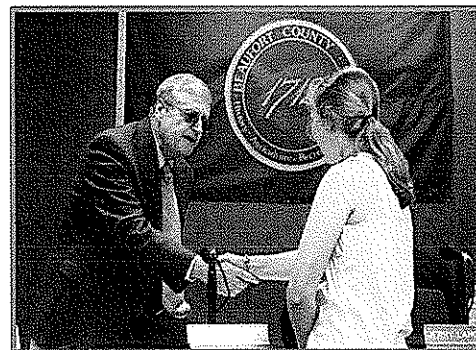
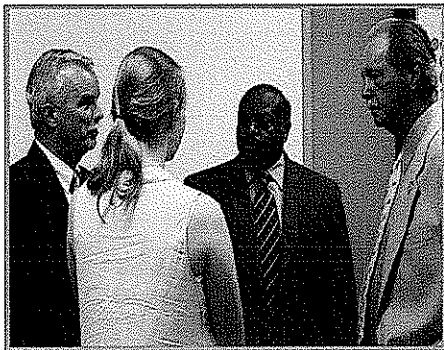


Application for NCACC Youth Summit 2013  
Emily L. Alligood Beaufort County  
August 2013

As part of this assignment I decided to attend a Beaufort County Board of Commissioner's regular meeting. I wanted to see if I could introduce myself to the entire board. On Monday, August 5, 2013 I arrived at the administrative building prior to the 5pm meeting. I introduced myself to Randell Woodruff, Beaufort County Manager. I told him of my purpose for attending the meeting and he politely introduced me to the board members. He explained that I would be attending the Youth Conference portion of the NCACC. The board members let me know if they would be attending the conference and asked me questions about my age, grade and where I attended high school. At this meeting, I asked board member Robert Belcher if I could have an interview with him on the following day. He agreed and we chose a time and meeting place.



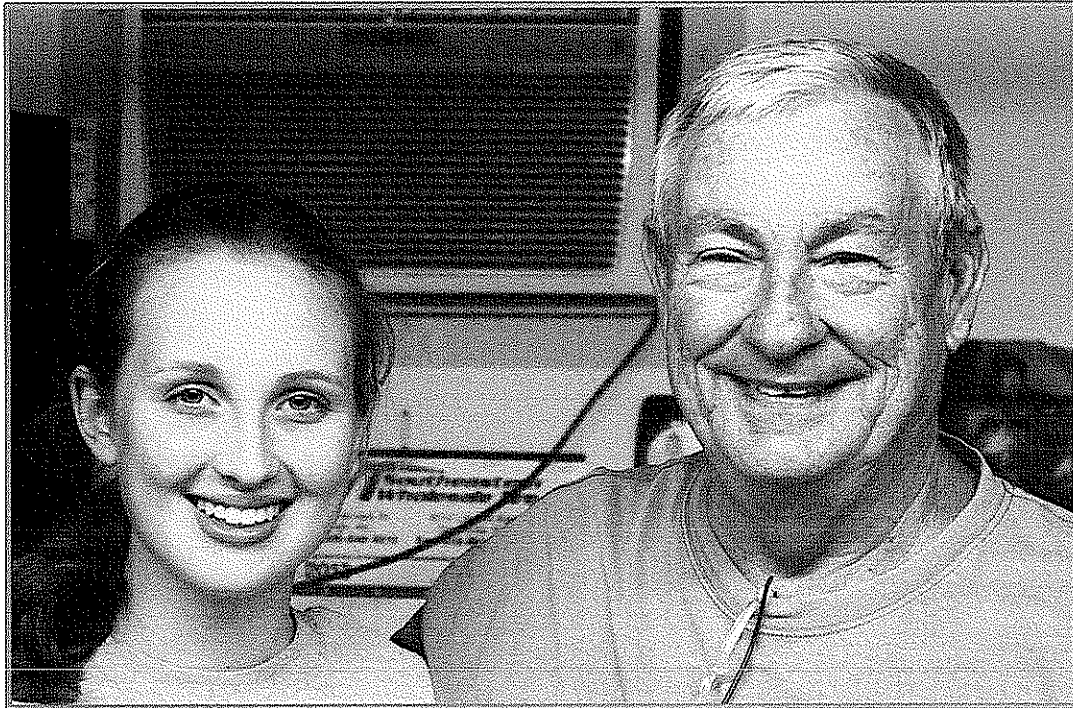
Left to Right: County Manager Randell Woodruff, Commissioners Ed Booth, Gary Brinn and Al Klemm

On Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> I met with Mr. Belcher to conduct an interview using some of the prepared questions from the 4H office, and some of my own questions. The following is a synopsis of our interview.

Mr. Robert Belcher, current Beaufort County Commissioner is originally from Oxford, North Carolina in Granville County. He is a retired Beaufort County Schools teacher and principal. He also served on the Board of Education for eight years, while serving as chairman for the last five. He thought that his service on the board of education would give him the experience needed to successfully fulfill the duties of a county commissioner. His advice to someone wanting to be an elected official would be to serve on other boards or councils. Knowing how a board gets things done helps to understand the process.

Mr. Belcher indicated that some of the biggest issues currently facing Beaufort County are issues facing every county. They include public education, the local economy and jobs. We discussed economic development and appropriated county funds allocated to the local schools and community college. We also discussed the role that the board plays in bringing new businesses into our county. It is his belief that the county chose those businesses based on their contributions (jobs, taxes) to the community and not businesses that benefit from county residents spending money in those businesses. He indicated that the citizens of Beaufort County asked more questions about the current condition and situation of the Beaufort County Jail. The jail is located in the basement of the Beaufort County Courthouse. It has currently been closed by Superior Court Judge, Wayland Sermons due to the fact that it doesn't meet current safety standards. There are electrical issues along with limited space causing safety issues for

the staff and prisoners. The board is in the process of deciding whether to repair and/or expand the current jail or build a new jail entirely. This seems to be the biggest current controversy among board members and residents.



Mr. Robert Belcher

Mr. Belcher has served on the board for nine months. He won the election in November of 2012 and was sworn in during the month of December. He will serve a four year term and has no plans to run again. This decision is based on his age and wanted to spend some retirement years for travel and family. He told me that some weeks he works on county business every day, while other weeks are less involved. He was not aware of all the sub committees that he is required to serve on. That was the one thing he felt he wasn't aware of prior to running.

I plan on seeing Mr. Belcher and a few others of our Beaufort County Commissioners at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Conference in Greensboro, NC.