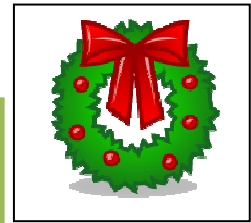




County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission



COURTHOUSE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
December 16, 2011 ♦ Noon ♦ Circuit Courtroom

What are we trying to accomplish?

As we look back on history and look to the future we work, plan, and struggle to obtain a healthy, happy, and fulfilling life. Our forefathers understood the importance of working together as a government to help each other accomplish the goals of a better standard of living.

Our local government plays an important part of improving our livability through services to the citizens.

What services have our citizens required to improve livability and how does the government pay and account for these costs? Locally we pay for these services through our property and local sales taxes. The following is a broad accounting for these services:

SERVICES	ACCOUNTING FUNDS	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
Security, Law Enforcement, Legal, Local Health Department, Recreation	101 - General Fund	\$15,134,024	15.97%
Safe Roads	131 – Highway Fund	\$3,505,390	3.70%
Garbage Collection	116 and 123 – Solid Waste – Recycling	\$1,983,983	2.09%
Health Care	118 – Ambulance	\$3,325,493	3.51%
Fire Prevention and Animal Control	111 – Urban Services	\$736,194	0.78%
Education	141, 142, 143, 144, 146	\$64,676,847	68.25%
Payment for purchase of capital assets to support above operations	151, 152, 156 – Debt Service	\$5,408,065	5.71%
Capital Investment	171, 176, 177 – Capital Funds	Varies year by year	

TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 94,769,996 100%

“A decision is a choice among alternatives.”

Commission and Elected and Appointed Officials, along with all county employees should work to be as efficient and effective as possible. Do we succeed? Not always. Do we make the right decisions? Not always. Do we agree on how to accomplish the goals of improved livability? Not always. But with all the negative answers we must continue to plan, work, and struggle to accomplish the goals. Let's make this county a better place to work, play, and live.

Have a Merry Christmas and look forward to a prosperous New Year!

Harriman Gardens Fire Report – Howie Rose, OES Director

On November 20th at 1230 a.m. a fire broke out on the 4th floor “B” building of the Harriman Gardens Apartment Complex. This is a 70-unit apartment building managed by the Harriman Housing Authority. The majority of the residents are elderly, or people with minor disabilities. The Harriman Fire Department responded quickly to the blaze and began to evacuate the residents and extinguish the fire. Harriman Fire Department requested mutual aid from the Roane County Office of Emergency Services (OES) fire and ambulance divisions, as well as the Kingston and Rockwood Fire Departments. OES ambulance staff attended to the evacuees and rehabilitated firefighters suffering from heat exhaustion. The Roane County Schools provided school buses to transport 68 evacuees to the Harriman Community Center where OES had set up a shelter. OES requested assistance from the Tennessee Department of Health and the American Red Cross in order to meet the needs of the residents. Most of the residents in the shelter were able to eventually find a place to stay other than at the shelter. As of the morning of 11-22-11 there were 12 residents staying in the shelter. Many of the residents staying at the shelter have chronic special medical needs.

There were many challenges in finding the required home health equipment during the early hours of Sunday morning. However, all of the residents’ special needs were met with the assistance of the Health Department and the Red Cross. Special needs’ sheltering is challenging at best, fortunately we had planned for this and the plan worked. The East Tennessee Regional Health Department Emergency Coordinator told us that the state health department would like to use our shelter plan as a template and example of how special needs’ shelters should be run across the state. OES had a lot of help and we would like to thank everyone who helped us make this a little better for the residents of Harriman Gardens.

Again, thank you Emergency Responders for a job well done!

Roane County Salutes another leadership position in a State organization!

Carolyn Granger was recently elected Secretary to the Tennessee County Commissioners Association (TCCA) Board of Directors.

Congratulations Carolyn!

Committee Action

Courthouse and Courtroom Security Committee: Met on November 15, 2011 and voted to recommend adding several cameras and new locks for some inside doors.

Park and Recreations Advisory Board: Met on November 15, 2011 with TVA officials and recreation engineers and reviewed and discussed Chamberlain Trail and Swan Pond Sports Complex, along with many other recreation projects.

Legislative Committee: Met on November 17, 2011 and recommended a resolution on Open Meeting Law along with discussion of state education funding.

Property Committee: Met on November 22, 2011 and formulated recommendations for the use of the old jail.

Minutes and Resolutions are on the December Commission Agenda regarding these committee recommendations.

Tennessee Oversight Interlocal Agreement Update

Several local governing bodies have adopted the Tennessee Oversight Interlocal Agreement (TOIA) that will serve as a framework for local government interaction with the Department of Energy and the State of Tennessee on environmental management and emergency response issues related to the DOE facilities in Oak Ridge.

On November 14 the Oak Ridge City Council adopted the agreement, as did Morgan County. The Anderson County Commission approved the agreement unanimously (16-0) on November 21. The Roane County Commission is expected to consider the agreement at its January meeting. The agreement authorizes the appointment of one of the member local governments to serve as fiscal agent for a five-year state grant, expected to total more than \$900,000.

ROANE COUNTY HONORS VOLUNTEERS

County Executive Ron Woody announced the recipients of the Roane County Volunteer Stars Awards for 2011 – Michael Ann Begley (Adult winner) and Joseph “Joey” Allen Sheldon Goss (Youth winner).

Roane County Highway Department

November, 2011

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Local Revenue</u>	<u>\$ change from previous budget</u>
2006-2007	\$1,018,714.00	n/a
2007-2008	\$1,305,462.00	\$286,748.00
2008-2009	\$1,395,546.00	\$90,084.00
2009-2010	\$1,370,459.00	-\$25,087.00
2010-2011	\$1,375,554.00	\$5,095.00
2011-2012	\$1,326,000.00	-\$49,554.00
Average	\$1,298,622.50	\$61,457.20

Funding for the Roane County Highway Department generally varies nominally year over year as changes in collection in property tax and mineral severance tax are received. The increase in 2007-2008 over 2006-2007 was due to a property tax increase for Highway. Roane County complies with a five (5) year maintenance of effort test.

Commission Action
November 14, 2011

- **Adopted Resolution #11-11-14** amending the EMS billing rates for transports.
- **Adopted Resolution #11-11-15** to allow the Trustee to round property taxes, interest, and penalties.
- **Adopted Resolutions 11-11-26 and 11-11-27**, adopting redistricting plans for the Board of Education and County.

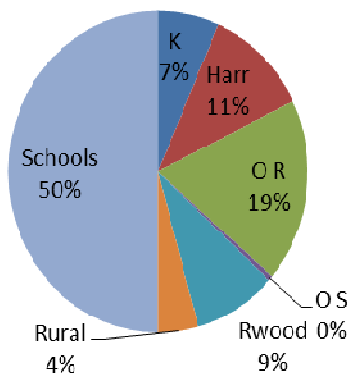
Sales Tax in Roane County

October 2011

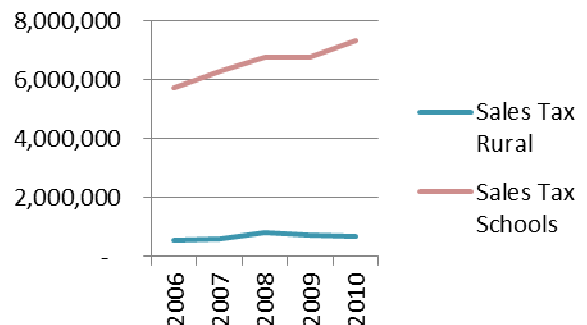
These graphs show how the local option sales tax collected within Roane County is distributed. By law one-half of all local option sales tax collected must go to education. As you can see 4% of sales tax can be used by the County (rural) for discretionary purposes. It is used to support rural functions like Solid Waste, the Animal Shelter and Fire Protection. The cities use sales tax in their individual budgets.

Almost all of the local option sales tax that is collected within Roane County returns to the county and cities depending on where it was collected, with the exception of a small percentage that goes to the state. As you can tell from the graph local option sales tax has grown steadily over the last number of years. These graphs indicate the local option sales tax dollars that come to the County for education compared to rural. All sales tax that is received by the cities is not indicated on this graph.

**Sales Tax Distributed
July 2010-June 2011**



Sales Tax Distribution



County Benefits -- Vacation and Sick Leave

An important benefit made available to our full-time employees is vacation and sick leave. One aspect of the vacation day leave policy is that an employee can carry over from year to year 18 days if not used. If an employee has days exceeding the maximum carry-over then those days are eligible to be added to his/her respective sick days. Upon retirement, any unused sick days are applied to the retirement length of service, thus increasing retirement benefits. The maximum amount of sick days for retirement benefits is 240 days.

Since the county does not have short-term disability insurance, the accumulation of extra sick days from unused and excess vacation days can become a valuable benefit in case of a long-term illness. We would encourage employees to build up your sick days and hope you will never have to use them.

Do you know what the top recyclables are?

Director of Solid Waste Ralph Stewart has been working hard over the past year putting together a recycling program that not only diverts waste from our landfills but also adds revenue to offset cost. With approval of the solid waste program by our Solid Waste Committee chaired by Commissioner Benny East, the county is investing in recycling, and even cut the solid waste tax during 2011.

Here is the breakdown of the recycling revenue for 2011:

1. Cardboard	\$109,426
2. Metals	\$ 85,856
3. Newsprint	\$ 39,775
4. Plastic	\$ 13,817
5. Aluminum	\$ 11,240

What can you do to help? Recycle plastic

- water and soda bottles (#1 plastic), and
- colored plastic containers (#2 plastic-like laundry detergent bottles)

Merry Christmas!

The Courthouse will be closed Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th.

Founders Day 2011



The 2011 Founders' Day Celebration was held on Monday, November 7, 2011. This year marks Roane County's 210th birthday!

This year's Treasures were: **James "Dub" Harmon** from the 1st Civil District; **Luther Hall** from the 2nd Civil District; **Paul Reagan** from the 3rd Civil District; **Houston "Doc" Moore** from the 4th Civil District; and **William "Bill" Thompson** from the 5th Civil District. This year we had two Golden Treasures: **Mary Lou Walsh Bradford** and **Ernest Rose**. Senator Ken Yager attended and presented each of the Treasures with Proclamations. Representative Hurley attended and addressed the crowd. Everyone enjoyed hearing about the lives and good works of the Treasures. Cake and punch were served following the presentations.

December Events:

December 3rd – Shopping at the Park
The Cottage in Roane County Park

December 10th – "Dashing thru the Park 5k"
For more information call:
Tony Brown - 865-882-2640 or
Kym Abernathy - 865-399-5725

December 16th at Noon: Courthouse Christmas Luncheon
2nd floor – Courthouse

PARADES:

December 1st – Harriman – 7:00 p.m.
December 2nd – Kingston – 7:00 p.m.
December 3rd – Oliver Springs – 5:30 p.m.
December 5th – Rockwood – 7:00 p.m.

If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me. Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.

Ron