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As the requirements stated, I have attended a New Hanover County Board of Commissioners meeting, and have interviewed a commissioner. I learned many things about my local government throughout this process that I wasn't aware of at the start.

Attending the commissioners meeting seemed very average, though knowledgeable. On the surface, everything appeared to be running smoothly. However, the next morning I read an article addressing an issue at the exact meeting that I had attended. This years budget plan had been approved at the meeting, but not without controversy. All of the democrats and one republican (Beth Dawson) on the board accepted the plan, while the other two republicans voted against the plan, due to a two cent property tax increase. Commissioners Skip Watkins and Woody White were both upset with the final decision. Although the disagreement could have been discussed privately, Commissioner White decided to post a status on twitter in the middle of the meeting.

White vented his frustration by posting: "Comm Dawson votes with the democrats: more welfare, more taxes". Beth Dawson responded by commenting that his behavior was 'immature' and that she couldn't understand how a fellow commissioner could go about an official matter like this. When asked if White thought that this was the right way to go about disagreements, he said that the people needed to know that she 'talks the talk' but doesn't 'walk the walk'.

In my interview with the chairman, Jonathan Barfield, we also addressed this issue. He told me that Commissioner Dawson was right to do what was right for the county, despite her political standings.

In conclusion, I learned that the teamwork skills that we develop throughout our childhood, eventually reflect later in life. I have also witnessed important decision be made for my county that I had never considered.