

## County Manager Report, Franklin County – Joey Moore



As the requirement for Youth Summit states I met with my County Manager and toured our county office with her. During my half an hour interview with Mrs. Angela Harris I asked her a series of questions about her job, and about the County Commissioners that she answered in depth.

My first questions was "What is the County Manager's role?" She told me that as the County Manager she served as the CEO of County Government. Her responsibilities include development and presentation of a county budget, to administratively carry out all policies and directives from the County Commissioners, and that she was responsible for day to day operations of county government.

My second question during the interview was "How do you interact with, and report to the Board of County Commissioners?" She said that she interacts electronically, in person, and over writing corresponds with the board, as a board, providing each member the same information. She also said that as a County Manager she has to report to the board twice a month, keeping them up to date as to what was happening. She attends each Board meeting, and any special called sessions, or work sessions. She said that one of the most important parts of her job while she interacted with the board was to make sure that all of the commissioners stayed informed on the same things, and to make sure no one was in the dark about something.

The third question that I asked Mrs. Harris during our interview was "Can you explain how the annual budget works to me?" She said that they started off the budget planning early with a kick off meeting that included all of her department heads. At the kick off meeting she presented them with the calendar of key dates and activities. Throughout the process she has to meet with each department head and their representatives multiple times. Mrs. Harris has a budget team that works with her to compile the budget requests, prioritize the needs and make recommendations based on goals set by the board. For example if the board has a goal that funding education is a priority, she makes sure that those needs are brought forward. Through many meaningful discussions she seeks to bring forward the very best, most cost efficient, and cost effective budget. She said that she seeks to have the leanest and most progressive budget. She said that "Many people think that it isn't possible, but I think it is."

My final question to her was "Which of the county employees o you work the most with?" Her answer was, The Finance director, the clerk to the board, the administrative assistant, the public utilities director, the tax administrator, the economic developer, and the planning director.

At the end of our interview I asked if she had any final remarks she wanted to include in my report. She said that as County Manager she has an opportunity to work alongside her employees, in carrying out the directives of the board, while also engaging constantly with the public and trying to assess what the public's needs and interests are, and bringing that forward to the board. Success is contingent on good communication with the public, the employees, and the board. She said "I Honor the role that I'm in and I love my job."

