

Anna LaRocco Masi
Chatham County 4-H
NCACC Paper

I am ecstatic to be able to discuss my meeting with my County Manager, Charlie Horne and my experience attending the Chatham County Board of Commissioners' work session. I was fortunate enough to be able to meet with Mr. Horne and ask him a few questions. I call myself fortunate because I know the County Manager is very busy; Mr. Horne must oversee all other county departments. The County Manager keeps tabs on each department like traffic and land use. This requires knowledge of what each department does. Mr. Horne talked with me about the impact that government has on a local level. He spoke of how the impact is less dispersed than on a state or federal level. Mr. Horne must work closely along side of the budget department because while overseeing the different departments, he must decide which departments get x amount of money. Mr. Horne's bosses are the county commissioners. They oversee his work in Chatham County and have the power to remove him from office if he isn't doing his job. Mr. Horne has been in office for a very long time, however, so I am glad to live in a county where the manager is doing his job.

I attended the County Commissioner's work session meeting that afternoon. It was about 2 hours and a lot of work was put out from everyone involved. The County Commissioner's discussed issues on the agenda such as: building a scenic byway through Chatham County and shaving time off of bus routes for the public schools of our county. Pam Stewart, Sally Kost, Allen Michael Cross, Brian Bock, and Walter Petty are the names of our county commissioners. If you are speaking at the county commissioner work session be prepared to answer questions that the board has for you. Before they can put a motion on the floor, they discuss the issue or idea thoroughly and ask a lot of questions. They take into special consideration the cost because remember the county is on a budget. Before these issues were presented by different committees and members of the community, there was a 30-minute public input sessions where various complaints and even public apologies are spoken. Each presenter only gets 3 minutes to speak to keep the meeting at an ideal length.

I was very excited to get to learn a little more about county government and take an active role within it. I hope to continue my studies of the government on a local level as well as on a state and federal level.