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Pender County

Application for NCACC Youth Summit 2012  
County Employee Interview

Does Pender County need a leash law? Will Hampstead get a bypass? How will the Scotts Hill Substation dilemma be resolved? These are just some of the topics Commissioner David Williams and I discussed during an interview conducted Monday, June 11th. Still undecided on whether to run for reelection in 2014, Mr. Williams is halfway through his third 4-year term. When he came into office at 34-years old, he was the youngest commissioner ever elected in Pender County. He became interested in politics as a young person, and his enthusiasm increased when his father campaigned for the office of County Commissioner.

Throughout the interview I found that Commissioner Williams and I share similar views on local, as well as national issues. As a deer-hunter, I am concerned that a leash law for Pender County would impact the use of dogs to assist in the hunt. I was relieved to learn that he thinks such a law is impractical to enforce for an entire county. He feels this choice should be decided by each town. However, Mr. Williams is in favor of building a bypass around Hampstead because it will improve the safety on Highway 17. As far as the Scotts Hill Substation debate, he explained that he supported the substation because it would save taxpayers money in the future, even though insurance rates for some may increase at this time. On the national level, Commissioner Williams has been against government-sponsored healthcare from the start, another issue on which he and I agree. He believes the Supreme Court will reject the healthcare mandate as unconstitutional.

At the conclusion of the interview, I took the opportunity to ask what advice he would give someone interested in seeking government office. He recommended staying informed on local issues by watching news programs, attending the County Commissioner meetings, and reading the local newspapers. Although the workings of government have always intrigued me, my interest was primarily at the national level. However, after hearing the issues discussed at a recent County Commissioners meeting, and then having the enlightening opportunity to discuss these topics further with Commissioner Williams, I am more interested than ever in participating in local government. If given the chance to attend Youth Summit, I would like to discover how other counties deal with similar concerns.