

Jamie Hauser

Currituck

On July 21, 2014 I met with Currituck County Manager, Daniel Scanlon. Before I went to talk to him, I had no idea what the County Manager did for the County or what he did to help the County Commissioners. One of the main purposes of the County Manager is to plan the County balanced budget and bring it before the County Commissioners. The largest thing financially the County Manager has to plan for is education. There are other aspects to think about when planning the budget. The County Manager goes to all of the County Departments and Agencies and collects their "requested budget" for the upcoming year. Examples of Departments and Agencies is the Fire Department, which for Currituck County it is a Volunteer Fire Department, Police, EMS, and many other various Agencies and Departments. He/she works very closely with the Finance Director, the Human Resources Director, and the Department Heads. The County Manager then sits down with everyone and "tweaks" the requests and comes up with the balanced budget that is then taken before the County Commissioners for approval. An interesting fact is the current Currituck County balanced budget is 70 million dollars. Another job role for the County Manager is to do the "leg work" for the County Commissioners. If the Commissioners have questions on a certain proposal before them, they would ask the County Manager to investigate. Weekly meetings are held between the County Manager and the Commissioners to discuss progress and concerns. The County Manager also hires Department Heads and manages the staff. When I interviewed Mr. Scanlon, I asked him what his largest long-term concern was for Currituck County. He answered the Volunteer Fire Department. His fear was the current volunteers would soon retire, and there would be few volunteers to fill their spots. With a lack of volunteers, the Currituck Volunteer Fire Department would soon crumble.