

Alex Wagoner

Alleghany

A Meeting With A Man With No Time

I walked into an office I had never been into before and was a bit smaller than I expected, and also a little messy. I had so many thoughts scattered through my brain as to how a man with so many responsibilities could be so unorganized. Well about this time I decided to throw all assumptions out the window and commence interviewing Mr. Don Adams, the county manager of Alleghany County.

I began by asking him “What is a county manager’s role?” Well of course at this time he really has to sit back and think about his huge role in Alleghany and how to put it into just a few words. He finally answered by stating that his main role is to handle budgeting and personnel. He also informed that county manager’s don’t get voted in like most positions of that authority. Mr. Adams said that he was appointed by county commissioners at the first meeting of the year, and also has the potential to be voted out at monthly meetings with the county commissioners. This made me begin to wonder how much time he actually puts into his job. He then stated that his career like any other takes up a majority of his time and works from about 40-70 hours a week. I was shocked that there was really that many things to handle in Alleghany County.

Next, knowing the amount of time that this job takes away from his family and his life, I asked him if he would recommend anybody else to try for this position. He said that he would definitely recommend this job because he enjoys the responsibilities and all the wonderful people he works with each day. That brings up the next question “How do you interact and report to county commissioners?” The day before meeting with Mr. Adams I attended a county commissioner meeting that gave me an idea but didn’t quite answer all my questions. In response to this question Adams stated that it would be safe for him to say that he would have face to face contact with at least one of the county commissioners each day. Shortly after this his answer was confirmed as one of the county commissioners, Larry Cox, walked into the office to ask Adams a couple of business questions.

I then asked him how the annual budget process works because he has much experience in this area, as it is his job. He then explained to me that all departments submit requested budgets, and the county commissioners have many meetings and then make a final decision. Then I asked what other county employees does he work closely with when drafting a budget proposal, he responded with “administration, assistant town manager, and the finance officers.

I now feel very informed on the county manager position and the responsibilities they take on each day. I also believe that Don Adams has made a great county manager and has done very well with accepting and handling his responsibilities and tasks.