

Abigail Beasley

Pasquotank County

Pasquotank County has a county manager and he is Rodney Bunch. He was hired and they agreed to give him a two-year contract, but a contract, like his, can be extended. Not always can someone's contract be extended but Rodney and the Board of Commissioners agreed that they prolong his contract as County Manager. Having that agreement they have worked together well and Rodney loves his long journey to his job now. He started out working as a civil engineer, planning road design, in Virginia and then wanted to cut back on travel and went back to school in North Carolina. He got his accounting degree after two and half years and got a job as a planning director. After time has passed they created the Assistant County Manager job, which was appointed to Rodney; he worked that job for sixteen years. After twenty-five years, Randy Keaton retired and the job was passed onto Rodney.

His role as the county manager is to be responsible policies from the commissioners' board, management of the personnel, having three hundred plus employees to keep on track, and develop budgets. He meets with the board of commissioners twice a month, a finance and commissioner meeting; agendas will be discussed and decided. Rodney meets with the chairmen almost daily because other than the meetings they talk about the economic development and landfill water. He explained that he loves his job and that nothing in particular is more special than others but that he loves working with all these people.

The annual budget process starts in February when he meets with the department heads, then another meeting in the middle of March. These meetings are weekly and by like late April they will be starting to decide what is of the utmost importance and what is not to try and please

what the departments want and to be realistic. By state law they always have to have their decisions by June 30th and effective July 1st. Rodney works very closely with Ms. Small on receiving and reviewing requests, calling some in and meeting to discuss their budgets, and financing them to the best of their abilities. He explained on how just last night they passed a budget that will be effective starting July.

Recently they have been working on permits on landfills and people have been checking to see that there are no violations and up to code. Elizabeth City and Perquimans County have been working together on the water department to have our customers buy our boat water in bulk and reselling it to their communities. It takes a long time to get water just right for consumers by taking out chemicals and all sorts of other things.