

Interview with Chairman Jeff Smith, Chowan County Commissioners  
By: Pacey Lassiter

1) What are some of your local priorities, and what county issues hold the most significance to you?

Improving the quality of life for the citizens of Chowan County is the number 1 task of all commissioners. I feel the best way to do this is through economic development and the jobs that come with it.

2) Elaborate on a few of the most challenging decisions you've faced as a county commissioner.

All issues that we deal with are challenging to some extent. It is responsibility of each commissioner to look at all sides and make a decision based the merits as he sees them. For me personnel issues are the hardest because you know what you do affects someone you know and their family.

3) What are the recurring issues that citizens ask you about?

School funding is asked about often as are taxes and property values. Bringing new retail businesses to the area(grocery store, big box store).

4) Name a current or recent issue before the board that you believe will have the greatest impact on our community. Why

Windmills are the hottest topic facing the commissioners today. This issue has many pluses and minuses and the decision made by the board will effect Chowan County for many years to come.