



I attended the Robeson County Commissioners meeting on August 1, 2016. Although we had wanted to give a presentation, the Commissioner's secretary asked for the sake of time if I would forgo the presentation and perhaps speak with the Commissioners individually. I noticed from the agenda, and discussion during the meeting many of the topics had already been discussed behind the scenes and Commissioners were able to vote on topics in blocks, or in a group of consent items. This allowed the meeting to move forward very quickly. The one item that took the most time was a veterinarian who got up and spoke asking for the commissioners financial support of a rabies vaccine clinic for county residents. I think it is a good idea but wasn't sure some of what he said was appropriate for the open meeting, or even factually correct. I asked later and apparently there is not a time limit on how long folks can talk, but the

Commissioners can cut them off if they need to for time. Since there really wasn't any items of public concern that night there weren't many people talking.

During a break I got up and spoke with Commissioners individually about my 4-H experience and the upcoming leadership program. I found out that only two County Commissioners were planning on attending that state meeting. Commissioners Tom Taylor and I spoke about communication for a long time. He said that he felt that communication, face to face, and being able to speak publicly would be the keys to success for young people and that many were so tied up in technology that could become a lost art. I explained to him about my public speaking experience in 4-H and how it had helped me. My 4-H Agent, Ms. Shea Ann invited him to come judge at County Activity Day. He seemed to like that we could carry on a conversation about the topic. I also spoke to Commissioners Raymond Cummings and Lance Herndon about education and agriculture. Both had interesting points to make. Since I am homeschooled and had a different educational experience I offered Commissioner Cummings a different view point. Mr. Herndon wanted to know what it would take to get young people interested in agriculture. I explained that I enjoyed growing things, especially pumpkins and how 4-H got me interested in that. However I suggested that there needed to be a bigger approach to introducing youth to agriculture and 4-H as well as FFA were good ways to do that.

I enjoyed my time at the meeting and look forward to seeing Commissioner Jerry Stephens and the Assistant County Manager Jason King at the conference. If I had a concern or something I wanted to work on I feel that the Commissioners would make a minute or two to speak with me because I am in 4-H and they all seem very supportive of the program.

