

## **Interview with Mr. Russell Overman**

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the year 2014, I interviewed the County Manager, Mr. Russell Overman. During the interview, he was asked a multitude of questions about his job. One being, “what is the role of a County Manager?” He responded with, “to sum it up, the County Manager is another word for chief financial executive that is responsible for day to day county government.”

He was then asked about the commissioners and how the county manager interacts with the commissioners. His answer was that “they meet once monthly in a formal manner via business meeting but they also meet informally by phone or email.” In other words, he “keeps them apprised of what’s going on in the county.”

The next question was, “how does the annual budget process work?” As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the annual budget had been asserted for one week, voted into affect on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. It starts with the department heads. They turn in their request of how much money they need for the year. The requests then go to the county manager, which is the budget officer, and he decides if the departments get their requested amount. He explained that in order to have a certain amount of money in revenue, they need the same amount in expenses.

The last question he was asked was, “what other county employee’s do you work closely with when drafting a budget proposal?” His answer was straightforward and specific. There’s a specific person being the county finance officer, and also a group of people being the department heads. The department heads get together and talk about an all-around number and bring it up to the county finance officer.

When it was all said and done, we then had a tour of the county administrative building. We met with each of the department heads and looked around the registrar of deeds, the oldest recorded went back to the early 1700's. We then went into the oldest portion of the courthouse and toured the court rooms and county jail. In all honesty, this was the highlight of my summer. You never stop learning, even up until the day you die, you learn of the things to be proud of and the things you're not to be proud of. This is a "proud of" moment.