

February 1, 2016

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 Frye, Haywood, Kemp, Lanier and Allen were present.

Appoint New Sheriff to Fill Unexpired Term of Sheriff Reid

Chairman Frye introduced Robert Graves as the Randolph County Republican Party nominee to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Maynard Reid, Jr. who passed away on January 5, 2016.

On motion of Haywood, seconded by Allen, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Robert Graves as Sheriff of Randolph County.

Administration of Oath of Office to Sheriff

The Honorable Judge V. Bradford Long administered the oath of office to Sheriff Robert Graves.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Bob Shackelford, RCC President, gave the invocation and everyone recited the pledge of allegiance.

Recess

At 6:15 p.m., the Board recessed.

Regular Meeting Resumed

At 6:23 p.m., the Board returned to regular session.

Set Salary and Approve Surety Bond for Sheriff Graves

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Allen, the Board voted unanimously to set the salary for Sheriff Robert Graves at \$88,000.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Allen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Surety Bond for Sheriff Robert Graves at \$25,000.

Public Comment Period

No one spoke during the public comment period.

Consent Agenda

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

- *approve minutes of the 1/4/16 regular meeting and closed sessions- I and –II minutes, and the 1/11/16 special joint meeting;*
- *unseal closed session minutes- 1/4/16 –II;*

- *reappoint Marjorie Beason, Mickey Bowman, Clifford Elliott, and Leverette Strider to the Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board;*
- *reappoint Debbie Pike and Phyllis Bell to the Randolph County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee;*
- *reappoint Linda Sawyer to the Randolph County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee;*
- *appoint Courtney Chavis Polk and Kaitlyn Cook to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council*
- *adopt amended Order of Succession Policy for County (Exercise of Administrative Decisions During County Manager’s Absence): 1. Will Massie, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer; 2. Paxton Arthurs, Public Works Director 3. Donovan Davis, Emergency Services Director;*
- *approve Budget Amendment #23 for Public Health-HC and TANF Funds received, as follows:*

2015-2016 Budget Ordinance General Fund—Budget Amendment #23		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	\$20,549	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Public Health</i>	\$20,549	

- *approve Budget Amendment #24 for Emergency Services- Homeland Security Grant, as follows:*

2015-2016 Budget Ordinance General Fund—Budget Amendment #24		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Restricted Intergovernmental</i>	\$8,000	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Emergency Services</i>	\$8,000	

- *approve Budget Amendment #25 for Planning and Zoning- Megasite Rezoning Filing Fee, as follows:*

2015-2016 Budget Ordinance General Fund—Budget Amendment #25		
Revenues	Increase	Decrease
<i>Permits and Fees</i>	\$10,000	
Appropriations	Increase	Decrease
<i>Planning and Zoning</i>	\$10,000	

Change to New Business Agenda

Chairman Frye announced that Item I. *Closed Session for Economic Development [N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(4)] and Personnel Matters [NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)]* had been added to the agenda.

Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Advisory Board Annual Report

Cooperative Extension Director Jonathan Black said that agriculture is a \$580 million business for the Randolph County economy. He reported that Randolph County is #1 in beef cattle, #2 in dairy cattle and #6 in poultry in the state rankings. He said that was significant because in 2012 Randolph County was only #4 in beef cattle.

In 2015, the Voluntary Agricultural District Board admitted farms into the program, totaling 3,346 acres of land. As a result, Randolph County now has over 18,131 acres of land enrolled in the program. Fifteen farms are enrolled in the Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture District with 1,326 acres and 122 farms with 16,805 acres enrolled in the Regular Voluntary Agriculture District.

The VAD Board has continued to concentrate on meeting the strategies outlined in the Farmland Preservation plan for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. Two agricultural forums were held between the VAD Board and Randolph County Cooperative Extension, Randolph County Schools, Agriculture Education Teachers, Soil and Water, Department of Forestry, Livestock Association, Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency, and various other agencies and organizations, to coordinate an agricultural curriculum. These forums have resulted in a better understanding of programs available and a better coordination of efforts.

Mr. Black said the “Farm to Table” program continues to be a great success. Cooperative Extension created and piloted this program to teach first graders in Randolph County elementary schools where their food comes from. This program consists of six lessons and a field trip to A&T State University Research Farm and has reached 122 first graders. This was a direct result of the agricultural forums.

Mr. Black thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the Voluntary Agriculture District program and recognizing the value of agriculture and agribusiness in Randolph County.

Commissioner Allen said he was one of the fifteen farms in the Enhanced VAD program and felt that it was good for the community.

Commissioner Lanier stated that the growth in agriculture has led to the need for an agriculture center for the county; a place for farmers to get assistance, show and sell livestock, sell produce, and a place to educate the community about agriculture. He added that the community is also in need of an event center and felt it could be incorporated into a facility of this kind. He listed ag civic centers in other counties as examples.

Mr. Black said that the agriculture and general community’s desire for such a facility has been identified through the strategic planning process. Commissioner Frye asked how much acreage would be needed. Mr. Black said it would be subject to what the farmer and community need is within the facility. Commissioner Allen said the acreage would depend on facilities that could be included such as an arena and an auditorium. Mr. Black added that he’d like to see educational facilities included. He concluded that it would be a huge asset to the community as a whole and not just the farmers.

Randolph County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Annual Report

Bonnie Renfro, EDC President, said that the EDC was founded in 1985. She said community leaders had the foresight 30 years ago to create a focused effort to promote jobs and investment in the industrial sector of Randolph County's economy. Since that time, there has been \$1.8 billion in new capital investment and a creation of 12,000 new jobs. Ultracraft, a cabinet manufacturer located in Liberty, was the first company to benefit from efforts of the EDC. Today they are Liberty's largest employer with 280 employees. Several companies chose Randolph County as a place for operations and growth over the last 30 years and are important to the tax base of the County. Many of the projects have supported infrastructure grants for roads, water, sewer, rail, and building reuse. Since 1974, more than \$17 million in grants have supported job creation for those companies.

Ms. Renfro presented the EDC's annual report and shared the following highlights for the prior year, as follows:

- After three strong years of growth and expansion, 2015 was a year when companies consolidated their gains and planned for the future.
- Unemployment remained just above 5% throughout the year and most businesses report level or slightly increased demand.
- Focus was on business recruitment, product development, workforce development, new marketing initiatives, existing industry support, & strengthening partnerships
- Greensboro Randolph Mega Site - Enormous strides over the last 12 months and a key focus of the EDC:
 - Randolph County invested in the site
 - The same week, Golden Leaf Foundation announced their decision to support a megasite project
 - Made a trip to Spartanburg to learn about the experiences of the BMW facility and the impact for the state/city.
 - Completed site due diligence - all environmental assessments
 - Greensboro launched water / sewer design & engineering
 - Adopted a logo and introduced a new website that focuses on the megasite
 - Hired global powerhouse, KPMG, to certify and market the site
 - KPMG began certification process
 - NC Railroad announced investment of \$13 million to purchase 875 acres in the site
 - At the request of the NC Railroad -beginning the State certification

Ms. Renfro stated that Randolph County saw 204 new quality job opportunities which added an annual income of \$2,662,200. This will result in more than \$11 million in new capital investment that adds to the tax base. This impacted 540,530 square feet of real estate and supports \$970,000 in grant dollars, primarily to construct a rail spur for Technimark, to renovate and repair vacant industrial facilities for new users, as well as an investment in infrastructure.

Kevin Franklin, Existing Industry Coordinator, presented the EDC's Existing Business and Industry Program and its continued outreach to companies across Randolph County. A total of 171 visits were made to Randolph County companies. Of the companies tracked, the EDC reported total employment of 17,478 fulltime workers at 246 companies, an increase over 2014.

He said that local company management was generally optimistic about the outlook for 2016. Particular sectors that appear to be strongly positioned are furnishings, plastics, adhesives, and metal fabrication/machining. Many companies continued to express concern about the skills gap. Topping the list was the need for sewers, upholsterers, CNC machinists, maintenance technicians and truck drivers. The inability to attract qualified applicants for available positions is a concern as many companies have a high percentage of their workforce reaching retirement age. Employers continue to report having difficulty finding general laborers with a positive work ethic, basic math skills, and the ability to successfully navigate through pre-employment screening. He noted that employers have a great partner in RCC to provide training for current employees and preparing students to enter the workforce. With the challenge of finding skilled workers, businesses are identifying ways to streamline processes and improve output without relying on increasing headcount.

EDC Chairman Steve Foley thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of economic growth and stated how much he loves the uniqueness of Randolph County.

Courthouse Space Utilization and Renovation Study Report

William “Bill” Moser of Moser Mayer Phoenix Associates stated that in September 2015, the County asked them, the architectural firm that was the original designer of the Courthouse, to conduct a space needs study. The Randolph County Courthouse was occupied in 2000 and the building has well served the citizens of the County; however, several divisions in the courthouse have outgrown their available space. County Maintenance has made minor changes over the years to accommodate court agencies; however, they have reached a point where there is no longer any room for growth. During the 15 years, space needs within the building have changed.

This study involved coordinating a series of meetings with court agencies to discuss their potential for growth and determine how best to utilize courthouse space. The conceptual drawings with various options were included in the agenda packet and discussed during the presentation. He summarized the findings of this study and contents of the assessment presentation, as follows:

1. The seven existing courtrooms along with ancillary areas for the courtrooms remain in excellent condition and are adequate for current and projected judicial caseloads. It has been suggested that one of the Superior courtrooms on the fourth floor be used once a month for grand jury proceedings.
2. There is currently no significant vacant space available within the administrative areas of the existing building. There are opportunities to effectively and efficiently reconfigure administrative areas within the existing building under certain conditions.
3. Alternative suggestions were reviewed by the study group and illustrated test fit floor plans were included in the packet. The following recommendations are fundamental to the implementation of the “suggested” test fit space plans:
 - a. Probation and Parole (except for three judicial service coordinators) needs to vacate their current space in the courthouse allowing for expansion of the Clerk of Court area and the relocation of the Magistrate and Guardian ad Litem areas.

- b. Staff projections for Juvenile Justice personnel will increase significantly if, and when, the State of NC raises the age of juvenile offenders to include 16 and 17 year olds.
 - c. The Clerk of Court is in need of significant additional space. Changing to high density filing will help with file management and will help relieve some space needs, however, this will not meet all administrative space needs for both immediate and future staff projections. The “public interface” component of the Clerk’s area also requires reconfiguration and modernization.
 - d. The District and Superior Court Judge’s areas do not require any significant renovation.
4. A structural analysis has confirmed that high density filing can be placed in specific locations on elevated floor slabs of the 2000 Courthouse.
 5. Floor plans were provided in the assessment packet to illustrate current space needs for judicial personnel.
 6. In addition to the test fit plans for consideration of interior renovation, three other options for potential future expansion of the current courthouse complex were included, but he noted no expansion of the existing buildings is currently required if Probation and Parole can be accommodated at a remote location.

Phased construction for each area within existing buildings would need to take place in order to not interrupt daily operations. He estimated around \$2 million for a total project by completion. He said it is likely to be a multi-year project because of construction being done in phases. Mr. Moser said the next steps for consideration could be to:

- Determine best location for Probation and Parole and probably Day Reporting program. They do not have to have direct access to the court system.
- Perform selective demolition of interior construction within the 1981 building and upper level of the former court administration building.
- Provide detailed design documents for interior upfit plans for each reconfigured area within courthouse (1981 and 2000 buildings).
- Smaller projects could be performed by County Maintenance.

Commissioner Frye asked that he and Commissioner Haywood be added to the process going forward so the Board has representation and could help set direction.

“Thank a Veteran” Discount Program at Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds Krista Lowe said the Randolph County Register of Deeds Office will be hosting an event they are calling “Thank you For Your Service” Day. It will be held on Monday, May 9, 2016, from 9 a.m. until noon. They plan to offer the Veterans the opportunity to record their DD Form 214 free of charge and receive a “Thank you for your Service” Photo ID card that can be used at local, participating businesses. She hopes this will bring awareness to local Veterans of the importance of their DD Form 214 and encourage them to record it at the Register of Deeds Office, for safekeeping and allow them an avenue to quickly obtain the document when needed. Ms. Lowe said “this is just a small way, that the County, and local businesses can honor and celebrate our Veterans and thank them for their service to our Country.”

They are partnering with other governmental offices (Veterans Services, Board of Elections, Emergency Services, Social Services, Human Resources, Tax, Public Health, and Cooperative Extension), outside agencies and businesses to offer their assistance on services that are available and to answer questions. Others involved will be the Senior Adult Association and Prevo Drug. She said they are still receiving responses from area businesses who would like to participate in the discount card program.

Approval of 2016 Audit Contract

County Finance Officer Will Massie stated federal and state laws require a local government's annual audit to encompass testing of both financial statements and legal compliance, thus making it a specialized service. The County has historically maintained a lasting relationship with its independent audit firm, resulting in better service and a more efficient audit.

Mr. Massie said Cherry Bekaert LLP, which has an office in Asheboro, has served as the County's independent auditors since 2005 and the County has been pleased with the level of service provided.

In 2013, Cherry Bekaert agreed to a fixed contract fee for three fiscal years, which ended with the FY15 audit. He said they have proposed a new three year agreement with a three percent increase. The proposed audit fee for the 2016 fiscal year is \$59,000, which includes the audit of the Tourism Development Authority. He has compared this fee with other counties of the same size and consider it reasonable.

Mr. Massie recommended the Board of Commissioners authorize the Chairman to sign the contract with Cherry Bekaert for the audit of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Allen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2016 Audit Contract and fee of \$59,000 with Cherry Bekaert.

Discussion of Budget Meeting Schedule for FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget

Chairman Frye asked the Board to review the proposed budget meeting schedule that was included in the agenda packet for consideration at the March meeting.

Strategic Planning Update

Hal Johnson, County Manager, stated that the strategic planning process is well underway and the results will impact the County for at least the next 15-20 years. The meetings have been well attended and are currently in the stage of identifying the issues. The next phase will be to establish some goals and strategies. He said he hopes to have a completed document to present to the Board by April or May.

Regional Update

Chairman Frye stated that Randolph County's workforce development area has been managed by Regional Consolidated Services for many years. The area also includes Alamance, Montgomery, and Orange counties. He said he had been informed that Alamance County would be moving their process and handling to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC). Chairman

Frye asked County Manager Johnson to review the current workforce development process for Randolph County and see if it needs any changes.

Closed Session

At 7:30 p.m., on motion of Kemp, seconded by Haywood, 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 [NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4)] and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, pursuant to [NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)].

Regular Meeting Resumed

At 8:10 p.m., the Board returned to regular session.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to set public hearing for March 7 at 6:30 p.m. to consider adopting a Greensboro-Randolph Megasite project agreement between Randolph County, the NC Railroad Company, and the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite Foundation, Inc.

Adjournment

At 8:11 p.m., on motion of Kemp, seconded by Lanier, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Darrell L. Frye, Chairman

Phil Kemp

Arnold Lanier

Stan Haywood

David Allen

Amanda Varner, Clerk to the Board