*The editors will conduct occasional interviews with people whose work affects our community. Below is the second part of our interview with Rick where we asked him, “ What the most challenging part of the Supervisor position?”*

The most challenging part of this position for me is achieving a balance between home life (spouse, grandkids, recreation and cycling) with the time and mental demands of the job. The Board meets most months two times (1st and 2nd Wednesday). Our meetings have been lasting 9-10 hours each over the last six months. We then may also have a joint meeting with the School Board or Planning Commission every other month and then add one to two more Board meetings each week during budget season. Because I am the only supervisor with an incorporated town in Albemarle County, I also attend and report to Scottsville's Town Council once a month.

This year, I also serve as chairman of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (also meets monthly). I also sit on the TJPDC's finance committee, non-profit board and serve as the first vice-president of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (meets every other month). My other Board committee assignments include as supervisor liaison to the VORCAC's bimonthly meetings, the 5th and Avon's CAC's monthly meetings and the Capital Improvement Plan meetings (thankfully, just two) and am one of two supervisors on the County's property committee (meet infrequently, thankfully!).

Because Biscuit Run and Southwood are both located in my district, the steering committee meetings of both of these projects are a monthly requirement. Having been involved with the issue of broadband (that does not affect the residents of Glenmore but surely does a large percentage of the district) since before my election, I serve as treasurer of the Albemarle Broadband Authority (ABBA) that also meets monthly.

Finally, assorted small group meetings with constituents and county staff, presentations to the General Assembly in person in favor of greater use of impact fees and solar power in Virginia, and responding to some 35-60 emails a day, seven days a week, makes a balance with the home side of that equation hard to achieve. Did I mention that every Board I serve on often requires extensive preparation reading and that effective discussion is usually required with other Board members and members of the public before and after each meeting?

Despite all the personal sacrifices and minimal financial benefits of the position (supervisors only get paid for the hours we spend in scheduled Board meetings: we clear after health care benefits about $1,000 per month), there are people out there, even in Glenmore, who seek to deprecate our service as supervisors. They hiss that we are not public servant, merely politicians. They advocate for a County moratorium on growth, even if such action is illegal in Virginia. They threaten us with political retribution when we disobey their expressed wishes after a decision, ignoring that we each represent over 17,000 people in our districts. They allege as a Board we ignore the subject in which they are most interested, even if we have nine other compelling strategic priorities and their favorite is not on the list. The Board and certainly not a single supervisor has the power to wave a magic wand and compel DEQ or VDOT to do this or that, or for developers to no longer possess their private property rights, or for a single project to be moved ahead of other Board discussed and agreed to projects.

I close by observing that if you are not willing to work very hard in the best interests of your constituents and are reluctant to adhere to a bi-partisan and good governance model of decision-making, then being a supervisor is not worth even worth considering. But if you are prepared to do these two things, then this is a very personally and community rewarding position to hold.