

Carol Nettles
Rowan County

I met with county commissioner Jim Sides on Thursday, July 11th, at his office. He remembered me from when we first met at the NCACC Youth Summit in 2011. He was very friendly, and answered all of the many questions I had for him. Commissioner Sides told me that he is in his third term as county commissioner, though no terms were consecutive. When it comes time for re-election, he will run.

I've spoken to some people who don't like him, and after talking to him myself I understand why, but I believe that there isn't a single person in a position in the government that is liked by everyone. Personally, I like Commissioner Sides. He is not the kind of man that can be bought, and I appreciate that.

An interesting fact about Commissioner Sides is that his mother has been to almost every meeting the commissioners have had since he has been a commissioner.

The biggest issue the Commissioners are currently trying to make is whether to allow the school system to build a central office. Commissioner Sides' opinion is that yes, the school board needs a central office, but they do not need it right now, while they are in so much debt. I agree with him. He told that he "never dreamed that he'd be going to court with the school system over money".

When asked, I was told that all the decisions the commissioners make are hard. Some of the hardest were job cutting, benefit cutting, and not giving raises.

Commissioner Sides told me that he has no big agenda. He just wants to help the county, while keeping the cost low. He supports homeschooling, as well as the public and private school systems.

Some people may not like Commissioner Sides, and some people may absolutely love him, both are okay. Becoming a county commissioner is not something I am looking at doing, so if there is someone who wants to be in county government and supports things that matter to me, I will vote for them. Commissioner Sides does that. He wants to be where he is and he supports the things that matter to me- homeschooling, Church and 4H- and for that, he gets my vote.

Carol Nettles
Rowan County

The Rowan County Commissioners met on Monday, August 5th at 3:00pm.

Approximately 150 people attended, in addition to the press.

Commissioner Jim Sides, Chairman of the Board, opened with the verdict of the judge that ruled on whether or not the commissioners could pray before the beginning of their meetings. The commissioners chose to recess for three minutes for a moment of silence.

Ten people requested time to speak to the commissioners. Most were commenting on the judge's ruling, while one spoke about the teachers in Rowan, and another brought up the subject of the airport.

The meeting was very short. There were not many things scheduled for the commissioners to discuss, and the public comments section of the agenda took up most of the time. One man asked about his neighbor building a house, another asked about the noise ordinance.

All of the County Commissioners were very polite during the entire proceedings, and Commissioner Sides even took a few moments afterwards to talk to me. I am looking forward to seeing him again at the NCACC Youth Summit.

After attending a commissioner meeting, I realized just how much respect I have for the people in politics. It is a very hard job, and I am thankful that they are taking care of it so I do not have to.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.