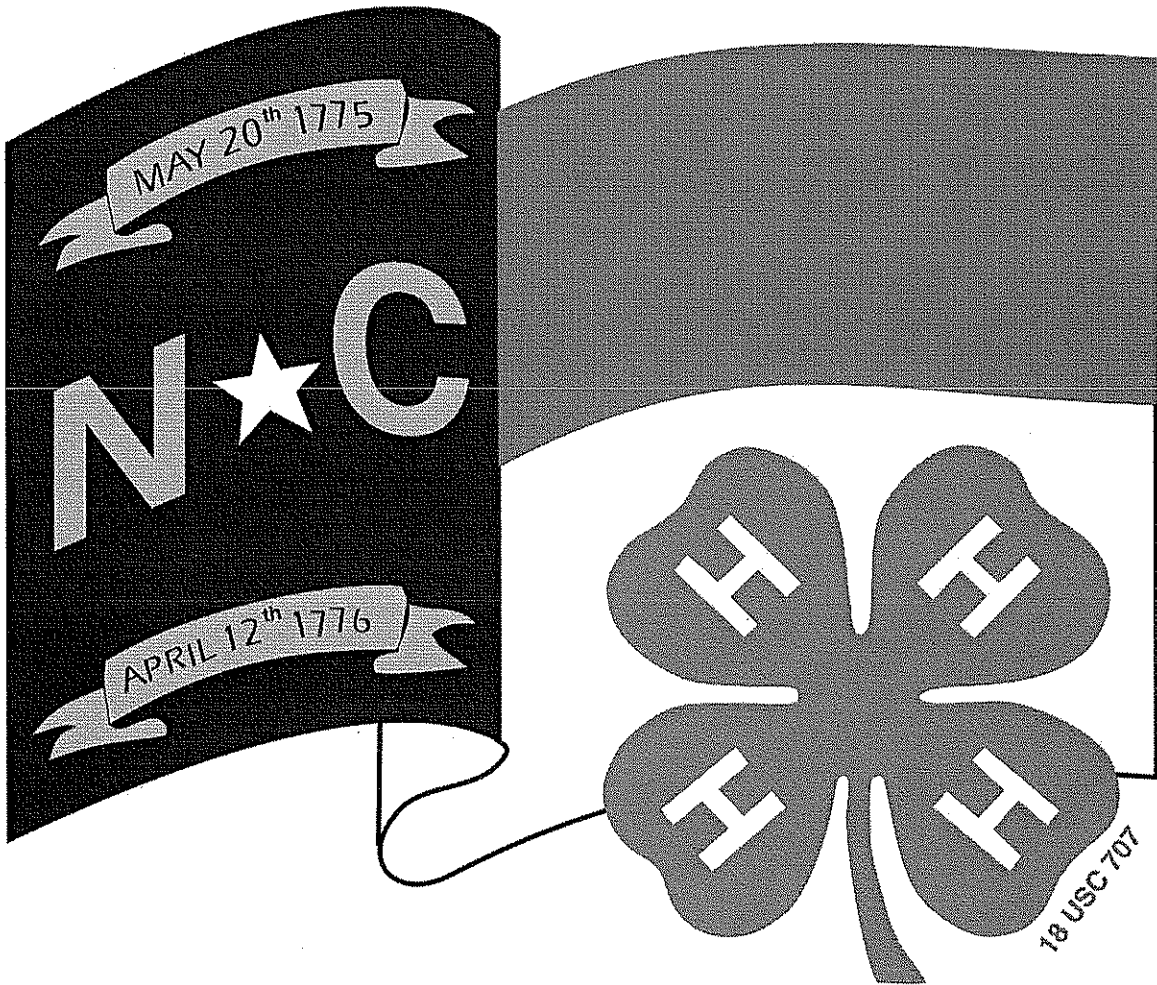


Kayla Dickerson
Martin County 4-H



Kayla Dickerson

Martin County

July 9, 2013

Question and Answer sheet of Interview with Tommy Bowen, Commissioner

Question...- How long have you been on the board? Will you run for re-election?

18 years and yes he will run for reelection

Question...- What are your roles as a County Commissioner?

"I do anything I can to help people. I make big decisions along with the rest of the board that we think is best for everyone in the county."

Question...- What are your most important topics?

Establishing new industries and creating new jobs

Question...- What are some of the biggest issues you have faced?

"Hunting. So many people are against hunting and where it is permitted. It is a hot topic."

Question...- Were there any responsibilities you were unaware of when you first ran?

Yes, there were a lot because you thought you would be able to do something for someone and then find out that the law limits you from being able to do that.

Question...- What is the hardest thing you have been faced with as a county commissioner?

Balancing a budget

Kayla Dickerson
Martin County
July 9, 2013

Interview with Tommy Bowen, Commissioner

On July 9, 2013 I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Tommy Bowen, Chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Bowen taught me a lot about the role of a County Commissioner.

Mr. Bowen explained how the Martin County tax system works and how the commissioners decide to use those taxes. As the chairman of the board, Mr. Bowen can make motions that he and the other members think is best for the county. Mr. Bowen further explained that over the past 18 years, that even though he would like to do something to help, a group or community there are laws that limit him: He relies on the five member board to vote for the good of the county.

Martin County's 2012 budget was approximately thirty three million dollars, this is a thirteen million dollar increase over the past 18 years that Mr. Bowen has served. Mr. Bowen says balancing this budget is one of the hardest parts of his job. He says the county pays for services that people need, but also tries to find ways to bring in new industries to create jobs for people.

After speaking with Mr. Bowen, I learned that a county commissioner makes decisions to make that can affect many people of the county. Obviously Mr. Bowen enjoys his job because he says that when he finishes his twentieth year as a county commissioner he plans to run again for another four year term. I'm grateful Mr. Bowen took the time to speak with me and show me how he is a leader in our community.