

Peri Munday, Alexander County Representative  
Interviewed Rick French, Alexander County Manager  
August 4th, 2015

Mr. Rick French is one of the greatest examples of a County Manager. He has served as Manager since April of 1999. He serves as the head administrator to all department's under the Board's authority. His jobs include supervision of all county departments, boards, agencies, and all activities performed by each including budget expenditures; preparation of the annual county budget; and supervision of all County officers and any other duties as required by the County Commissioners.

His primary roles include finalizing the annual budget, recording all departments, correspondence with the County Commissioners, and present grants to the Board. Furthermore, he consults with the County Attorney on a regular basis and keeps all County Commissioners abreast of all aspects of county government and issues at hand. When asked how he interacts with and reports to County Commissioners, he replied with answers that were somewhat expected, coming from a man in a head position, such as the County Manager.. He stated that he communicates with the County Commissioners fairly regularly. They communicate via weekly reports. Some of the commissioners he sees on a daily basis. Others are on a more spread out, weekly contact basis. He also meets with the various committees, for instance, the Finance Committee.

As we progressed through our meeting, I asked him to explain how the annual budget process works. He explained that the new budget begins on January must be adopted by June 30th-July 1st. Financial meetings are held periodically to ensure regulation among the budget details. The final details are submitted around April, leading up to the final submission of the County Budget in mid-summer.

The last question I had prepared for Mr. French was to gain more information on what additional county employees he works closely with when drafting a budget proposal. One of the most crucial employees associated with the proposal is the Finance Director. They are in charge of

all financial standings and details. Another important county employee is the Health/DSS Director. They must consider all aspects of health for the county budget and consider what different things are going to cost. For example, the Health director has to consider what epidemics could invade our county at any point during the year. The county manager also corresponds closely with the Sheriff's Department and Emergency Services to come to an agreement on the funding of the two essential counterparts of our county.

In conclusion, I learned many details that I did not know prior to my meeting with our County Manager, Rick French. He is a very significant County Employee and is highly experienced in his area of work. Alexander County is extremely lucky to be represented by such an exceptional man.