

Chrishaun Jones

Anson County

July 2, 2014

June 11, 2014, I went to Anson County Government Center to meet with Mr. Lawrence Gatewood whom is our County Manager. He gave me some insight on what his role is as a County Manager, how the budget process works, and how he interacts with other County Commissioners. He even showed and talked about the public hearings and how they are done. Being County Manager in Anson you are responsible for utilities department which includes the water department and water filtration department which would be located in the Pee Dee plant. Some of his other responsibilities are all the county administration plants which include the taxes, tax assessment, emergency services, department of social services, health department administratively responsible for building inspection, and Anson County reports. All of Anson County Commissioners do monthly meetings the first Monday of the month unless there is a conflict or issue. The meeting covers whatever is on the agenda, like county concerns where people voice their concerns or issues to the Commissioners. As the citizens voice their concerns or issues they may have, the County Manager will listen, review them and follow up on an assignment ASAP. County Manager will handle administrative matters or finalize a budget, in which the fiscal year runs June 30 to July 1; last year's budget was 27.7 million dollars and this year's budget 28.3 million at the beginning of July 1. The night of the meeting they will generally see if Mr. Lawrence, the County Manager, can handle it or turn it over to the County attorney, Scott Forbes. Then there is the County Manager's report when Mr. Lawrence gives at least a ten to fifteen minute update on what is going on in the county government. When it comes to the closed session of the meeting where personal matters, legal issues or negotiated contracts

is done in a closed meeting with Commissioners, then the Board members and County Manager receive notes of the meeting. Other duties of a County Manager are to outsource surplus items, generate funds and sells in the county. To handle selling of county owned properties by doing sealed bids which are placed in the county newspaper with closed dates. Once that is done it is presented to Commissioners for review. Commissioners have authority to accept highest bid or not to accept any bids at all. As County Manager you have to answer to all the County Commissioners. Some of the other Anson County Commissioners Mr. Lawrence interacts with is, Ms. Anna Baucom- Chair, Mr. Ross Streater is Vice Chair, Ms. Vancine Sturdivant, Harold Smith, Bobby Sikes and plenty of others that I have not named. It was a pleasure to meet with Mr. Lawrence he was very open to talk about what he does and he seemed proud of his responsibilities. I got the chance to learn about things that went on in our county that I really did not know about or never just really thought about. But I also get the chance to go to one of the Commissioner meetings on July 7, 2014 at 6:00p.m. and see them in action.