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Bertie County

## Youth Summit 2014 Report

### **How long have you served on the Board? Will you run for re-election when your term expires?**

- 2 ½ years and I am undecided on rather or not I will run again. I enjoy the job; I ran because I wanted to serve the county that I was raised in. The only factor is that I will be 62 soon and yes I am in good shape but this job is more for the younger generation.

### **What are the biggest issues that citizens ask you about?**

- The biggest issues that citizens ask me about would have to be jobs and economic growth. Bertie County currently has one of the lowest unemployment rates when compared to surrounding counties.

### **What are some of the hardest decisions you've faced as county commissioner?**

- Wow, that would have to be explaining to citizens that some things you can not fix quickly. For example, I get a lot calls about roads being bad in their area. What they do not understand is we cannot fix all roads because you have your state roads and your private citizen roads.

### **What are some of the responsibilities for county governments that you were not aware of when you ran for office?**

- I was unaware of how much time is put into the job. From taking phone calls, working with department heads reaching out to citizens it takes time but I don't mind.

### **How does the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners interact with one another?**

- They are separate boards, however the Board of Commissioners distributes money from the county to the Board of Education to spend. There will always be that battle in which the school system always wants more money and the county doesn't want to give it them. However, we are very cordial about the situation.

### **Are there long-term concerns you have about our county? What role does the Board of Commissioners play in addressing those concerns?**

-Apathy of a lot of citizens. They complain, raise a lot of questions etc. However, they are not doing nothing to actively change the concerns that they may have. More citizens need to get involved such as doing community service and getting on boards. It is our jobs as commissioners to convince people to do the work and not expect five people to make all of the decisions. Another concern that I have is we have to develop who we are and not focus on what other counties are doing. We have to realize that we are different from Martin, Chowan, Hertford etc.