

My name is Haley Stone and I am from Sampson County. Out of five of Sampson County's commissioners, I was given the honor of interviewing Mr. Billy C. Lockamy, the Chairperson of the Sampson County Commissioners. As soon as I walked in to interview him there was a huge smile on his face, and that made me feel more comfortable to interview him.

This is Mr. Lockamy's fifth year and second term as being one of Sampson County's commissioners. Mr. Lockamy said he will probably not run for county commissioner again just because of how long he has been a commissioner. Mr. Lockamy has served six years in the National Guard so it was great getting to interview him because my grandpa served four years in the army.

One of the biggest issues that citizens ask him about is the tax rate in the county. Sampson County's citizens don't like tax increase especially with how these economic times are.

Some of Mr. Lockamys hardest decisions he had had to face was understanding what the citizens would like to have and what they want in their county.

Some of his long-term concerns are that we have heavy debts and loans, mostly because of payments for schools and

things that are newly built. He says, "If all of the schools in Sampson County were together it would be less money they have to pay for security.

Right now Mr. Lockamy is working on road improvement for NC Highway 24 and he is making new roads to bring traffic into our county. By doing this he is going to try to encourage economic growth in our county.

Some future green ideas he has for Sampson County are planting more trees and he is working to bring more solar panels around the county to help reduce electricity.

On August 5, 2013 I went to one of Sampson County's Board of Commissioners Meetings. One of the 4-H employee's, Mrs. Amanda, went to the meeting with me. She had told me how all of the meetings were recorded and saved each meeting and how sometimes the meetings are open to the public and sometimes not. When the meeting first started I was really confused on what was going on.

As I was sitting there listening to the meeting, the topic went to "the Update on and Approval of Medicaid Transportation Contracts". The first thing that comes to my mind was why do the people that work at Medicaid Transportation have to come here to get something approved. I thought it was confusing but, interesting at the same time.

But as I was listening to the meeting and remembered all of what Mr. Lockamy said in his interview. I thought to myself, "Man, being a commissioner isn't as easy as it looks and all of the people on the Board of Commissioners must really care about Sampson County because if they can take time out of everything their doing to help this community to become a better place they are a great commissioner in my book."