

Mr. Jimmy Clayton is a member of the person county board of county commissioners and has been so for fourteen years. He is currently serving as chairman for the board of county commissioners.

I recently talked with Mr. Jimmy Clayton and asked him a few questions about his role as county commissioner. What follows is a list of the questions I asked Mr. Jimmy Clayton and the answers he told me.

Question: How long have you served on the board?

Answer: Fourteen years.

Question: Will you run for re-election?

Answer: I don't know yet. It is too far away to decide. I always decide close to the campaigning time because the position of county commissioner requires time, responsibility and dedication I want to make sure I can do the job correctly.

Question: What are your local priorities?

Answer: Economic development, the seniors, routine stuff like inspections and maintenance.

Question: What county issues hold the most importance to you?

Answer: Economic development and property tax.

Question: Are there long-term concerns that you have about our county?

Answer: Lack of industries. We need more industries to employ

more people. Recreation and park maintenance is another concern. Mayo and Hyco lake tax rate. Person Industries.

Question: What role does the board of county commissioners play in addressing those concerns?

Answer: I serve as an economic director to help industries settle in Person County. Also I am a recruiter and I tell industries about Person County and how they can start businesses here.

Question: What are the biggest issues citizens ask you about?

Answer: It varies depending on the time. When funding time comes around and county commissioners are talking about the budget, Person Industries' board of people ask about the funding.

Question: What are some of the things you were not aware of when you ran for office?

Answer: There was not much I was unaware of but the various inspections of the public buildings and such did surprise me. Also the budgeting for the schools surprised me I did not realize how much the county funded the schools, even charter schools get a part of the budget.

Question: what are the hardest decisions you've faced as a county commissioner?

Answer: Budgeting. There is not enough money for every business and organization so you have to choose which ones are more important and that is a very hard decision. Choosing a side is another hard decision to make. At public hearings, I have to keep order among the people and there are normally two groups: Those who are for the topic and those against it. I have to take a stand and choose which side I think is right and that is very hard

because you go against people you know. But I have to go against the crowd sometimes to take a stand for what's right.

In conclusion Mr. Jimmy Clayton has done a lot for this county. He is a good county commissioner and chairman for the board of county commissioners. I think he stated it best when he said "I have to go against the crowd sometimes to take a stand for what's right". He is truly a good county commissioner.