

Richard Honeycutt
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Youth Summit

Clay County Manager (Paul Leek) Interview

What is the county manager's role?

My role is to report to the County Commissioners on important issues and make sure their decisions are enacted. Also I receive reports from the various department heads of the county to get the status of how their operations are going. Likewise, I will travel throughout the county to meet with individuals that may have concerns and I oversee the budget process for the county.

What is your opinion of the recent addition of two more County Commissioners?

I think anytime that you add more voices you make it harder to make decisions and get things done. Three County Commissioners was just fine in my opinion.

Can you explain how the annual budget process works?

Our budget is mainly determined by the state's budget. While the state of North Carolina are required to have their budgets in by a given date it has not been the case for the past couple of years that causes us as a county to have to be adaptable to the nuances in the actual budget.

What other county employees do you work closely with?

I work primarily with the heads of other department heads such as, the chief of police and manager of the water department. I also work with local businesses.

What is your opinion on fracking in Western North Carolina?

My opinion on fracking in Western North Carolina is that what you do on your own land is your business. Now if you contaminate the water on the adjoining property or go under the ground surface to the next property then I believe that would not be ethical.

What is your opinion on the NC House Bill in the legislature now that deals with the consolidation of smaller school districts?

Our county's school Superintendent has been fighting that bill and has wrote letters to our state legislature on reasons why it would effect us negatively. In our instance we could consolidate with Murphy High School I think it would be a terrible thing to do.

Do you enjoy your role as county manager?

Yes, I enjoy being able to give back to my county.