest payment, the loan to be administered by Community One Bank on behalf of three partner banks, and to assign a first lien deed of trust on the property. Ms. Renfro requested approval of the principal payment of \$74,364.00 plus current interest of \$25,864.65, totaling \$100,128.65, which became due on September 1, 2013.

At 6:34 pm, Chairman Holmes opened a duly advertised public hearing. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the debt service payment in the amount of \$100,128.65 on the EDC's loan on the W. Randleman Business Park, and approved Budget Amendment #14 to effect the fund transfer from the Economic Development Reserve fund, as follows:

2013-2014 Budget Ordinance--General Fund—Budget Amendment #14		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Transfer from Economic Development Reserve</i>	\$100,129	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Other Economic Development Appropriations</i>	\$100,129	

Public Hearing on Proposed True-Value and Present-Use Schedules, Standards, and Rules for 2014 Revaluation

At 6:36 p.m., Chairman Holmes opened a duly advertised public hearing for citizen comment on the proposed True-Value and Present-Use Schedules, Standards, and Rules for the 2014 Revaluation that were presented to the Board at their September meeting. A notice was published in the *Courier Tribune*, pursuant to NCGS 105-317 on September 17, stating that the documents were available for inspection and that a public hearing would be held on this date. Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing. No one spoke, and Chairman Holmes declared that the public hearing was closed.

Update on NCFAST

Beth Duncan recognized Sam Frazier, DSS Board Chair, and David Jarrell, newly appointed DSS Board member. Ms. Duncan said that for over 25 years, local NC Departments of Social Services have hoped to do away with 19 very antiquated systems that do not interface and to replace those fragmented systems with an integrated case management system for all Social Services programs. NCFAST is a realization of that hope. NCFAST is an acronym for NC Families Accessing Services through Technology. The current project began in August 2008 with procurement installation and integration of the software. The NCFAST program is designed to improve the way that the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the 100

county departments of social services conduct business. NCFAST introduces new technological tools and business processes, which are being implemented in phases. Those phases will enable staff to spend less time performing administrative tasks, such as entering someone's name multiple times for multiple programs. NCFAST will allow a worker to enter information one time and it should flow through all programs. That will enable staff to spend less time performing those administrative tasks and more time assisting families. Phase 1 (Global Case Management and Food and Nutrition Services integration) was completed on March 31, 2013. For Randolph County, this involved converting about 11,000 cases from the old Food and Nutrition program system over into the new NCFAST system, along with taking and entering any new applications along the way. This conversion process caused an expected bottleneck, which required overtime to complete the process. Around June, things began to improve, and the NCFAST program was working as intended, with some anticipated glitches. Then, on July 15, the State added Phase 2 and Phase 6, which included the integration of the Eligibility Information System (screening and intake for the Work First program, Medicaid, Special Assistance and Refugee Assistance). This is where a good majority of NC counties began to experience real problems. This unexpected diversion created unforeseen problems in food and nutrition services, along with the usual glitches, which were anticipated with folding in the Medicaid and Work First Eligibility Information System. During this time, Randolph County was behind by about six weeks, so families were experiencing some delay in their food benefits. A couple of cases got stuck, and even the NCFAST Helpdesk had difficulty in resolving those issues. The good news is when Randolph County got behind, overtime was extended to alleviate the bottleneck, and staff have been working long hours and weekends to make sure our citizens receive their food benefits. As of the end of last week, Randolph was 49 cases behind in Food and Nutrition Services. Ms. Duncan said that insufficient staffing levels have made their work very challenging. To complicate matters further, Phase 7 (Interoperability of the Federally Funded Marketplace) was moved up to October 1st because of the beginning of the Affordable Care Act. While the NCFAST piece is operational, the federal side of the equation is not ready, so there is no connectivity to the Federal Marketplace at this point with the NCFAST system.

Ms. Duncan thanked the Board and County Administration for the technical support during this process, particularly from Maintenance and IT departments. She said our County connectivity to NCFAST has not been a significant issue from the County side. Today, according to Ms. Duncan, there are only three cases that are in need of attention at the state level in the NCFAST Helpdesk. Ms. Duncan said that while she fully anticipates rippling challenges throughout this project, they are already seeing the benefits of NCFAST and how it is going to make a great difference in the client experience when they visit our local DSS.

Vice Chair Frye asked if there had been any complaints from providers about not getting paid.

Ms. Duncan responded by saying that complaints received through NCFAST have been from the food stamp population. Complaints received about NC Tracks, which is a Medicaid billing system, have been from providers (dentists, doctors' offices) that have not received payment. Ms. Duncan said that her agency is a provider for at-risk Medicaid case management and they have experienced no problems with the system at all.

Commissioner Frye said that he hasn't had a single complaint, but he keeps hearing and reading about several hundred thousand providers haven't been paid and are having to borrow money to make payroll.

Commissioner Haywood said that the pharmacy piece of this has worked well, but that's certainly not true with doctors and other facilities.

Update on Legislative Changes Affecting Scrap Tire Program at Solid Waste Facility and Approval of Revision in Fee Schedule

Paxton Arthurs, Public Works Director, said that during the recent Legislative Session, the North Carolina Senate passed Bill 401 (Appropriations Act of 2013), which has some provisions that will affect the grant money that is available for solid waste operations. This session law diverts much of the money that was previously dedicated to grants for solid waste activities to the State's General Fund. The main impact for Randolph County will be in grants for scrap tire expenses. Currently, tires at the Solid Waste Facility are hauled to Central Carolina Tire in Cameron, NC at a cost of \$80.18 per ton. Last year, our scrap tire expenses were \$198,152 and our revenue from scrap tire tax reimbursements was \$174,900. This left a deficiency of \$23,252. Due to this loss and other built-in expenses, the County was able to apply for and receive \$33,575 in scrap tire grants, which are no longer expected to be available.

To be eligible for NC Scrap Tire Tax Reimbursement funds, Counties are not allowed to charge a fee for the disposal of scrap tires if they are received with a completed Scrap Tire Certificate in which the number of tires are listed and the originator and hauler of the tires are identified. In the past, because scrap tire expenses were reimbursed, the Solid Waste Facility has done little more than making sure that a certificate was received and signed. However, with the loss in grant revenue, it will be prudent to begin verifying the accuracy of the tire certificates received, and possibly charging a fee for tires that do not have a complete or accurate certificate. Mr. Arthurs presented a revised fee schedule, with the only change being the addition of a scrap tire fee of \$80.18 per ton for tires when a correct scrap tire certificate is not furnished. He recommended the new fee become effective on January 1, 2014 so that haulers and companies currently bringing tires to the Solid Waste Facility will have plenty of time to learn about these changes and plan for how it could affect their operations.

On motion of Frye, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to approve a revised Solid Waste Facility Fee Schedule, which will include the following: "Scrap tires, which are not accompanied by a complete and accurate NC Scrap Tire Certificate, shall be charged \$80.18 per ton (must be signed by the tire generator and licensed tire hauler)," effective January 1, 2014.

Update on Greensboro/Liberty Mega Site

Bonnie Renfro, Randolph County EDC President, said that at the Commissioners' last meeting in early September, she heard two things: 1) a decision that the Board wished to seek to transfer the grant that Randolph County received from the state to the Randolph County Development Corporation, and 2) is the State willing to fiscally support this type of project? Ms. Renfro said that she contacted the State Department of Commerce the following day to ascertain what the process would be to transfer the grant. She learned that a letter of request from the County to the Secretary of Commerce would be needed. She has drafted that letter and has sent it to the County. The Board of the Randolph County Development Corporation, which is not the EDC, but a separate 501c3 board, established in 2004 for this type of purpose, has met and

agreed to accept that grant and its responsibilities if the County chooses to pursue that and the State agrees to do so. However, Ms. Renfro said that the State said that we may want to hold off on sending the letter because there is a lot going on right now with the State as they restructure their Department of Commerce and many other things. They did not know if they would be able to get an answer in a timely way. Therefore, she said that we are ready to submit the letter at the appropriate time, which has not yet been determined.

Regarding the other question: "Is the State willing to support this type of project?," Ms. Renfro said that Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker made an announcement in June that she understood that many communities across our state were seeking to create and promote large tracts of land suitable for a large scale development. She said the question (was the state willing to support that) had come up in discussions with clients and communities. Secretary Decker responded, "I don't know the answer to that question, but I will find out." Ms. Renfro said that Secretary Decker is in the midst of an exercise that involves the executive and the legislative branches to ascertain the answer to that question. But Ms. Renfro said she doesn't believe any decision has been made at this point.

Vice Chair Frye said that the governor was in Greensboro the previous week and received that question publicly. His answer was that the State would be behind an auto manufacturing facility in North Carolina, but he didn't address any specific site.

Approval of Letter of Support for Proposed Chatham/Randolph Mega-site Certification

On motion of Lanier, seconded by Frye, the Board voted unanimously to approve a letter of support for the proposed Chatham/Randolph mega-site certification, as requested by the Chatham County EDC.

Rezoning Public Hearing & Action

At 7:05 p.m., the Board adjourned to a duly advertised public hearing to consider a rezoning request. Hal Johnson, Planning Director, presented the following request:

Robin Sands, Asheboro, North Carolina, is requesting that approximately 3 acres (out of 8.84 acres) located on Monterey Road, Union Township, be rezoned from RA to RBO-CD. Secondary Growth Area. Tax ID# 7657623020. The proposed Conditional Zoning District would specifically allow a tree service business. The Planning Board reviewed this request at public meeting on September 10, 2013, and unanimously recommended that this request be approved. The Planning Board found the following policies within the 2009 Growth Management Plan that support determination of consistency with the adopted plan with this recommendation:

Policy 4.3 Individual Rural Business or Highway Commercial rezoning decisions will depend upon the scale of the proposed development as it relates to the specific site and location weighed against the impacts to adjoining rural land uses.

Board of Commissioner Resolution Adopting the Growth Management Plan, Policy #2. Recognize that growth management policies should afford flexibility to County boards and agencies that will enable them to adapt to the practical requirements often necessary for rural development.

Chairman Holmes opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, Chairman Holmes

declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request of Robin Sands, as determined consistent with the standards and policies contained within the Growth Management Plan outlined in the recommendations provided by the County Planning Board.

Approval to Increase Annual Merit Program Funding

Stacy Griffin, Human Resources Director, thanked the Board for approving one-time merit bonuses for 213 employees in 2012. This was the first merit based compensation increase any employee had received since the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Ms. Griffin said that merit funds have remained steady in the budget at \$115,000 since the 2006-2007 fiscal year. When the funds were originally established, only full time employees were eligible to receive a merit increase. This past year, the criteria were changed to include part-time employees since many of the County's departments simply cannot adequately provide services without our part-time employees. This decision, while the fair thing to do, also added approximately 100 additional employees to share in the limited merit funds. Ms. Griffin further explained that last year, we also chose not to include department heads in the merit bonus payments as we wanted the funds to extend to more employees, particularly since it was the first time in four years that merit funds had been released. However, Ms. Griffin asked that this year, all eligible supervisors be included in the merit process.

Because the critical part-time positions and all eligible supervisors have been added to the eligibility pool, Ms. Griffin asked the Board to approve the addition of \$10,000 to the existing \$115,000 funds so that the total merit pool is \$125,000. Last year, the one-time bonuses averaged \$477.95 per employee, but that was without department heads in the pool. Since a merit bonus will only be rewarded to our best and brightest employees, Ms. Griffin said that she feels this minimal increase is warranted to keep the merit bonus meaningful to all who receive it.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted 4-1, with Frye opposing, to approve a \$10,000 increase in annual merit program funding.

Discussion of Building Inspection Fees for Non-Profit Organizations

David Bryant, Chief Building Inspector, stated that he wanted to follow-up on the issue concerning building permit fees that Rev. Jody Harrison with Bethel Baptist Church addressed the Commissioners about during the September 3, 2013 Commissioners Meeting.

He told the Board that he had met with Rev. Harrison several times since the September 3rd meeting and explained to him that services the County provides for issuing permits and inspecting buildings are regulated by the State of North Carolina. In accordance with state law, Randolph County sets fees for the permits the County issues. This is done to offset the cost of administering the State Building Codes. He explained that he and Rev. Harrison were able to come to an agreement on the cost of his permits, while conforming to the current fee schedule that was adopted by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners. He said that Rev. Harrison has a better understanding of the process the County uses for determining permit fees and was satisfied with the resolution.

Approval of Resolution Adopting 2014 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Schedule

On motion of Frye, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Adopting Board of Commissioners 2014 Regular Meeting Schedule, as follows:

***WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40(a), the board of commissioners shall hold a regular meeting at least once a month; and*

***WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-40(a) the board of commissioners may, by resolution, fix the time and place of its regular meetings; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following meeting schedule for all of its 2014 regular meetings:*

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Monday, January 6</i> | <i>Monday, July 7</i> |
| <i>Monday, February 3</i> | <i>Monday, August 4</i> |
| <i>Monday, March 10</i> | <i>Monday, September 8</i> |
| <i>Monday, April 7</i> | <i>Monday, October 6</i> |
| <i>Monday, May 5</i> | <i>Monday, November 3</i> |
| <i>Monday, June 2</i> | <i>Monday, December 1</i> |

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the regular meetings shall begin at 6:00 p.m., with the rezoning public hearing commencing at 7:00 p.m.; and*

***FURTHER**, that all regular meetings shall be held in the 1909 Historic Courthouse, 145-C Worth St., Asheboro, NC 27203; and*

***BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Clerk shall cause a copy of this resolution to be posted and published pursuant to NCGS 153A-40.*

Adopted this 7th day of October, 2013.

Closed Session

At 7:18 p.m., on motion of Frye, seconded by Kemp, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area, pursuant to [N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(4)].

Regular Meeting Resumed

At 8:18 p.m., the Board returned to regular session.

Adjournment

At 8:18 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Phil Kemp

Arnold Lanier

Stan Haywood

Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board