



County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

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First Day of School- Aug 12th

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Where Do We Go From Here?

By County Executive Ron Woody

The 2014 budget adoption was painful for many people. From employees who were in fear of losing their jobs to employees who for another year did not receive raises, commissioners and school board members who probably lost sleep trying to wrestle with how to address a gloomy financial environment to parents concerned with school closures and citizens concerned with a potential increase in tax burden, there were few winners and many losers in the 2014 budget development and passage.

Continuing with some bad news is that the school financial picture is still gloomy. The projected school budget loss for the 2013 year just ending is \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million. Next year as bad as the budget is for cuts, the schools will experience a loss of approximately \$2 million. Folks, the problems have not even been addressed.

What was hopefully learned during the 2014 budget process was two main principles of financial management:

1. An organization must continue to review their organization's operations in the good years prior to the bad financial times. I remember my finance professor in college said that a company hides many problems with enough revenue. In government the organization often does not or will not change as long as enough revenue is available to fund the project and not until financial resources are lean do real changes take place.

2. The days of just stating that one needs money for their department without thorough data is over. It appears that "you must raise taxes for the children" is a phrase that has lost its value.

Decisions are made based on information. The best decisions are made on accurate information, properly documented analysis, and implemented with the implementation reviewed against anticipated results.

So where do we go from here? We must:

1. Review all of our operational functions.
2. Fully document what we are operating and gauge against our desired results.
3. Set out capital plans 5, 10, 15 and 20 years in advance.
4. Establish operating budgets and policies which have community buy in and support.
5. Work together.

TCCA Regional Meeting

hosted by

The Tennessee County Commissioners Association

September 4, 2013 at City County Building in Knoxville 6:30 pm

The meeting includes a meal, compliments of TCCA, to be served at 6:30 p.m. local time. Following dinner will be a discussion of legislative issues and county problems. Ultimately, these discussions will be the basis of the association's legislative platform for the next session. There will also be a few brief presentations on upcoming programs and topics of interest to county officials.

Founder's Day

November 5, 2013

Please start thinking about nominations for our Roane County Treasures and Golden Treasure. Nomination forms will be mailed to each commissioner in August.

Purchasing Agent Becomes Certified

Lynn Farnham was recently notified by the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC) that she has earned recognition from the UPPCC by receiving the Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) credential.

Lynn was among 240 professionals who successfully completed the CPPB examination held in May of this year. Lynn has been working toward this goal with training she has received through the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP). Roane County has been a member of NIGP for 20+ years.

Lynn has been an employee of Roane County for 19 years in November of this year and is Roane County's first Certified Professional Public Buyer.

The Legislative Committee, of which Lynn is a member, formed by the Tennessee Association of Public Purchasing (TAPP) worked throughout 2013 to amend certain legislation that dealt with cooperative purchasing.

The Comptroller's office had passed legislation in previous sessions that impeded the use of cooperative contracts for local governments and municipalities. After learning of the changes in legislation, the Legislative Committee was formed.

Working with CTAS, State Purchasing, the Comptroller's Office and Senator Yager's office amended legislation has been passed at the recommendation of the Comptroller's office. This legislation allows the use of cooperative agreements between counties. Also amended was legislation that would allow local governments to purchase directly off of contracts that were through national cooperatives, such as U.S. Communities, NJPA and TCPN.

The legislation approved not only restored the ability to purchase off of another county's contracts but also has made it possible for counties to buy directly off of a national contract. The legislation specifies that the use of these contracts has to be approved by resolution of the county legislative body. A resolution is being presented to County Commission at the August meeting.

Property Tax Estimate True to Life

By Kaley Walker, Budget Director

In the process of developing the annual budget one very important factor is revenue, more specifically, how much revenue is generated by property tax. During the early meetings on the budget one of the first things that must be discussed and voted upon is the value of the penny. This tells the budget committee how much revenue is generated by one penny of property tax levied. Now, there is the full value, but budget committee bases the budget penny on a variance standard of 6% for 2014 fiscal year. This means we anticipate that 6% of the property tax will not come in during the current year. The property tax may be delinquent, may be adjusted through the property assessor or board of equalization, or may be covered when the property is sold down the road in a back tax sale. For this past fiscal year, which ended June 30, the estimate used by the budget committee was collections of \$25,640,013. Once the actual property tax was received, the final figure was \$25,649,997. This is a difference of \$9,984 greater collections than anticipated. It appears that the 6% variance for full value is meeting its objective for budget estimates.

Rural Planning Organization Meeting at Highway Department

Road Superintendent Dennis Ferguson, County Executive Ron Woody, Tony Brown, Mayor Chris Mason, Becky Ruppe and a few others met at the Roane County Highway Department with Roane County's East Tennessee Development District (ETDD) TDOT rural planning liaison Don Brown to review and continue planning and prioritizing road projects in Roane County. Here is a rundown of a couple of the items which were discussed:

- Extension of Hwy 70 (4 lane) in front of the EXPO Center at RSCC has a large animal crossing in the plans.
- Extension of Hwy 70 (4 lane) has been prioritized from Midtown to Roane County Park section.
- Review is underway for a turn lane in Midtown at the Roane Medical Center west entrance/exit.
- Replacement of Caney Fork Bridge.
- Work is to start in the next months on 2nd lane exit at I-40 west at Midtown (Exit 350).
- Study is being conducted on the closed Airport road.

Grant Workshop presented by Sen. Ken Yager

August 24, 2013 9:30-3:00

Roane State Community College

For more information contact Joyce Nall at 717-4103 or jnall@roanegov.org

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You can support Roane County United Way just by shopping at Kroger!



Kroger recently announced a new Kroger Community Rewards program through which they will donate \$750,000 to assist local charitable organizations and schools. Beginning August 1, you may enroll your KrogerPlus card and select an organization to receive Community Rewards based on your purchases from 9/1/13 through 8/31/14. Enrolling in the program will NOT affect your personal KrogerPlus rewards.

We hope that Roane County United Way will be your organization of choice. Prior to August 1, we will be sending out our organization number for use in registering your KrogerPlus card for the Community Rewards program.

This is a great no-cost way to raise additional dollars to fund our community partners -- Thank you for your support!

Did you know about. . . how Kingston got its name?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

Kingston became a town before Roane County became a county. It was created by an act of the Tennessee State Legislature on 23 Oct 1799. It is about the eighth oldest city in Tennessee. It is named after Robert King who gave the land for the creation of the city. When Roane County was created in 1801, as Kingston was the only town in the county, it became the county seat. In 1807, Kingston became state capital for one day. This was to fulfill the requirements of a treaty with the Indians in which the land around Fort Southwest Point was ceded to the State. The State Legislature met at the home of James Gordon which was located on the corner of Race and Third Street across from the current courthouse. The Roane County Court made many improvements to the house in order that it would be adequate for the state legislature to meet. Unfortunately, after meeting in Kingston for one day, the state legislature voted to return to Knoxville, the former state capital. It is interesting to note that in 1844, Kingston was considered again for state capital. The Senate voted for Kingston while the House voted for Murfreesboro. As a compromise Nashville was chosen as the permanent state capital.

Throughout its history, Kingston has had many ups and downs. When the river was king, steamboats traveled from Kingston to Knoxville and Chattanooga. Also, many of the roads leading west passed through Kingston. However, when the railroads became a major part of transportation, the river declined. At least two times in the 1870s and 1880s, the citizens voted to dissolve the city. Rockwood and Harriman had surpassed the importance of Kingston. One of the main reasons that Kingston survived where other towns have disappeared is that Kingston was still the county seat. In the 1890s there was a move to make Harriman the county seat as it was difficult to get to Kingston because of the rivers. At that time the only way to get across was through ferries. In dry weather one could also ford across the Clinch River. County Court then decided to build a bridge that connected to the other side. With the coming of Oak Ridge and T.V.A., Kingston became a bedroom community. The coming of Interstate 40 also created more traffic in Kingston.

Rural Planning Organization Meeting at TDOT

Roane County was well represented at the recent Rural Planning Organization (RPO) meeting at the TDOT Region 1 office at Strawberry Plains during July. Executive Woody and Kingston Mayor Troy Beets were present for the Executive Board meeting and Brian Matthews and Becky Ruppe of the Technical Committee were also present. Others from Roane County were Don White and new Kingston City Manager David Boling. The RPO works with TDOT on expressing the communities' desires, wants and more importantly needs that the local officials are aware of in the communities or anticipate will be needed in the near future. The importance of the city and county's participation is to insure that our voice is heard and the decision-makers not only know who we are but continue to hear our needs. "The player who practices gets to play." "If you don't speak, you are not heard."

Economic Development

John Bradley, TVA senior vice president of Economic Development, recently spoke to the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments (ATVG) regarding some of TVA's economic development programs.

The goal of the Valley Investment Initiative (VII) is to provide a competitive commercial/industrial electric power rate. Available for both new and existing companies who meet certain qualifications, this program rewards end-use participants who make a commitment to invest long-term in the Tennessee Valley. TVA has also developed a Valley Sustainable Communities program to provide a framework for communities creating an inventory of their sustainability programs, such as recycling, landscaping, energy efficiency, transportation, water conservation, green design, climate protection, health and wellness, etc. The program's components allow communities to identify sustainable attributes and goals in order to compete more effectively for new investments by companies planning to locate or enlarge facilities. Bradley also highlighted the InvestPrep™ product investment program where TVA will consider community applications to help fund improvements of sites and facilities to enhance marketability. InvestPrep™ requires matching funds. A community must prequalify and, if accepted, then submit a full request for proposal (RFP) application. The InvestPrep™ program is an innovative, multi-year program that was just rolled out this summer. It is anticipated that the first awards will be in November 2013.

A resolution will be filed for Commission consideration at the August Commission meeting to apply for InvestPrep™ funds to improve the Jones Road site at the Roane Regional Industrial Business and Technology Park. The resolution will be based on provision by the Industrial Board of half of the 50 percent required local match, with the County IND capital account providing the remaining half of the local match.

Thanks to Anonymous Donor for Generous Donations to Animal Control Department

A **special thanks** goes to an anonymous donor who has purchased various items for the Roane County Animal Shelter. Commission adopted Resolution # 07-13-10 in July allowing the acceptance of items benefiting county departments and the gifts started arriving. Our special donor has to date donated a new dual-axle 2 horse trailer, a new zero-turn Cub Cadet lawn tractor, new ventilation fans and a new outside shelter for large animals. **A special thanks to a special citizen.**

The Teacher's Supply Closet is asking for YOUR help!

The Teachers' Supply Closet provides Roane County teachers with free usable materials to enhance instruction in their classrooms and to promote student achievement.

There will be a collection box on the first floor of the courthouse across from the security area. New, unopened supplies will be accepted through **September 20, 2013**. Financial contributions may be sent to the Roane Alliance, 1209 N. Kentucky St, Kingston, TN 37763.

Sample list of supplies: pens, colored pencils, staplers & staples, paper clips, composition books, scissors, rulers, #2 pencils, Elmer's type glue, backpacks, band aids, rubber bands, 3-hole punch, construction paper, file folders, crayons, cap erasers, notebook paper, highlighters, clear tape, tape dispensers, hand soap/sanitizer, Clorox type wipes, graph paper, post-it notes, 3-prong pocket folders, Kleenex type tissues, whiteboard markers, paper towels, poster board, cotton balls, writing paper pads, Zip-Lock type bags

The Teachers' Supply Closet is sponsored by the Roane County Chamber of Commerce, Roane State Community College, Tennessee Technology Center at Harriman, and the Roane County United Way.

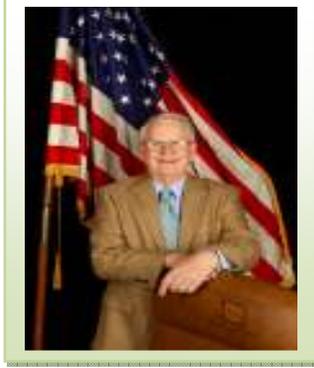
Role of OES in Supporting 4th of July Activities at Kingston

By Scott Stout, Acting Director OES

This year the 4th of July celebration in Kingston consisted of three days of boat races and ended on July 13th with several activities, including the fireworks at dark. The Roane County Office of Emergency Services (OES) participated with the command trailer and the communications for the venue. Captain John Rayburn along with two Kingston firefighter provided water rescue for the race boats. There were no injuries of the boat racers and very few injuries or medical responses during the event. This was a successful year again.

Meet Your Commissioners

Fred Tedder
3rd District



Fred Tedder serves as your County Commissioner for the 3rd Commission District (Dyllis and Emory) and was elected to office in August of 1998. He serves on the Building Inspector, Code and Review Committee, the Cable TV Committee, the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Committees, the Fire Board, the In-Lieu –of Tax Committee, the Property Committee, the Road Committee, the Safety Committee, and the Sheriff’s Liaison Committee.

Fred was born and raised in the Little Emory area of Roane County. He graduated from Harriman High School in 1958 and joined the United States Air Force in July of the same year. Fred spent most of his enlisted time at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho where he served as a dog handler in security.

After discharge from the Air Force, Fred worked the next 29 years at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant in the Maintenance and Utility Departments. The last 10 years his responsibility was in supervision.

He has been married to the former Judy Irwin since 1959. They were the parents of one son who is now deceased.

He enjoys serving his county and “his people.” Fred is proud to be a born-again Christian and Deacon at Big Emory Baptist Church.

August Meetings and Events:

Meetings may be scheduled after this Newsletter is published so please check www.roanegov.org for more info

12 th	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
1 st	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
5 th	Sheriff’s Liaison Committee	CH	6:30pm
14 th	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
15 th	Codes Committee	CH	6:00pm
22 nd	Non-Profit Committee	CH	6:00pm
27 th	County Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm

Storm Damage at Riley Creek Campground

By Mike Beard, Park & Recreation Director

It was a dark and stormy night, several Sunday nights ago, with the few remaining campers all snuggled in their beds, when out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, they all went out to see what was the matter. What was the matter was the clatter of hail that preceded a small, violent microburst.

The wind downed a dozen trees, damaged some camping equipment and gave everyone a good scare. Once campground caretaker, **Tesha Jarnigan and our Roane County OES Team**, determined that everyone was accounted for and there were no injuries, we all began to relax.

Relax until the next morning, that is. **The Roane County Parks and Recreation Staff** was out early, in force, opening roads and removing debris from campsites. Later in the day, reinforcements arrived as **Dennis Ferguson, Tony Brown and the Highway Department Team** along with their heavy equipment showed up to get the real clean up accomplished. **TVA** pitched in and had their Forester conduct a safety inspection of the trees near the campsites. The inspection resulted in 17 more trees being identified for removal. That job has just been completed mid-July.

All this resulted in a little less shade at Riley Creek Campground, but **PLENTY** remains so everyone can have cool, safe camping.

Many thanks to all the agencies involved in getting Riley Creek back up, running and making memories. It is good to be on such a dedicated, capable team.

Have a safe and happy Summer!!.....please come by and visit **YOUR** Roane County Park and Riley Creek Campground and Recreation Area, where **YOUR** safety is important.

If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Melanie or me. Deadline for submission is the 20TH of the month.

Ron

Retirement Party for Sheila Lemons



Sheila Lemons was honored for 30 years of service to Roane County on July 19th with a reception at the courthouse. Sheila began work in the County Executive’s office in October 1983 under then County Executive Ken Yager. Many people stopped by to thank Sheila for her many years of outstanding service and to wish her the best in her retirement. **Thank you Sheila** for all that you have done for the citizens of Roane County.