



## **Randolph Town Council**

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

**This is a hybrid meeting. The Public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access.**

**Call to Order:** Council President Alexopoulos called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call – Council Members Present:** Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James Burgess (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (In-Person).

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

**Moment of Silent Prayer:** Moment of Silent Prayer held.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting on January 27, 2025 made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O’Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Clerger, Egan)

Motion passes.

#### **Announcements from the President**

1. I’d like to thank the Department of Public Works (DPW) for their work during the recent snow storm. They were swift. Thank you.
2. Thank you to the Randolph Democratic Town Committee for their support of the Resolution that has been submitted. After carefully reading the letter, it is apparent that this is a police matter. I recommend setting a time to sit and speak with Randolph Police Department regarding their policies and procedures and how they’re putting that information out into the community for residents. I also received a Resolution that was looked at and I am referring it to the Public Safety Subcommittee for review. Thank you for your input.
3. Good luck to the Boston University Terriers in tonight’s hockey game.

#### **New Business**

1. **Council Order 2025-005: Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for School Department Revolving Accounts**

Councillor Clerger entered the meeting, in person, at 6:06 PM.

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-005 and was accompanied by the Town Accountant/Finance Director to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Councillor Burgess asked for clarification regarding the functionality of the Revolving Account and requested additional information regarding the source of funding entering this account.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-005 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

### **Town Manager's Report:**

1. I echo the comments of the Council President regarding the DPW's work on the recent snow storm. If you need help, please utilize See, Click, Fix and if it's an emergency call the police station.
2. Randolph Animal Control and Public Health invites everyone to join their Monthly Animal Video Series in the Lincoln Room from 5:30 to 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month.
3. There is a National Grid Helicopter Alert starting February 3, 2025. National Grid will conduct a three-week helicopter patrol of transmission lines statewide, weather permitting. Questions, contact: 800-462-9852
4. The AARP program is now operating from a waiting list, however you can call 774-257-5656 at Brockton. This is paid for through a grant that deals with income limits so it is not open to all like AARP.
5. Sunday hours are back at the Turner Free Library! Check out their program and schedule at [TurnerFreeLibrary.Org](http://TurnerFreeLibrary.Org).
6. There will be regularly scheduled Water Basin Cleaning happening tomorrow, February 11, 2025 at 3 PM. A water basin sedimentation cleaning will take approximately 8-10 hours. You may experience low water pressure.

### **Public Hearings**

#### **1. 6:15 PM - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY25 - Authorization to Submit Application**

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing on this matter. The legal advertisement was published in the Patriot Ledger on January 24 and January 31, 2025. Town Planner Michelle Tyler was present to provide additional information regarding CDBG grant, along with Grant Administrator Alice Boyd. A sign-in sheet was circulated for those present during the public hearing.

Town Planner Michelle Tyler: Bailey Boyd has served the Town incredibly well in compelling the applications for CDBG's that we've successfully received and then administered the grant program for both childcare subsidies and housing rehabilitation. We receive monthly reports from Bailey Boyd through the subcontractor that indicates how many families we're serving under each of these allocations that we've received.

Alice Boyd: It has been a pleasure working with the Town of Randolph. The Town can apply for a maximum of \$850,000 this funding cycle. We have been receiving the max and we'd like to apply for that again. We can apply for \$ 70,000 per household for renovations and \$7,000 per child for child care services. The program is running like clock work thanks to the Town staff.

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.

1. Kate Shore: If this is federal funding federal, can we feel it's secure with the current administration? Ms. Boyd: The funds have already been approved. It's federal funds that go to the state. The program is incredibly popular with mayors across the country. We are hopeful the funds will continue. Congress votes on these funds.
2. Kempton Flemming: What is the turnaround time for people on the waiting list? Ms. Boyd: There are currently 142 people who have submitted a preapplication stating interest. We go to the top of the list and ask if people are still interested and oftentimes people have either moved or circumstances have changed. Over the course of the year we will take on 8 households for housing rehab right away. There is currently no waiting list for childcare subsidies.
3. Guerlince Semezier, 60 Mill Street: Do we have any data regarding some of the program recipients in terms of a racial breakdown and if it's equitable. Ms. Boyd: I don't have that in front of me, we do collect that information on a voluntary basis. I am impressed with the diversity. I can collect that information and provide it in the next report next month.

There were no more public comments. Council President closed the public comments portion of the public hearing.

1. Councillor Burgess: I want to thank you for your comments relative to our staff. It's always good to hear and we're proud of our staff but it's good to hear from an outsider that you see what we see as well.
2. Councillor Clerger: Is there another means to fill out the application for those who are not tech savvy? Ms. Boyd: We can mail it to a household. Staff from the program will go to the home to assist and bring interpreters if that's necessary.
3. Councillor Gordon: This is a process that the Town uses which I commend. I think the CDBG should be a model for all other grants. One component is hiring a professional grant administrator such as yourself- the Bailey Boyd company. Is there a plan if we anticipate that there will be a stoppage of these funds? Ms. Tyler: I'd like to take that conversation offline. If those funds are halted, it would be significant.
4. Councillor Huff-Larmond: I love that this is a forgiveness loan program so our residents don't take on the extra burden. I look forward to hearing about a plan for "just in case." What do you mean it's a "referral process"? MS. Boyd: We accept referrals from departments within the Town. If they visit households and explain the house needs repairs and it's an emergency, they'll go to the top of the list.
5. Councillor Brewer: If a home needed a new furnace, which could reach \$70,000 quickly, is there any way they can reapply for additional funds? Ms. Boyd: There is a process in which we can apply for a waiver and have received it, so they can reapply for additional funds.
6. Councillor Thompson: If you're worried about the funding situation, this is your time to send an email or make a call to representatives at the federal level.

Ms. Tyler: 1. As part of our participation in CDBG, there is a community development advisory group and we have a meeting once a year. It is open to all members of the public. The next meeting is Friday, March 7, by Zoom. 2. The housing rehabilitation coordinator will do windshield surveys where a consultant drives around Town to identify which homes need work so there may be a vehicle taking

pictures of a home. It is simply to validate that there are homes that need housing rehab and to further validate our application process. It is not a town vehicle.

Motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

**2. 6:15 PM - Council Order 2025-004: Grant of Location to MA Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for new Joint or Identical Utility Pole Locations Within the Town of Randolph**

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing for Council Order 2025-004. The legal advertisement was published in the Patriot Ledger on February 1, 2025. Jared Akir from National Grid was present to provide additional information and answer questions relating to this pole petition.

Councillor Burgess: Are there any sweeps attached to this pole? Jared: Yes, there's going to be two primary sweeps to bring the cable from overhead down, under street and across the road. It will be made out of metal.

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public comments portion of the public hearing.

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street: What warehouse? Are those just supposed to be an office building?

There were no more public comments. Council President Alexopoulos closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-004 as presented made by Councillor Brewer, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Motion passes.

## **Public Comments**

1. Ira Greene: I want to commend the work of the DPW. They've been doing a great job plowing the streets.
2. Kate Shore: Several months ago many people in Randolph rallied in Stetson against racism against the Haitian community. I saw Natacha, Katrina, and Jesse. I didn't see any other Town Council members. That was a place to come out and say to your residents, we see you and we value you and respect you. The Subcommittee that has formed tonight has another chance to show that the Town Council values and respects the Haitian people of Randolph by signing the welcoming Resolution.
3. Kevin Colby Joyce: Randolph has a chance with this resolution to do something perfectly legal and honorable. Standing up for justice and for decency in the United States. Please look at this Resolution again and pass it.
4. Sandy Salvic, 42 Grove Street: I spoke to the Council President about the resolution being sent to the public safety subcommittee. Tonight, I'd like to underscore the message. If the reason this Council is afraid to declare Randolph a welcoming Town for fear of becoming a target to this administration, and I

can't think of any other reason not to, then shame on us! Shame because we are a welcome Town and we embrace it because that's who we are. We should say it loud and proud.

5. Geurlince Semezler, 60 Mill Street: I am a proud resident of Randolph. For many years I've had the privilege to live in various cities but Randolph is very unique. As a haitian american immigrant I proudly stand here to endorse the resolution. We need to stand together to fight against racism.
6. Anne, 84 Gold Street: I came to live here in 1980 when the Town was 90% white and it has been my joy and pride to watch it develop into one of the most diverse Towns in the Commonwealth. I am proud of the police departments policy. I want to see the Town Council embrace that policy and make it known that this is a Town welcoming to everyone.
7. Lukid Moran, 27 Holy Street: Last saturday, I had a situation happen to me. A lady I do not know ordered two packages to my address. The lady filed a police report because I threw the packages away. I also attempted to make a police report and the officer refused to listen to me.

### **Council Comments:**

1. Councillor Clerger: Hats off to DPW for their work. You have my support with this resolution. You brought tears to my eyes listening to your comments.
2. Councillor Gordon addressed the Welcoming Resolution and asked when the Public Safety Subcommittee will be meeting?
3. Councillor Burgess: 1. I'd like to request all policies governing use of the RICC, and any policy staff has adopted and that the Recreation Board has adopted. I think that will help the Human Services Subcommittee Subcommittee start their meeting. The summer program does not have a revolving fund within the budget. There is no reason someone would say they are not allowed to have field trips or day trips within that program. Mr. Howard: I'm not aware of an instance. 2. FEMA Maps - we're asked to vote on it but not asked to weigh in on it? Mr. Howard: Any resident at any time can always seek to have themselves removed. 3. I'd like to request a copy of the meeting minutes for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission for the last year.
4. Councillor Thompson: There is a job posting for a new Veterans Services Officer for the Town. If you are a veteran and are interested in that position, you can fill out the application online.
5. Councillor O'Connell: I try to attend all events and everything I can. Oftentimes, we are not informed of certain events until the last minute. 2. I have not seen the Resolution being spoken of tonight but it sounds good.
6. Councillor Huff-Larmond: I've thrown many events for the oppressed groups and have not seen your presence. The reason you have not received this resolution is because the Council President said he didn't want it on the agenda. Jesse and I offered this resolution in January and could have easily circulated it to the Council but out of respect, we have not. I'm disappointed that the Resolution titled Concerning Commitment to all Residents of the Town of Randolph was not included in our agenda. It has been reported that the President is concerned the resolution may draw unwanted attention to our Town. I appreciate this concern but I believe it's crucial to have meaningful discussion with those who will be affected, and experts who are knowledgeable about such topics. As a white male who is not facing immigration status threats, I believe it is important to recognize that you may not fully understand the concern of our residents of color. My research and discussion with residents and experts suggest that our residents want to be assured that they are safe and will be protected in our community. The Resolution states that the Town of Randolph does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or bullying by Town Employees and Officials. We strive to make Randolph a safe and welcoming community that stands on principles rejecting racialing profiling, racially motivated brutality, hate crimes, and other crimes that may impact minorities and underrepresented communities. Our law enforcement agencies are committed to responding to the needs of our community and respecting,

protecting and serving all residents documented or undocumented to ensure the safety for all. I believe, Mr. President, you are hesitant to include the resolution on the agenda because you do not wish to be perceived as voting against it. Feel free to be disappointed with me, upset with me, or even put comments on Facebook about me because this is what my ancestors built me to do. To speak my peace and be strong as I walk through some of these dangerous situations.

7. Councillor Brewer: Thank you to the DPW for their work in the recent snow storm!

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Absent: Egan)

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.