

My name is Tia Foster and on August 15th, 2015, I was able to interview a county commissioner of Caswell County, Mr. Nate Hall. Mr. Hall has been a county commissioner in Caswell County for 19 years. He answered several questions about his experience as a county commissioner to help me to better understand the way our county is governed.

Commissioner Hall plans to run for re-election after his current term is up. He says that his highest priorities in the county are quality schools and economic development. Commissioner Hall says that his long term priorities include quality schools, economic development, and attracting younger people to our county. Commissioner Hall's biggest concerns are quality schools and jobs in our county. He admits that he did not know that he would be faced with pushing the other board members to be creative and progressive when he was elected as a county commissioner. Commissioner Hall says that the hardest decision he has ever had to make as a county commissioner is voting to spend over 1 million dollars to renovate The Historic Courthouse, where county commissioners meeting are held. However, Commissioner Hall feels that it was indeed worth the money.

The board of commissioners is a policy making board. Departments can make recommendations to the board of commissioners and they are able to make decisions based on what they have in mind for the direction of the county. They are in charge of figuring out the best way to supply the needs of the county based on the funds available. Members of the board of commissioners are David Owens, Kenneth D. Travis, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Larry G. Hamlett, Jeremiah Jefferies, and Kent Williamson.

The board is very much like a team. In order for things to operate smoothly, the entire board must have a similar vision for the county, but with enough variety to allow for a well-rounded environment. Although the board may not agree on every issue, it is their job to look past their biases and to complete their work in a manner that insures what is best for the county as a whole.

The county manager is like the liaison between the county commissioner and the head of departments funded by the county. The county manager is also in charge of putting together the annual budget for the board of commissioners to review. The county manager also is in charge of making sure that the directions of the county's board of commissioners are followed by all of the county departments. The county manager works closely with the finance director and the other department heads, such as the county sheriff, EMS director, and the parks and recreation director.

The county manager's office, as well as each county commissioner's office, is located in the historic court house, as well as the finance office. The board of commissioners meets in the court room on the second floor of the historic court house every first and third Monday of each month. I attended the public session held on August 3rd, 2015.