



Randolph Town Council

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date: Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Randolph Town Hall-Chapin Hall 2nd Floor**

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), Brandon Thompson (Via Zoom). Natacha Clerger arrived in-person after roll call.

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Councillor Gordon.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of Joint Workshop Meeting of the Randolph Town Council and Randolph School Committee Minutes June 11, 2025

Motion: Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting on June 11, 2025 as amended made by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-1 (Abstention: Thompson, Absent: Clerger, Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

Announcements from the President: None

Presentations:

1. **Review of Financial Reports and Presentation from Outside Auditor: CBIZ**

Mike McShea from CBIZ presented an internal audit that reviewed the Town's cash handling procedures (Phase 1) and the technology fee receipts and School Department bank account (Phase 2).

Councilor Clerger joined the meeting in-person.

Public Hearing on Council Order 2025-057: FY2026 Randolph Community Preservation Committee Projects - Since it is 6:15PM, the presentation was paused and the Public Hearing on Council Order 2025-057 was opened. The public hearing will continue after the presentation.

The Financial Presentation continued. Phase 1 was discussed amongst the Council First.

Councilor Burgess wished that the presentation for phase 1 went deeper into the turnovers such as the red flags found during the audit. Councilor Burgess asked who is in charge of making sure the departments have the updated policies. The Town Treasurer Ellie Perez-Baczowski. Councilor Burgess spoke on the money being transported to the Town Hall as a security concern. Town Treasurer Perez-Baczowski stated that the money will travel through many hands. It should be collected and when it reaches \$100, it should be turned over to the town per the policy. Councilor Burgess then expressed concerns over not being able to accurately track the funds.

Councilor Gordon is hopeful that having electronic collection will aid in some of these concerns.

Councilor O'Connell is concerned with staff changes and making sure that they are staying informed with the most up to date information. Town Treasurer Perez-Baczowski stated that the policy is sent out to department heads at the beginning and end of every fiscal year. Councilor O'Connell then asked about the security of the money such as locking bags and a safe when money is collected or being transported.

Councilor Thompson would like to see a centralized location for employees and members of the public to view all of the current town policies. Town Accountant Janine Smith stated that an all-inclusive policy manual is in the works. Town Attorney Griffin stated that no funds have been appropriated for this yet, but we are starting to collect policies.

Motion:

Councilor Thompson made a motion requesting that a portal be available for employees, on an intranet or some similar location, containing employee policy documents, and for policy documents that affect the public to be available online to the public, as needed within the judgment of the Town Manager. Project to be worked on by Town Manager, Legal and any other departments deemed necessary. Policy documents should include the date created, the date of any review, and the date any updates were made.

The Motion was seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

Councilor Gordon moved to amend the Motion to reflect that all documents on the website should be text searchable.

Discussion that some documents, because of their sensitive nature, are generally not put in a text searchable format. With that understanding, Councilor Thompson accepted the amendment.

Roll Call Vote. Motion, as amended, passes 7-0-0 (Yeas: Thompson, O'Connell, Gordon, Clerger, Brewer, Burgess, Alexopoulos; Absent: Egan, Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

Councilor Burgess asked what happens when a policy is not followed and what type of corrective action takes place. Town Attorney Griffin stated that the Town Manager generally has authority over the Town Employees. However, the school side employees would answer to the Superintendent or School Committee.

Councilor Burgess asked for clarification on where the EV charging station revenue is supposed to go. He is also concerned with the legality of how this account was opened.

Councilor Clerger asked what the Charter says and requests the Council President to speak with the school representatives.

Councilor Gordon stated that the school has been asking for an account and there has been poor collaboration.

Motion: Councilor Gordon moved to allow the School Committee to come up and speak.
This motion failed due to lack of a second.

Councilor Burgess asked Finance Director Smith to provide a breakdown of the cost for this audit.

Council President Alexopoulos asked if there were any further questions or discussion on phase 2.

The presentation concluded.

Public Hearings:

1. 6:15 PM- Council Order 2025-057: FY2026 Randolph Community Preservation Committee Projects

The Council President then continued with the public hearing on Council Order 2025-057.

- a. Building Commissioner and Chair of the Community Preservation Committee, Ron Lum, gave a brief overview of how the committee voted to spend these funds, which is to hire a Housing Specialist as well as undertake interior painting at Stetson Hall. The Housing Specialist would be a 1 year position that would cost roughly \$62,000 and would help with data on the affordable properties in town. This position is important to make sure the town is staying in compliance with 10% of units being affordable so that we are not susceptible to 40B projects. The painting project would cost approximately \$40,000.

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

1. Joe Burke, 54 Hills Street, asked if the Housing Specialist will only be a one year position. Planning Director Michelle Tyler mentioned that they will be trying to fill this position every year and stated that there is much more to the duties in this position than keeping track of housing data.
2. Sandi Cohen, 63 Bittersweet Lane: believes this is money well spent. I would like to see the building used to host events and gain revenue for the town.

There were no more public comments. The public comments portion of the public hearing was closed. The Councillors were invited to comment or ask questions.

Councilor Burgess asked if previous maintenance and repairs have been completed?

Motion: Moved by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Councilor O'Connell, to approve the Council Order and approve the use of Community Preservation Funds as presented by chair.

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

Motion passes.

Public Comments:

1. Lisa Millwood, 154 Webster Street: She is the Chair of the School Committee. She made a statement regarding concerns over town policies and communication between the town and school department. Lisa wants to work with the town council and create a solution.
2. School Superintendent Thea Stovell: this policy isn't working with the school department. She wants to sit with the town Council to discuss. She also requested a policy manual and to be notified of any town trainings that would be useful for her staff. Thea is willing to hold her staff accountable but she needs the information.

Town Manager's Report:

1. The town has policies in place for a variety of reasons. Some policies can be discussed, such as the \$100 turnover amount. Turnovers will be rejected if they are not processed according to policy.
2. Town Manager Howard attended a public meeting hosted by the DEI committee to help fill empty seats on Town boards . Town Manager Howard recommended the following appointments, also stating there are still some vacant seats and he is looking for volunteers.
 - a. Ed Murphy; Board of Health
 - b. Keith Asack; Conservation Commission
 - c. Joyce Llyod; Council on Aging
 - d. Jen Whitworth; Council on Aging
 - e. Nalida Besson; Disability Commission
 - f. Gayle Malloy; Local Cultural Council
 - g. Allen Laurent; Board of Recreation

Motion: Councilor Burgess motion to appoint the board members as presented by the Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilor Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Egan & Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

Councilor O'Connell asked about bringing back the citizens academy. Town Manager Howard agreed that this was a great program.

Councilor Gordon asked Town Manager Howard about following the Charter for joint meetings with the school, as well as budget meetings. Town Manager Howard mentioned that we extend these deadlines for budget season so that we have the most accurate and up to date information. Town Attorney Griffin read article 5 of the charter language for the record, on the joint meetings.

Councilor Gordon then asked the status of speed bumps that are at the DPW. Town Manager Howard states there needs to be a process and policy put into place for implementation. Councilor Burgess recommended rotating the speed bumps around town.

Motions, Orders and Resolutions: None

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. **Council Order 2025-058: Correction Of Error In Language Contained in Council Order 2025-021 Concerning Transfer of General Fund Free Cash for Real Estate Interim Update of Values; Amendment To Same**

Motion: Motion to approve Council Order 2025-058 as presented made by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Egan & Huff-Larmond)

Motion Passes

2. Council Order 2025-059: Authorization By The Randolph Town Council To Petition The General Court To Enact Special Legislation To Amend The Charter Of The Town Of Randolph To Make Various Updates

- a. Councilor Gordon invoked Town Council Rule 21 and then revoked it to have a discussion with the council members. Town Attorney Griffin stated that this is a petition to amend the Charter. These amendments include salaries to be paid to council members and school officials, rule 21 clarification and how a special meeting is called.
- b. Councilor Gordon would like to have special meetings be called only during weekday evenings. Councilor Burgess states that some meetings need to be held as soon as possible and gave the example of 9/11/2001. Councilor Burgess also states that if we do not believe the chair is making the best judgement for meeting times then we need to make changes.

Motion: Councilor Gordon moved to have the meetings during weekday nighttime meetings unless chair deems necessary.

Motion fails for lack of second.

Motion: Motion to approve Council Order 2025-059 as presented made by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Absent: Egan & Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

Correspondence:

1. Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

- a. A response was sent to the state for clarification on mapping, the one provided was unclear.

Subcommittee Reports: None

Council Comments:

1. Councilor Clerger - how to reconcile the communication between the town council and school department. Education is the pillar of our society.
2. Councilor Gordon agrees with Councilor Clerger on the school department and town council communication. A petition was given to the council to have a street paved. Councilor Gordon asked how we handle petitions and if they get priority for paving? Councilor Gordon would like the town manager to provide a schedule of streets to be paved. "Good Trouble Lives On" rally was held at Stetson Hall which ended with the Police being called. Councilor Gordon would like to hold a debrief at The Well at 6PM this Thursday. Councilor Gordon commends the police for their de-escalation tactics.
3. Councilor Burgess requested a list of paving contracts from the Town Manager
4. Vice President Brewer would like to see the school and the council on the same page. Believes that rotating the speed bumps will be a great way to try to change driving habits around town.
5. Councilor O'Connell states that he is a big advocate for the schools and the town being on the same page. There was a newspaper article released today that in his opinion wasn't truthful. Kerms sneaker

store had their annual Kerns Day at the middle school. Very proud of how it was run this year and the community was very engaging.

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Burgess and seconded by Vice President Brewer.
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0 (Egan and Huff-Larmond absent).

The meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.