



## County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

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### The New Year by County Executive Ron Woody

As we begin a new year we often think about setting New Year's resolutions. In our personal life it may be losing a few pounds, exercising more, and maybe saving more and spending less. Corporations and businesses often set goals of increasing productivity, improving sales, and improving their bottom line (profits). Goals are being set. People focus their time and energy to accomplish tasks.

We may want to ask ourselves "what do governments do when the new calendar or fiscal year begins. Do we set goals? Do we have focus points?" It seems that more often than not we are reactive instead of proactive. Instead of planning our future we react to the daily problems that we encounter. This is your government and one should ask what do you want to see your government accomplish? We have tried to make a concerted effort to plan our future knowing that we will still have to react to many events and we are striving to be prepared to react, but more importantly, we are planning for our future.

As 2013 begins we will continue our path of identifying and focusing on five major topics at a time. These five major points are not our goals; they are topics or focus points and as we address these issues our goals begin to be achieved. The August 2012 newsletter began addressing our goals of sustainability and viability with the ultimate goal of improving and increasing our "standard of living".

It would be nice if we all could agree on our governance goals and even more important on how to achieve those goals. Most all people want and desire better education and lower taxes, want immediate service, but at less cost; want more patrol cars and quick ambulance response time but may not be willing to pay for the extra cost. We work to meet our citizens' needs with limited resources. One principle we all understand is "A decision is a choice among alternatives". With finite resources, we will always have departments competing for that limited budget dollar. During budget and planning times/debates, many needs are expressed, governments prioritize requests, review available resources, and then determine whether additional resources should be transferred from the private use of the taxpayer to the public use to meet the general public's needs.

Let us know your goals for your government; also share with us a plan to help achieve those goals. We will continue on our path of sustainability and viability; Roane County plans for the future.

**Roane County is planning for our future.**

### Association of County Mayors Conference by County Executive Ron Woody

The Association of County Mayors (ACM) met in Nashville the first of December for the Strategic Leadership Conference. Issues addressed at the conference: Impending Jail Issues, Changes in the Uniform Health Care, Media Interviews, and the Financial Management Act of 2013.

#### Financial Management Act (FMA) of 2013:

The Comptroller's Office is out in full force discussing and addressing questions on the Financial Management Act (FMA) of 2013. The Comptroller's Office is stressing centralization of county operations with the goal of improving financial management and eliminating duplication of governmental functions. It appears that FMA 2013 has taken some of the best aspects of the 1957 Fiscal Procedures Act (Roane County operates under the 1957 Acts) and the Financial Management Act of 1981. The ACM has decided not to take a position either in support or opposition of the proposed legislation.

#### Uniform Health Care:

There is much to be learned about the Federal law on health care which goes into effect the first of 2013. One of the points discussed was that in the event that an employee works at any point during the year, at least 30 hours in one week/pay period, the employee would be eligible for health insurance. We will be doing further research on this topic but in the event the '30 hours rule' goes into effect; Roane County may need to review our budgets and various temporary part-time positions.

### **Fire Extinguishers, Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) Purchased**

While reviewing and evaluating Roane County's Risk Management program, we recognized our vehicle and equipment fleet did not have fire extinguishers. Often times the first emergency vehicle to the scene of an accident is one of our patrol cars and there exists a higher possibility of equipment fire related to highway equipment. After evaluating our risks versus costs, Roane County decided to purchase fire extinguishers for our vehicle and equipment fleets. Resolution #11-12-06 approved the purchase of approximately 160 fire extinguishers.

We further evaluated the need for Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and, after surveying our buildings, we shall purchase 10 AEDs, with the approval of Resolution #11-12-06.

**Roane County practices Risk Management.**

### **Roane County Property Committee**

Roane County's Property Committee has been hard at work the last two months as the committee began a new agenda schedule. Both of the meetings have lasted two hours with much action and policy development being discussed and recommended to the full Commission. Look for a couple of resolutions for the January and February Commission meetings. Specifically being addressed has and will be:

- Management of Vehicle Fleet Replacement – including surplus and donations to volunteer fire departments
- Location of U. T. Agriculture Extension office
- Signage for government vehicles
- Painting styles when offices are re-painted
- Safety related issues around public property
- Acceptance of donated State/Federal property

### **Proposed Financial Management Act of 2013:** By Kaley Walker

As the Comptroller's office is working through the proposed legislation, changes continue to be made. As we review the act it would appear that the act would have little impact on the financial operations of Roane County. With any major legislation, there would appear to be some winners and losers as compromise takes place in order to have legislators' support. For counties that are not centralized, the schools and highway departments lose autonomy, which could be perceived as a loss of financial control. Roane County, since we are centralized, faces minimal impact. Some of the changes that would impact Roane County would be:

- The County Executive would lose the power to:
  - dismiss Finance Director (new law requires Finance Committee confirmation)
  - to set financial policies within Accounting Department (new law requires Finance Committee confirmation)
- The Director of Schools, Board of Education and the Highway Superintendent gain power by having seats on the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee, which sets policy and monitors the financial handlings of the county, would be made up of 7 members: County Executive, Highway Superintendent, Director of Schools, 3 County Commissioners and a School Board Member. The Budget Committee, as an optional committee would be made up of 5 members: 4 County Commissioners and a School Board Member.

An Executive Summary is pending and will be available on our website [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org).

### **Volunteers for Our Security**

*"We will bankrupt ourselves in the vain search for absolute security." Dwight D. Eisenhower*

One of the primary functions and goals of government is public safety and security. The government attempts to meet safety and security needs through most all of our operations from highway maintenance, jail operations, Sheriff Department, court systems, to ambulance and fire departments to education.

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Homeland Security signifies safety and security as its primary goal. OES is made up of many functions or operations or what is known as divisions. Roane County is pleased and blessed to have a dedicated group of volunteers that form Roane County's Emergency Communication Division (DEC). The DEC is made up of 16 members, all volunteers. The DEC's mission is to keep communication flowing no matter the situation. Communication through DEC is the backbone of emergency management's warning and response. All members are licensed amateur radio operators with some members holding additional licenses of commercial and/or auxiliary radio services. Members are also from professions of engineering, broadcast engineers, cell phone and microwave installations, radio, TV and law enforcement. The DEC members interface with OES staff and the E-911 center. More about the DEC in a future newsletter. . . . . **Thank You Volunteers!**

The Midtown Volunteer Fire Department is having a Benefit Gospel Concert featuring the Kingdom Heirs on Thursday January 10th at 7pm at the Princess Theater. Reserved seats are \$20 and General Admission is \$15. You can purchase your tickets at Ellis Surplus and Salvage 525 Morgan St. Harriman or contact Randy Ellis at 865-335-7981. Please help support our local volunteer fire department!! **Donations are also accepted!**

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### **Leadership Team:**

In the past few newsletters we introduced you to part of our management team. This month's focus is on....

**Howie Rose**, along with his team, manages the Ambulance Department and the Office of Emergency Services. Under Howie's leadership Roane County has taken a financially failing Ambulance Department and, while maintaining a Class A service, has been able to make the operation financially stable. We hope we don't need emergency services, but with the OES and many volunteers, Roane County has another premiere operation. OES, DOE, TEMA and others have regular planning drills throughout the year to insure emergency response will be in place in the event of a disaster.

**Scott Stout**, a member of the OES team, also heads Roane County's Risk Management Program, which is a somewhat new program of comprehensive risk management. The program includes not only a Safety Committee function, but assists in insurance procurement and risks associated with the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. Scott serves on the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB), and is Executive Woody's liaison to the Roane County Environmental Review Board (ERB), and regularly attends meetings of both the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) and the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA).

Before his move to the Highway Department, **Tony Brown** made the Roane County Park and Recreation system a crown jewel in the Roane County portfolio of assets. Roane County Park is always full of activities; and citizens from Roane and neighboring counties enjoy this jewel of an asset. Riley Creek Campground (45 campsites) reflects how vision and leadership can take an under-utilized, under-served, and dilapidated campground and make a premiere campground for our citizens and tourists.

We will continue to focus on more of our management team in the next issue of this newsletter . . .

### **Small Modular Reactor Project Awarded**

The Department of Energy announced an award to support a new project to design, license and help commercialize small modular reactors (SMR) in the United States, and the first SMR will be built in Roane County at the old Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site. The project will be led by Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority and Bechtel International. The project represents a significant investment in first-of-a-kind engineering, design certification and licensing for small modular reactors in the United States.

The investment will help to provide U.S. utilities with low carbon energy options as well as create important export opportunities for the U.S. and advance our nation's competitive edge in this emerging global industry.

**Roane County is Leading.**

### **Did you know about Harvey H. Hannah. . . ?** [by Robert Bailey, County Historian]

If you drive along the highway from Harriman to Oliver Springs, you'll notice that Highway 61 is called the "The Harvey H. Hannah Highway". The highway was named after Harvey H. Hannah of Oliver Springs who for 30 years was the Tennessee Chairman of the State Railroad and Public Utilities Commission.

He served in the Spanish American War becoming Colonel of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Volunteers. He also became a Military Governor of a Cuban province. Cordell Hull who became United States Secretary of State served as a Captain under Hannah. Besides being a lawyer, military officer and politician, he was well known as a great orator. He served as Adjutant General under two Tennessee Governors from 1903-1907. This was where he acquired the title "General." In 1922, General Hannah was a candidate for Governor in the Democratic primary but was defeated by Austin Peay who would become Governor.

On Nov. 8, 1936, Harvey H. Hannah died from a throat condition. Governor Hill McAlister visited Hannah before his death and asked, "Harvey, is there anything that I can do for you?" He replied, "Hill, I know that money is hard to get, but I hope that you will find enough state money to finish the Oliver Springs-Harriman highway." The Governor did find enough money, and the highway was named in Hannah's honor.

Harvey Hannah is buried in the Oliver Springs Cemetery and his tombstone is said to be the tallest monument in the Oliver Springs area.

### **Powered Ambulance Cots Reduce Lifting Injuries**

One aspect of risk management is to mitigate injury risks in all county departments. After the completion of a decision making analysis on the power ambulance cots for the Emergency Medical Services Division, it was determined that it would reduce strenuous lifting and the associated risk of back injury. A powerful ambulance cot is a powered hydraulic lift to raise and lower patients with the touch of a button. It is vital that Roane County's employees have the appropriate tools to do their job as safely as possible. One power cot has been purchased and has been placed in service; continual evaluation of this equipment will determine future needs.

### **January Meetings and Events:**

Check [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org) for more info

|         |                                  |    |        |
|---------|----------------------------------|----|--------|
| Jan. 3  | Environmental Review Board       | CH | 6:00pm |
| Jan. 8  | Beer Board                       | CH | 5:30pm |
|         | Fire Board                       | CH | 6:00pm |
| Jan. 14 | County Commission                | CH | 7:00pm |
| Jan. 16 | Board of Zoning Appeals          | CH | 6:00pm |
|         | Planning Commission              | CH | 7:00pm |
|         |                                  |    |        |
| Jan. 24 | County Board of Public Utilities | CH | 6:00pm |
|         |                                  |    |        |

### **Roane County adopts the 2012 International Residential Code**

By Glen Cofer, Building Official

Tennessee counties which have building codes must insure that their codes are no older than seven years. In November, Roane County adopted the 2012 International Residential Code, replacing the 2006 Code. Major changes to the code are:

- **Work exempt from permit:**
  - One-story detached accessory structures used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses and similar uses, provided the floor areas do not exceed 200 square feet,
  - Fences 7 feet or less in height,
  - Decks not exceeding 200 square feet, no more than 30 inches above grade at any point, not attached to a dwelling and not serving the exit door.
- **Opening Protection:**
  - Openings from a private garage directly into a room for sleeping purposes shall not be permitted.
  - Other openings between the garage and residence shall be equipped with a self-closing device.
- **Glazing and Wet Surfaces:**
  - Safety glass or glazing is a requirement for glass that is in the vicinity of bathtubs, hot tubs, spas, whirlpools and swimming pools.
- **Carbon Monoxide Alarms:**
  - For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed immediately outside each bedroom in dwellings that have fuel-fired appliances and or attached garages.
- **Fire Protection of Floors:**
  - Floor assemblies that are engineered, less than 2x10, and do not have a fire-resistance rating shall be provided with a ½ inch (12.7mm) gypsum wallboard membrane, 5/8 inch (16mm) wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member.
- **Span Charts:**
  - New span charts are provided for No. 2 grade single headers.
- **Mechanical Codes and Inspections have been added to the 2012 Code:**
  - Duct tightness shall be tested and verified.

*For more information call the Codes Enforcement Office at 865-717-4230.*

**If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me. Deadline for submission is the 20<sup>TH</sup> of the month.**

**Ron Woody**