



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, May 5, 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), Natacha Clerger (Via Zoom), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (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 in remembrance of Frank Stafia, former Exalted Ruler of the Elk’s Lodge and John Zoino, former Superintendent of Randolph Public Schools.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting on April 14, 2025 made by Councillor O’Connell, seconded by Councillor Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Burgess and Egan)

Motion passes.

Announcements from the President

1. Randolph High School Softball/Athletics and Randolph Police are hosting a fundraising event on June 14, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Correspondence:

1. Norfolk Registry District of the Land Court - Community Preservation Act: The Norfolk District District of the Land Court submitted correspondence regarding funds generated by the Community Preservation Act in our community and other communities. Specifically, Randolph generated \$191,300.00
2. The Town Managers Office wants to remind all residents of updated parking fines. More information will be posted on the website, on facebook, and will be sent via some of the Town newsletters which people can sign up for on the Town website.

3. There will be four upcoming meetings related to the Energy Stretch Code. This is one of the components of becoming a green community and interested parties can hear about the proposed code changes, ask questions, and give feedback. The flyer will also go on the website, on facebook, and Town newsletters. In addition, we are getting contact info for people who have applied for building permits over the past 2 years and will be emailing the flyer to them as well.

Public Comments:

1. John Licorish, Randolph High School Principal: I'm here to talk about the importance of the FY2026 school budget and Town budget. I understand that a 12% increase as the superintendent has asked for is significant. However, I want to be clear that the items in the superintendent's proposal are not wants but are needs. Randolph High School (RHS) is a clear and urgent example of why this investment is necessary. There are incredible things happening at RHS every day and despite real and growing challenges specifically with enrollment and class size over the past two years, RHS has actually lost 7.2 teaching FTE's which is an 11.5% reduction in staff, however our enrollment has increased by 23.6%. We are currently at 785 students and project 825 students for next year. We are struggling to maintain course offerings and science, advanced placement classes, world languages, wellness, other electives, special education, programming, and alternative programming. In March, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges reviewed our substantive change report due every year and they have deferred action on our accreditation status. We are currently at a warning level. If RHS loses its accreditation, the impact will be far reaching. We cannot ignore this. I implore you all to please cooperate with us regarding the budget.
2. Jamie Ackles, 32 Road: Thank you to Town Council members that came to the School Committee-Finance Subcommittee a few weeks ago. Getting your feedback helped to make difficult decisions. Enrollment across all schools has been astronomical. I think it has a lot to do with our curriculum. I sent an email about an upcoming tour of the high school to all last week and hope you are able to join. Other towns are coming to learn about our curriculum. The marching band and chorus were invited to represent Massachusetts in Washington D.C. during the 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony, which is amazing. The Boosters Club will be fundraising to ensure we can support all the students participating.
3. Geurlince Semezier, 60 Mill Street: Thank you to the Council for addressing my concern regarding traffic on Mill Street. I received a phone call from the Randolph Police Department who is looking into the matter. I am a strong believer in prevention and not waiting for something to happen. 2. I want to express my support to the School Departments request for the budget increase. I believe my voice speaks for most residents if not all to support that initiative to give the schools the tools they need to prepare them for success.

Public Hearings:

1. **6:15 PM: Special Permit Application for a proposed Tattoo Studio at a Body Arts Establishment located at 900 North Main Street**

Council President Alexopoulos opened the public hearing for the Special Permit Application for a proposed Tattoo Studio at a Body Arts Establishment located at 900 North Main Street. The legal advertisements were published in the Patriot Ledger on April 19 and April 26, 2025.

The applicant has requested a continuance of the public hearing due to unforeseen circumstances to the next Town Council meeting on May 19, 2025 at 6:15 PM.

Motion to continue the public hearing to the next Town Council meeting on May 19, 2025 at 6:15 PM made by Councillor Brewer, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.
Roll Call vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Burgess and Egan)
Motion passes.

New Business:

1. Council Order 2025-022: Approval of Contract of up to Five (5) Years With Municipal Aggregation Consultant

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-022 and was accompanied by Assistant Town Manager Monica Lamboy to provide additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Councillor Huff-Larmond asked for additional information to provide additional clarity and transparency regarding why this is a benefit for the Town, and who will negotiate this contract.

Councillor Gordon asked for clarity regarding the purpose of having a long term contract and cost efficiency.

Councillor Brewer asked for a list of Towns that have approved the contract for five years.

Councillor O'Connell asked how this affects us if there is a disaster and if power lines come down.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2025-022 as presented made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor Thompson.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Burgess and Egan)

Motion passes.

2. Council Order 2025-023: Acceptance of FY2025 Grant Monies

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-023 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Councilor Gordon asked about the Annual Grant Report that he believes is due each June 1st. While he appreciates the "accounting terms" he would like to see it more in "English terms".

Town Manager Howard explained that all grant awards go to the Finance Department so they can be properly tracked thus the Grant Report is generated in "accounting terms". I am sure we can add in brief explanations in "english terms" as some grant titles can be confusing and this will better explain to the Town Council the nature of the grant.

Mr. Gordon would appreciate that.

Motion to approve the Council Order 2025-023 as presented made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Burgess and Egan)

Motion passes.

3. Council Order 2025-024: Transfer of Water/Sewer Retained Earnings for Unidirectional Flushing Plan

Town Manager Howard introduced Council Order 2025-024 and provided additional information regarding the purpose of this Council Order.

Motion to approve Council Order 2025-024 as presented made by Councillor Clerger, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Burgess and Egan)

Motion passes.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Councillor Gordon reported that the Randolph Redevelopment Authority will be meeting May 6, 2025 at 7 PM.
2. Councillor Gordon requested Councillor Thompson's availability for a Recreation Subcommittee Meeting.

Council Comments:

1. Councillor Clerger: The Haitian Flag Raising will take place on May 16th, 2025 at Town Hall and then we will move across the street to Stetson Hall for a presentation at Noon.
2. Councillor O'Connell: My lovely wife Maria and I had the pleasure of going to Destiny African Market for their DAM FAM Day on Saturday. It's a great business in District one and in all of the Randolph Community. They gave away \$8,000 worth of groceries out to the community. 2. I want to thank the Randolph Community for reaching out to my family and I for their support in my moms passing. My mom wasn't a part of this community but you all showed up for me. I want to say thank you on behalf of my family and I.
3. Councillor Huff-Larmond: 1. I wish I had the opportunity to ask the principal questions. 2. On April 28 I was able to take a few members of the Randolph Youth Council to the State House. They introduced themselves and asked for internships and just made themselves known. 3. Randolph Youth Council will be hosting an event on May 24 at the Turner Free Library at 2 PM regarding substance abuse. Youth is facilitating everything. 4. On May 27, District 3 and the Randolph Police Department along with Elderly Affairs will be teaming up with TD Bank to host an event on fraud prevention. All are welcome to join. I think this would be a good opportunity for people to learn how to be more cautious. 5. Randolph Womans Club is having an event on Nurse's Day. 5. The Haitian Heritage Festival is happening on May 17, 2025. If you want more information, please connect with Peggy Montlous. 7. Randolph DEI is actively planning Juneteenth which will take place on June 19th. 8. DEI and First Congressional Church are planning Pride events from June 27th to June 29th. There is a speaker on Friday, a huge festival on Saturday and evening and we are hoping to have some sort of a gala on Sunday. This will be at the First Congressional Church in Randolph.
4. Councillor Brewer: The fence is falling apart on the way into Belcher park. Maybe we can look into CPA funds to get it done. 2. A resident submitted something regarding the steel drums at the ice rink and maybe we can have them removed by DPW?
5. Councillor Gordon: 1. I attended an event in Bridgewater where they are holding an override vote and want to remove the Community Preservation Act. How much of that is actually paid for Randolph taxpayers versus the state? 2. On May 14, 2025 at 5:30, the Randolph Democratic Town Committee will

present two scholarships to high school students at the Library. We will also be presenting two grants to teachers in May.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0 (Absent: Burgess, Clerger, and Egan)

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

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