

***“The People’s right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness is secured by Government that derives their just powers from **CONSENT** of the **governed**.”***

**I DO NOT CONSENT TO:**

- 1. The proposed budget being twice as large as it was 5 years ago, ...spending going up from \$15 million to \$30 million.**
- 2. I do not CONSENT to you taxing the people 20% more than we paid last year, which was 44% larger than two years earlier. ...the SECOND REVALUATION IN A ROW with a HIGHER than the “neutral revenue” rate...9 % higher.**
- 3. I DID NOT CONSENT to you going into debt \$35 million— 70% higher than the initial cost to build the high school. You should have had a BOND REFERENDUM and let the people vote on that debt that is Biting us now.**
- 4. I DID not CONSENT to you GIVING BACK to Timber Mill 3 out of every 4 dollars they PAY in taxes.**
- 5. COUNTY BUDGETS/REVENUES are NOT more important than the BUDGETS of LOW INCOME FOLKS. (More on this Later.)**

**MY “REPRESENTATIVES”**

- 1. I have 3, Taylor, Lawrence and Evans. During May I emailed 5 times my concerns about county spending. I have received NO RESPONSE from any of them.**
- 2. Taylor, according to TAX RECORDS owns no property in the county. He has no incentive to keep taxes low.**
- 3. Lawrence has NO CONTACT INFORMATION on the county website. I MUST ASK Susanne to forward emails to him, and his listed phone number is the county office . His listed address is a PO Box. He has been on the commission for 16 years and It appears HE CAN REMAIN in office for as long as he wants as no one is running against him in November. I DO NOT CONSENT to UNELECTED CAREER POLITICANS.**

4. **Evans is the “At Large” Commissioner...he is supposed to represent over 14,000 people? That’s ridiculous. I propose changing his JOB DESCRIPTION to “Taxpayer Advocate” who whose only DUTY would be to scrutinize every expenditure proposed by the county and report directly to the tax payers.**
5. **Lisa Perry is on the ballot for November in northern Chowan. LIKE LAWRENCE she will AUTOMATICALLY become a commissioner as no one is running against her. I DO NOT CONSENT to a system that allows a FREE PASS to public office without any competition.**
6. **We do have ONE CONTESTED race, McLaughlin vs Miglorie District 2. It’s time for Larry to depart.**

**5. I DO NOT CONSENT to a tax system that results in UNREASONABLE OUTCOMES AND people BEING TAXED ON INCOME they have not received.**

**Example: Laurie Buckhout lives in a \$3 million dollar house that increased in valuation by \$625,000. The revenue neutral tax rate will increase her tax bill by \$8. Up .05%**

**Example: Chair Kirby lives in a \$1 million dollar house that increased in valuation by \$265,000. The revenue neutral rate will increase his tax bill by \$162. Up 2.5%**

**Example: Habitat homes cost around \$150,000; the family income cannot exceed 50% of county average. I picked at random three homeowners. Each will experience REVENUE NEUTRAL TAX INCREASES of 30%–58% (\$287 to \$476) Affordable housing is SLIPPING OUT OF THEIR REACH.**

**To be clear I am not saying Buckhout or Kirby did anything illegal, but the COUNTY needs to HONESTLY ask: “IS ‘THE SYSTEM’ working FAIRLY?” Obviously no.**

**I suspect that TIMBER MILL, our largest taxpayer, MAKING UP 13% of the tax base, is somehow skewing the tax rate calculations.**

**SO, MY EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE COUNTY MAKES THE RULES  
AND HOLDS ALL THE CARDS, AND COMMISSIONERS DON'T NEED  
TO GET THE CONSENT OF THE "LITTLE PEOPLE"**

**BUT THEY COULD....I DO CONSENT** to the commissioners placing a  
QUESTION on the November ballot...

***"Has Chowan County spending over the last 5 years been too  
little, too much, or just right?"***

**PLEASE DO THAT AND DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU HAVE THE  
CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.**

*John and Robin Sams*