

**Town:** Polkton

**Position:** Town Board

**Candidate Name:** Janet Maria Dyson

**Education:**

Associates - Health Information Technology, Currently employed, Out Patient Coding Specialist, 1999

Bachelor of Science Psychology, Liberty University 2012.

**Past & Present Enjoyment/Business Experience**

Polkton Hosiery: Owner Dale Dyson 1976- 1980

Little's Splint aka Zimmer 1980 - 1990

School Bus Driver 1990-1991

Carolinas Healthcare System 1991 Current

Owner/Manager Hope Alive Farm

**Past & Present Community Involvement:**

Community outreach programs through Church such as back pack ministry, uniform giveaway.

Sponsonring Anson Co youth in sports.

**Favorite movie? Why?** I have two favorite movies. The Hiding Place and To Kill a Mockingbird. Both movies show injustices inflicted on innocent people and show how - doing what is right- will make a difference in this word and in their own community.

**Why are you running for office? And What have you done to prepare for election to town council and how will you conduct yourself if elected?**

I need to blend these three questions:

I believe this county can change and grow and it can start with Polkton. We are in the prime location for new businesses. There is plenty of land on the highway and with 218 and the Monroe bypass, Polkton will be even more access-able. We need great jobs here, not just jobs. People want careers, jobs they love, not just a way to earn a pay check. The community college is at our fingertips and I would love to work through SPCC and with a great company to get employees trained and prepared for that company to come to Polkton. I have spoken with several companies and one of the top things they look for in a community are skilled employees. You may ask what happens if the company does

not come after the people have received the education, in that case we just keep searching and keep educating. You never go wrong with educating yourself and you never know where that education may take you.

I want to host workshops throughout the year for town residents, topics they are interested in and some things I have learned that can be shared in small groups, such as how your credit score negatively or positively affects your auto insurance, insurance plans, health insurance, how yearly home maintenance can lessen the probabilities of larger issues in the future. Simple auto maintenance, and other things people are interested in, learning about property taxes, the importance of our fire departments and how they help our home owners insurance.

As far as educating myself for election, I have called the School of Government and the Municipality League of NC to get information on hosting such things that I have mentioned above, and will be attending classes offer by each of the two groups to educate myself on how towns operate, and to make sure I learn all I can and to get Polkton in the Loop of any good things that may be coming in the future. I have to know what is going on in NC State so I can go to the meetings and get Polkton in the ears of those making decisions for the State.

We need activities for children that will be fun plus advance their knowledge and help them choose a career path. The county has many resources, the agriculture office, Pee Dee Wildlife just to name two.

With the agri civic center in the works to be built in Wadesboro, we need to utilize it as much as we can.

I would like to see the Master Gardner's from the Ag office come to Polkton to work with anyone who wants to learn to garden and can their own veggies.

I would like to see kids who have never played sports, who want the opportunity, to be able to do so. I will talk to the school coaches and teachers to learn more about how this can be done.

**How will I conduct myself if elected?**

It is easy to say, with honesty and integrity but there are always going to be people who do not like what you do and who don't like you just because. As long as we follow NC State Statutes and have the best overall interest for the town, good changes can take place. They may not be easy changes and not everyone will like them.

**As a council member, what are there actions you would support to strengthen small business and entrepreneurship in your town?**

As I have previously mentioned about jobs and education, I want to host meetings for the town residents to share their interests in businesses. There are over 30 businesses in Polkton, most of which are in the city limits. DMV and the elementary school being outside the city limits.

I would like to host a career day and have a representative of all the businesses set up booths and talk to people in the town. I know insurance is an issue but if there is a way to walk people through the businesses so they can see hands on work being done. I would like to encourage the school's to do projects on history of the town, and encourage any student who needs to do community service to get involved in their town.

What do you believe is the greatest economic challenge facing your town and what would be your approach to address it?

I have talked to several companies over the past few years, asking them what it would take for them to come to Anson Co. Everyone of them have said, we are looking for areas where we can get great employees who have the skill set so we can hit the ground running.

People in the county do not like to hear this. Times have changed. I remember the time when you walked into a company, filled out an application and was hired within 24 hours. Today is different due to such cheap labor in other countries. We can get our name out to companies, offer them the tax breaks they need to come here, and get the people trained through SPCC so they will be ready to work when the company is ready to open.

**Do you believe town government should weigh in on labor and industry issues (e.g. minimum wage, workforce development etc.)? Absolutely.**

**Would you support an effort to create a strategic plan that would bring government, business and the public together to create a shared vision and collectively develop a road map to pursue and capture growth as a community? Why or why not?**

Absolutely. (PDSA) Plan Do Study/check Act. The plan is written out, you do a walk through of that plan, studying and checking the process to learn what works at each point and what is not working, go back to the table and work out those areas, or enhance the good, and repeat, then when the process is in order, act on it.

I think great jobs is a vision and desire for all Anson County Residents, So I know my thoughts and ideas will mesh well with Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development. I am also interested in being involved with the Tourism and Development group, TDA. They have great ideas and plans and Polkton will benefit from being on the team with them.