



# County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

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**Happy Labor Day!**

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## Accolades Go Out to the Roane County Budget Committee, Commission, Accounting Department & County Employees

By County Executive Ron Woody

Much has been accomplished over the past three (3) years as the Commission has worked to adopt and implement financial policies which meet financial sustainability goals of the Roane County Government. A review of the 2013 financial and budget milestones was recently presented to the Budget Committee and reflects these accomplishments:

- Actual revenue compared to budget revenue ranged generally from 95% to 103%; some of the smaller funds were outside this range but total dollar amounts were not significant.
- Actual expenditures compared to budget expenditures ranged generally from 90% to 97% again with some of the smaller funds falling outside the range but not significant dollar amounts.
- The 90% to 97% spending range of the budget is calculated annually and is often referred to as the fall out provision (the calculated amount of the budget which will not be spent).
- The county met targets on revenues and expenditures.

Another financial milestone is our actual operations which in business is known as profit/loss and in government as changes to the fund balance. Once again, fund balances (excluding school operations) were on target to meet our expectations. The County General Fund closed \$230,000 to the positive on a \$15.5 million budget. Other funds had positives and negatives that were within acceptable ranges and the negatives were often transfers to capital investments which were planned and known. Debt Service continues using reserves; however, these losses are scheduled within the 30 year debt budget plan which had been established. Debt budget operations for 30 years are noted in the Annual Debt Report published by the office of the Director of Accounts and Budgets. The annual debt report is available on the county website ([www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)) under the Publications tab.

Much work has gone into establishing Roane County's solid financial foundation and to all I say, "THANK YOU." To our employees, hopefully sustainable revenue will be established and more efficiencies recognized which would allow for raises in the near future. Until that time, we hope to reward our hard-working employees with bonuses as fund balance allows. Thank you to all for a job well done.

The Budget Committee minutes of August 8, 2013 reflect more detail and county financial policies can found on our website [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)

## Joint Meeting of Roane County Commission and School Board

With the struggles of the 2014 school budget adoption, the School Board and County Commission have determined that it is in the county's best interest to begin meeting jointly to gain an understanding of the financial situation and operational activities of the school operation. Recently, the Tennessee School Board Association (TSBA) and Tennessee County Commission Association (TCSA) held a joint meeting at the TSBA facility in Nashville to discuss similar issues that exist across the state. Roane County was represented at the TSBA/TCSA joint meeting by Executive Woody and Director of Accounts and Budgets Kaley Walker.

The Roane County boards will meet on September 12, 2013 to hear much of the presentation which was delivered at the TSBA/TCSA meeting. County Technical Assistance Consultant Wesley Robinson was one of the main presenters at TSBA/TCSA meeting. Wes is the former State Department of Education Finance Director and has extensive knowledge of local education operations and financial issues. He will be presenting at the joint Commission/School Board meeting.

**Meeting: Sept. 12 @ 6 p.m. in Raider Room (Dunbar Bldg) at RSCC**

### **UT Agricultural Extension Office Renovation Update**

By Lynn Farnham, Purchasing Agent

The construction to add a conference room onto the Ag Extension building in Midtown is underway, but has slowed due to several obstacles, e.g. scheduling inmate labor, utility issues, etc.

The County has contracted with the School System for the Construction Management of the project and is working with Lee Maines on the day to day activities. Pioneer Construction is the contractor of record for the project for the purpose of obtaining permits.

Mr. Maines is in the process of completing an “all in” estimate for the project. He is developing it in a format that will permit moving cost in and out depending on the availability of inmate labor. A total cost projection is the most effective method to avoid overruns once the work commences, also refining the material specification to duty ratings appropriate for a public facility.

Mr. Maines states that he is still working on a path for the existing overhead lines, particularly Comcast’s service lines for the Central Service Building, Midtown Education Center, the School Transportation Center and area residents. He is working with service providers to develop a plan that will make any outage time as brief as possible.

The revised footing plan has been received and reviewed by Glen Cofer.

One of the challenges of this project will be performing this extensive renovation without displacing the occupants.

### **ATVG Meeting- Air Quality Issues**

The Association of Tennessee Valley Governments (ATVG) met July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Gatlinburg for their quarterly meeting. County Executive Woody serves on the Board of Directors. Approximately forty members attended representing government and power providers within the Tennessee Valley Authority seven-state region. The focus of the meeting dealt with air quality in the region and its impact on the environment and industrial recruitment.

Jim Renfro, Air Resource Specialist with the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and John Myers, TVA, presented historical and current data reflecting that the region’s air quality has improved dramatically over the last twenty years. Renfro also informed the association that the Environmental Protection Agency is considering making air standards more restrictive which could impact the region by putting counties in a nonattainment zone; thereby, preventing certain industrial companies from locating within the region or expanding current operations. The good news is the air is getting cleaner for a number of reasons: including scrubbers at TVA coal fired plants, unleaded gasoline, a slower economy and wetter weather.

ATVG also heard presentations on the National Park Service, TVA updates and Compressed Natural Gas Fleet Conversions.

New EPA rules are expected in January 2014.

### **Solid Waste Receives Tractor/Fifth Wheel**

The Roane County Solid Waste department received from the Department of Defense an American General Road Tractor/Fifth Wheel. The benefit of the vehicle is two-fold. The tractor will be used to move trailers filled with recyclable materials around the rear expanded lot when they become full. This will result in a reduction of downtime by the Michael Dunn employees utilized for sorting recyclables and with truck drivers bringing in empty trailers. The second benefit is an issue of safety. By utilizing our own truck drivers to move the trailers, safety will be enhanced. Our truck drivers know and understand the traffic patterns of the facility. They will be able to move the trailers at times when vehicular and pedestrian traffic is at its lowest.

**Founder's Day  
November 5, 2013**

**Please start thinking about nominations for our Roane County Treasures and Golden Treasure. Nomination forms were mailed to each commissioner in August. Nominations are due by September 30, 2013.**

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**Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012**

In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies, to make a number of changes to the way the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is run. As the law is implemented, some of these changes have already occurred, and others will be implemented in the coming months. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policy holders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some – but not all – policy holders over time. ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov))

Any questions regarding the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 please call the Roane County Codes Enforcement Office at 865-717-4230.



**JOB FAIR FOR VOLKSWAGON DISTRIBUTION CENTER POSITIONS**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

@ Roane State Community College, Harriman Campus  
Room O-101 in O'Brien Humanities Building

For more information contact Kim Harris, RSCC at 865-882-4695 or [harriskb@roanestate.edu](mailto:harriskb@roanestate.edu).

**Do you know about the "Poisoned Wedding" . . .**

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

What should have been a very happy day turned into the worst mass murder to occur in Roane County's history.

The tragic event occurred at the wedding of Joel Dallas Hembree and Mary Jane Dail in November 1880. Mary Jane Dail was the daughter of Col. James I. Dail and the marriage took place at his home near the Emory River, three miles from Kingston. As this was a great social event, many prominent families from this area attended the wedding. Forty seven guests were in attendance.

After the marriage ceremony, the guests were invited to sit down to a dinner around noon. That night and the next day, nearly all who ate became sick at the stomach. Six people died: Katie Lowry (age 9 years), Robert Dail (the brother of the bride), Rosie Dail (granddaughter of James I. Dail), Albert Gallaher, Mike May (a relative of the groom) and Jim Fields (a colored servant). At least 30 others were sickened.

There was much speculation as to whether the poisoning was accidental or intentional. It was finally decided that it was done on purpose. It was determined that the poison was sprinkled on the turkey and the center cake. All those who became sick partook of at least one of these two items. A month after the event, the body of Katie Lowry was exhumed and tested. The tests showed that it appeared that the poison used was antimony which has the same effect as arsenic.

Much speculation was brought forward through the years about the murderer. At the time some said that a man named Jack Isham did the deed. The Ishams were Union while the Hembrees were Confederate and that this was done in revenge for the murder of the father of Jack by rebels. Through research done by Alvin Hembree, there is speculation that it may have been done by a sister of Mary Jane Dail out of jealousy. Or she may have gotten someone to do it.

No one was ever charged and this mystery will always remain unsolved.

**Dog Wash and Yard Sale at Roane County Animal Shelter**

September 7 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Yard sale and washing dogs for donations!

296 Manufacturer Road, Rockwood (865)354-7387



### **Roane County Becomes Member of Cumberland Regional Business and Agribusiness Marketing Authority**

Public Chapter No. 474 signed into law on 22 May 2013 created the Cumberland Regional Business and Agribusiness Marketing Authority (the “Authority”). The purposes of the Authority are to create a business support process in order to accelerate successful development of startup and fledgling companies, to have the authority to establish and operate a market for agricultural products of the region and to further the economy and growth of the region by operating and maintaining support for small business incubators. The initial counties of the Authority consist of Anderson, Campbell, Cumberland, Fentress, Loudon, Morgan, Roane and Scott. Other counties in the region are eligible for inclusion.

Although preliminary by-laws have been temporarily established, early discussion prior to filing and adoption of the legislation was that Roane State Community College could serve as the fiscal agent and the Authority, working in conjunction with the TECH 20/20 organization, would apply for federal grants in order to meet the purposes under which the Authority was created. More to come about the Authority as a board of directors establishes by-laws and federal grant applications are made.

More information is available on the county website under Executive Summary #36.

### **DOE Oak Ridge Reservation Update**

As Roane County works with the Department of Energy, the Energy Communities Alliance, and the local Oak Ridge Reservation Community Alliance, it is important to understand the comparative size and location of the facility near population centers and that the Oak Ridge DOE facility sits within a population center.

A few comparative numbers are:

County of Roane	395 square miles
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	816 square miles
DOE Idaho Falls Reservation	890 Square miles
Hanford, Washington State	586 square miles
DOE Oak Ridge Reservation	58 square miles

Both the Hanford and Idaho Falls sites have their primary operations nearly 45 minutes to one (1) hour of drive time from the nearest population center, whereas one can walk or ride a bike to the facilities at the Oak Ridge Reservation. Just understanding the Oak Ridge DOE location’s relative position to a population center helps identify and understand potential environmental and industrial risk.

### **Solid Waste/ Recycling Update**

By Jack Jinks, Consultant

The Solid Waste and Recycle Centers have continued to upgrade at many of our facilities. Some major work has been accomplished at the Recycle Center with help from the Roane County Highway Department. The improvements have not gone unnoticed. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, two members of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Mr. Matt Maynard and Mr. Seth McCormick, paid our main Recycle Center a visit. The purpose of the visit was to look at our site and compare it to other operations across the state.

Director Ralph Stewart led them on the tour and discussed our plans for future expansion and improvements. The visitors were particularly interested in the work we have done using Michael Dunn Center employees, our oil recycling and the comprehensive work being done with our recycling efforts in general. It’s through this kind of exposure that we are successful when we apply for state and federal grants.

Some more good news, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, our landfill had its yearly inspection by the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation and they found our post-closure to have no violations. A previous inspection had found a minor wet area that had been quickly corrected.

Thank you to Director Ralph Stewart and his staff for a job well done.

Expect updated Executive Summary 9b & 9c in the near future.

## Meet Your Commissioners

### Jerry Goddard 2nd District



Jerry Goddard is in his 19<sup>th</sup> year representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission District (Harriman, South Harriman, Emory Heights, Swan Pond, Midtown and Emory Gap). Jerry serves on the Industrial Liaison, Budget, Ethics, Finance, Fire Board, Property, Tourism and Waste Water committees. In the past, he has served on the Back Tax Committee and the Legislative Committee.

Jerry was born in 1946 to Paul and Mary Ellen Goddard at the Harriman City Hospital. He has two brothers, Paul and Darrell Goddard and one sister, Paula Walker, all of Roane County.

He attended South Harriman Elementary School and South Harriman High School. His senior year they consolidated South Harriman and Harriman High School so he graduated from Harriman High School. He attended several classes at Roane County Community College.

After graduation he worked at Burlington and Roane Hosiery Mills. In 1966 Jerry went to work at the Oak Ridge plants and stayed there 32 years. After retiring, he went to work at the Tennessee Department of Transportation for 8 years until he retired for medical reasons.

Jerry says he has always enjoyed politics. He is still enjoying serving on the Roane County Commission and serving the people of Roane County.

Jerry has been married to his high school sweetheart, Sherron, for 48 ½ years. Jerry and Sherron have two daughters, Kimberly Griffin and Tammy Goddard. They have 4 grandchildren, Whitney Hill, Chelsey Summers, Lucas Jolley and Kristen Jolley.

### Roane County Has a Certified Industrial Site

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced the second round of five Select Tennessee Certified Sites. The Select Tennessee program was launched in June 2012 with the goal of helping Tennessee communities prepare available sites for investment and expansion. The program sets a consistent and rigorous standard upon which companies can rely in making critical location decisions. The five sites are:

- Aviation Park, Site 1: Sullivan County (Cargo Center Drive, Blountville)
- Aerotropolis Logistics Park Site: Shelby County (4542 American Way, Memphis)
- **Cardiff Valley Road Site: Roane County (Cardiff Valley Road, Rockwood)**
- North Etowah Industrial Park Site: McMinn County (Industrial Drive, Etowah)
- Northwest Tennessee Regional Industrial Center: Obion County (Highway 51 & State Road 21, Union City)

This is Roane County's second certified site. Please see our newsletter article from July 2013 for more information.

### September 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

9 <sup>th</sup>	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Public Records	OCH	4:30 pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Commission/School Board	RSCC	6:00 pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
24 <sup>th</sup>	County Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm
26 <sup>th</sup>	Property/Solid Waste Cmtes	HD	6:30 pm

### No Wake Buoys at Riley Creek

By Mike Beard, Park & Recreation Director

A concerned citizen brought to our attention that the lake area adjacent to **Riley Creek Campground and Recreation Area** had become popular with the local wakeboard/wake surfing enthusiasts. Sometimes during the fun of riding the big wakes, a boater will forget that the wake continues across the water and impacts others.

One of the impacts is in our **Swimming Area** where children or other vulnerable swimmers could be swamped or knocked off balance. Another impact area is the park's boat launch where again wakes can cause harm to boaters along with their boats.

New "**No Wake Buoys**" will be strategically placed in the waters near the Riley Creek Swimming Areas and the Boat Launch to remind us that there are other lake activities underway that might not enjoy the big waves.

State law requires "No Wake" areas around swimming and boat launch areas.

Let's all keep the safety of swimmers and those launching boats in mind and **Remember your Wake** as we enjoy the rest of the summer.



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

**Ron**