

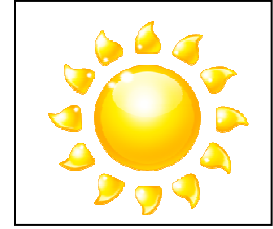


# County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

[www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)

June 2013 – Issue #34

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## Summer begins June 21<sup>st</sup>!

### 2014 Budget Progress by Ron Woody

Work continues on the 2014 Budget as the Budget Committee and Accounting and Budget Department met throughout April and May. We thought it would be appropriate to update the Commission, employees, and citizens on the current budget status.

- The School Board has not recommended their respective budgets.
- The County General Fund has been fully reviewed but not recommended.
- All other funds have been reviewed and recommended.

The General Fund of the County, which includes operations within the Courthouse, Sheriff and Jail, along with programs such as Industrial Development, UT Agriculture Extension, Park and Recreation and non-profit contributions, has been labored on for a number of meetings and has tentative approval; however, the budget is currently unacceptable for recommendation. The General Fund started out of balance over \$2 million and is currently out \$1.6 million with an acceptable out-of-balance number of around \$1 million. Thus, we have to have additional revenue or cuts of \$600,000. We are able to adopt budgets out-of-balance from an operations standpoint due to the "Fallout Provision". The "Fallout Provision" is established due to it being illegal to spend over your budgets, impossible to spend 100%, and poor management to spend funds just because they are budgeted. We again thank our elected/appointed officials, department heads and employees for being as frugal as possible in managing their budgets. Our budget department calculated this "Fallout Provision" based on historical data and we change our estimate over time. Currently the "Fallout Provision" in the General Fund is about 5-6% of the \$16.8 million appropriation for the General Fund.

Back to our review of the General Fund Budget and current recommendation:

1. There are no anticipated changes in the shared percentage cost of health care. We will still monitor health care costs but do not see that a change needs to be made at this time due to the Affordable Health Care Act. Departments should, however, start managing part-time employees' weekly time.
2. Budgeted raises have been reduced from 4% to 2%.
3. We continue to struggle with jail-related costs and the inmate population exceeding budget. An additional jail position has been added along with an additional Deputy. The Sheriff originally had requested four positions.
4. We received our insurance premium increase for next year effective January 2014 with an increase of only 5.3%. We had budgeted 10%.
5. A number of capital items were transferred to the Capital Fund also allowing some operations cost reduction.
6. A shift in some TVA in-lieu revenue from Solid Waste to the General Fund has also been recommended.
7. There were some other minor revenue and expense changes that took place throughout the General Fund Budget.

These seven items have assisted in reducing the out-of-balance amount from over \$2 million to the \$1.6 million.

The General Fund of the county is providing the same basic service for 2014 as was provided in 2013. The notable problem has been flat -to a reduction in - revenue which supports the operations and operations costs have increased due to increases in mandated costs such as officials' pay or inmate population.

The Budget Committee will review the General Fund after the Accounting Department closes out our May accounting period. We are hopeful for positive revenue estimates.

The Budget committee should also receive and deliberate on the School Budget by mid-June.

### Transparency in Publishing by Ron Woody

A number of decisions are made in county government each day by elected/appointed officials, department heads, and others. Most of these decisions are operational in nature and have to be made to fulfill the duties of the offices. Most policy decisions are made over a period of time and involve action by the county legislative body. Many if not most of the policy decisions either directly or indirectly are financial in nature. Since policy decisions involve money, often your Commissioners and other officials can devote time to research, study, and debate the merits of new policies or changes to policies. Starting in the fall of 2010 we began trying to make the decision making policies as transparent to the public as possible by use of the county website. One may not like all of our decisions but one cannot say that we have not been the most transparent in our decision making process. The following is our current listing of decision making processes. ([www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org) under County Executive)

- Discussion of our five-point management practices
- Monthly Newsletters - 34 are listed from September 2010 – June 2013
- Positions Statements - 4
- Executive Summaries - 34 are listed; however, additionally there are updates or expansions to some of these making our total much greater.
- Policies - 5
- Decision Making Analyses (DMA's) - 12
- Published/Non-Published Articles – 10, along with copies of certain presentations/remarks - 5

We would encourage you to take a tour through our website. It may not be the best and it is not where we want our website to be but we do think we have made better decisions with our departments and Commission by the education process of publishing the materials allowing us to research, study and reference the facts and issues. **Others may follow but we shall lead.** We are constantly updating our site.

### County Benefits – 401k Plan

Since Roane County Commission approved a 401k supplemental retirement plan we have continued to monitor both our employee and employer contributions. As we plan the county's annual and future year financial needs we also help plan our employees' needs and the approval of the 401k plan has been and continues to be extremely successful. For the first 11 months in Fiscal 2013, the county's contribution has been \$53,660 with employees contributing over \$127,706. These contributions reflect over \$181,300 in savings for future retirement. If we have a full-time employee who is not contributing, you are missing a great opportunity to receive a Roane County Government retirement match of funds. In July 2012 the county's match received by employees was \$3,270; by May 2013, the contribution has grown to \$6,100. **We call that success.**

### **Congratulations and Best Wishes!**



to Howie Rose in his new position with TVA.  
Thank you for service with Roane County Howie!

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**Congratulations!**

**Nick Forrester, Sheila Lemons, Joyce Nall and Linda Stooksbury** completed the County Officials Certificate Training Program (COCTP) and received their Certified Public Administrator designation on April 11, 2013 at the Capstone Event at Montgomery Bell State Park.

### Submitted and Sometimes Published Articles

On the county website under County Executive, one can find submitted and sometimes published articles. We would encourage you to take some time to review these articles. The titles of some of the articles are: Where do My Property Taxes Go? (10-3-12), Roane County's Industrial Effort (11-2-12), and Sustainability (2-26-13).

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Recreation and Tourism has always been a focus point of our administration as I look at our Five-Star Points each day, which is on my office's white board, I continue to ask "What can we do to attract individuals to enjoy Roane County?" Maybe we should have a billboard advertising campaign with some of the tourism contributions from Hotel/Motel Tax?

- Billboard on I-40 East, I-75 North and South and maybe a few more sites?
  - Proud to be in Roane
  - Home of Tennessee's Largest Lake – Watts Bar Lake  
[http://www.roanetourism.com/about\\_roane\\_county/watts\\_bar\\_lake.aspx](http://www.roanetourism.com/about_roane_county/watts_bar_lake.aspx)
  - Home of a National Lab [www.ornl.gov](http://www.ornl.gov)
  - Home of the World's Fastest Computer System [www.ornl.gov/info](http://www.ornl.gov/info)
  - Shortly we may be able to say "Home of a National Park - The Manhattan Project"  
<http://energy.gov/management/manhattan-project-national-historical-park>
  - A Retirement Haven with Many Developments
  - Come Visit
  - Come Stay a Few Nights
  - Come Retire With Us
  - Come Work Alongside US
  - We are proud to be in Roane County and you will be too!

**Tourism Committee – You may want to consider advertising Roane.**

### Association of Tennessee Valley Governments (ATVG)

Roane County is fortunate to have two members on the ATVG Board of Directors in County Executive Ron Woody and Kingston City Mayor Troy Beets. The ATVG board meets quarterly to discuss, review and periodically take positions on policies related to TVA. Most recently the Board took a position on qualifications of TVA board members and submitted our qualification to our federal Representatives and Senators. Further, the board voted their support of the Small Modular Reactor program which had been approved by the U. S. Department of Energy and TVA and Babcock & Wilcox was awarded the first contract at Roane County's Clinch River site. Two other recent resolutions were adopted which affect Roane County and the Tennessee Valley. One was the intra-river basin water transfer which in essence states that if water is taken from the Tennessee River Valley it should also be returned (this position is in regard to Georgia wanting to take water from the Tennessee River to serve Atlanta). The second resolution was approved at the April meeting related to asking the U. S. DOE to find a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel. Information about ATVG can be found at the following website: [www.atvg.org](http://www.atvg.org).

### Roane County is Engaged with TVA by Ron Woody

During the latter part of April I had the privilege to sit in a meeting with one of the new TVA board member, Peter Mahurin. Mr. Mahurin's background is Chairman of Hilliard Lyons Financial Services. Mr. Mahurin made a very refreshing comment about how he wanted TVA to begin planning their financial affairs. Mr. Mahurin stated the TVA motto had been "low electric rates now!" and because of the "now" emphasis, some decisions may not have been in the best interest of the public utility and rate payer long term. It was refreshing to hear a more planned approach in the decision making process. Short term decisions can cause long term problems.

We also had a good conversation with Mr. Pete Gaillard, PE Licensing Manager for the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Technology. Mr. Gaillard has some Roane County connections as his family by marriage is part of former Harriman Coach Richard Pickell's family.



## George W. “Copper” Bacon

**George “Copper” Bacon** is in his 4<sup>th</sup> term as County Commissioner from the 1<sup>st</sup> Commission District (Rockwood) in Roane County. Commissioner Bacon serves on the Agricultural Extension Committee, the Animal Control Advisory Committee, the Beer Board, the Budget Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Emergency Services Committee, the In-lieu of Tax Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Safety Committee.

George (Copper) Bacon was born on December 10, 1938 and was nick-named from birth because his “hair was the color of a copper penny.” Copper started his education in Glen Alice Elementary School and graduated from Rockwood High School in 1957. After graduation he worked at the Coca-Cola plant for a short time and then for Roane Electric. Since jobs were so hard to find and to keep, Copper decided to become a Marine. In December of 1958 he was sent to Paris Island for training. After Basic Training he was sent to Okinawa and Taiwan for 18 months and then to Cherry Point, North Carolina. His duty there was as a Brig Guard and he often transported prisoners to church carrying a gun. He never felt comfortable going to church with a weapon. During his marine service, he served in the I Company, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, the 9<sup>th</sup> Marines, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines Division, and FOB in San Francisco, CA.

In Cherry Point he met his soon to be wife and left the Marines in 1961. He and his bride came back to Rockwood and he sold insurance for a short time but decided he would starve if he had to continue. He decided to “re-up” in the Marines. Saying that a small decision can affect the rest of your life, he decided to go by and visit his brother “Cotton” at the Ford Garage before going on to the recruiting center. While there, his brother said they might need a salesman and most Roane Countians know the rest of the story. Copper spent 40 years selling automobiles.

In his spare time, he continues to farm around 100 acres and raise cattle. He and his wife are parents to two daughters and a son and he continues to enjoy retirement and serving citizens of Roane County.

**“Spring being a tough act to follow,  
God created June.”**

*Al Bernstein*



## Randy Ellis

**Randy Ellis** is a sixth generation Roane County resident who represents District 2 on the County Commission serving the Harriman, South Harriman, Midtown, Emory Heights and Swan Pond communities. Ellis currently resides within the city limits of Harriman. He and his wife, Hannah Ellis of Dalton, Georgia, enjoy home life with their active 7-year old son, Bryson. In addition to raising a young, growing family and dedicating his time to the County and City, he desires to promote Roane County and his district. Ellis is a small business owner in the City of Harriman where, along with his family, he operates Ellis Surplus and Salvage.

As demonstrated in an already successful personal and professional life, Ellis is no stranger to hard work, managing demands, working smart, cultivating partnerships, meeting expectations and delivering results. When asked about his motivation to run for office Ellis boldly responded, "As a life-long resident and 1995 Harriman High School graduate who holds an Associates' degree from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelors' degree in Public Administration from Columbia Southern University and will begin working on my Masters' Degree this fall, I ran for Roane County Commission because, simply put, I love my community. I believe in the citizens and businesses within Roane County. I am passionate about seeking out ways to push through the opportunities our County faces so that a significant, meaningful impact is felt far and wide where the growth and development of our region and residents are concerned."

A willing and able community servant, Commissioner Ellis demonstrates his commitment, tenacity, and spirit for Roane County and its residents through the tireless efforts made by him to support the community. As an Ambassador to the Swan Pond community, one of the hardest areas hit by the effects of the TVA Coal Ash Disaster that occurred in December, 2008, Commissioner Ellis serves on the Roane County Long Term Recovery Committee. He was elected Vice Chair of the Roane County Community Advisory Group and also serves as Director on the Hooray for Harriman Committee, Director of the Harriman City Christmas Parades in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, as well as Vice President of Operation REACH.

Ellis serves on the following County Commission committees: Road Committee, Solid Waste Committee, Legislative Committee, Emergency Services Committee, Safety Committee, Budget Committee (2010-2011), Long Range Planning Committee and the Beer Board.

Commissioner Ellis was also elected by his peers on the Roane County Commission to serve as the Vice Chairman in 2011-2013.

**Did you know about. . . ?**

**The History of the Coca-Cola Bottling Works – Rockwood**

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

If you look on the internet in places like EBay or through bottle dealers, one will find that there are several Coca-Cola bottles which bear the “Rockwood, Tenn.” raised lettering. In the 1890s there were several saloons located in Rockwood. The Swagerty Brothers (Jim A. and Tom F. Swagerty) owned and operated one of these saloons and bottled liquor. When liquor was outlawed in Rockwood in 1902, the Swagerty brothers switched to bottling Coca-Cola. They received their franchise from the Coca-Cola Bottling Works, Chattanooga, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1903. Besides Coca-Cola, they also manufactured all kinds of soda pop. In 1906, the Swagerty brothers sold their business to Walter Howard and H. Fowler. Later Tom Tarwater and T.A. Wright bought into the plant. Then, H. Fowler, Bart Bacon and Sewell Howard became the owners.

The first plant was in a one room building on South Front Avenue. The bottling equipment consisted of a stove (to heat water), a tub, a water-driven brush, and a foot-power machine. Deliveries were made by a one horse wagon.

In the early days, the commissaries of coal, lumber and mining companies were the major outlets for their product. The Roane Iron Company and the Brown Mining Co. of Roane County, and also the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company, New River Coal Company and Brown-Hill Colliery were among the places where one could purchase Coca-Cola and other soda pops.

In 1916, a new building was constructed on South Wilder Street. An ice plant was installed which provided these retailers with free ice as an incentive to use the Coca-Cola Bottling Works. This building was located across the street from where Molyneux Lumber was located and was used until 1950.

About 1919, S.D. Smith purchased the plant and in 1923 he sold out to J.G. Repsher and C.L. Cole both of Mississippi. Presidents of the company through the years from 1923 included J.G. Repsher, Mellie T. Repsher (his widow), Saramel Repsher Crooks (the daughter of J.G. Repsher). Managers through the years were C.L. Cole, and his sons, S.P. Cole, Charles E. Cole and James T. Cole.

A new building was constructed at 220 South Kingston Avenue and the Coca-Cola Bottling Works was moved there in January 1951. In 1969 it purchased the Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant in Lenoir City, with the franchise to bottle Dr. Pepper. The Rockwood Coca-Cola Works was later sold to Johnston Coca-Cola of Cleveland, Tennessee and it was closed in 1998.

Other bottling works were operated in Rockwood by Captain Robert H. Thompson (Thompson & Kelly), A.R. Humes, and Walter Smith in the early days of Rockwood’s history. Bottles have been found with the raised lettering identifying these companies and that they were from Rockwood.

**Excerpt from a letter from a genealogical visitor:** “From the nice lady at the city hall who directed me to the courthouse, to the next nice lady at the county clerk’s office to the wonderful people at the Roane County Archives, Darleen Trent and Robert Bailey my quest was most enjoyable. I had planned to stay one afternoon – thanks to Darleen and Robert and their assistance and guidance at the Archives I stayed four days!”

Jean E. Bennett Mineral Wells, TX 5/1/2013

**June Meetings and Events:**

Meetings may be scheduled after this Newsletter is published so please check [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org) for more info

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sheriff’s Liaison Committee	CH	6:30pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Beer Board	CH	5:30pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Zoning Appeals- <i>if needed</i>	CH	6:00pm
20 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
27 <sup>rd</sup>	County Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm

**Understanding the Electrical Power Balance and TVA Vision:**

TVA impacts Roane County – has, does and will continue. Many people have mixed feelings about TVA and even the New Deal of U. S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the late 1920’s and early 1930’s. But regardless of your feelings and position, it is important to know TVA’s vision and position. Generally speaking TVA is trying to balance Low Rates, High Reliability, Responsibility, Clean Air, More Nuclear, and Greater Energy Efficiency. Within these goals there are also a number of balancing services that must be met. Take Low Rates for instance; does TVA provide energy with coal, gas, nuclear, solar/wind, and hydro? Well hydro is the most cost effective but not reliable, or sufficient in quantity; reliability is an issue with solar and wind also. The prices of coal and gas change daily and also the cost of the environmental impact come into play. TVA is challenged by changes in energy needs on not only a seasonal basis but a daily basis. We appreciate TVA’s partnership with our communities.

**Joint Meeting**

A Joint Meeting between the Roane County Board of Education and Roane County Commission was held the end of April to discuss the Roane County Board of Education’s delivery of services and financial issues to support their operations. Further, a presentation was made by the Roane County School Board relative to school security and safety. The presentation of both the School Board and Roane County Commission can be found on the county’s website @ [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org) under Executive Summaries #31, #32, #33, and #34.

**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*