

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

"2016 Budget: Perspective" By Ron Woody, County Executive

Volume 6, Issue

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Since the Budget Committee has completed the 2016 Budget recommendations, we look back and see what has changed in our county government over the last year. Most of us understand that inflationary pressures are often the cause of budgetary increases. For example, as I told my father a couple of years ago, the cost of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) of which he is a member, increased almost 2% in one (1) year which for education resulted in a budget increase of over \$800,000.

Inflationary costs, such as retirement, medical insurance, utilities, cost of supplies and services and even existing personnel costs, are all expenses that we try to manage within the local growth of our economy or within some of our deflationary expenses such as fuel cost. Sometimes we are successful in managing inflationary costs and sometimes not; however, we must understand the effect of these costs on local government budgets.

The other cost to government is the cost of what is new. The 2016 Budget has some new costs of services which we have identified in the county government as follows:

- Park and Recreation service- the county will now be responsible for managing an additional 80 acres of which 10 acres will require mowing at the Swan Pond Sports Complex at a cost of \$37,000 annually;
- Veterans Service Office up from \$ 13,000 to \$55,491 over two (2) years- the county went from no officers to two (2) part-time officers to cover 35 hours per week of office time;
- Jail West Care Contract- \$125,434 to help rehabilitate women and alleviate the need to build an additional jail pod to house women;
- Employee 1.5% raise at a cost of \$150,000;
- \$500,000 transfer from our reserve account to clean up back tax property and it appears more to come.

We are increasingly seeing the pressure to expand the services offered by county government from more security, better roads, more animal care to additional contributions to our non-profits. We as elected officials must maintain a balance of services to the cost of services, and be mindful as to who is required to pay for the services.

We hope and desire that the cost of these new services improve the quality of life of our citizens, and from a financial standpoint grow the economy or reduce the potential long term cost of operations.

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NOTICE:

FY16 Budget
Public Hearing, Budget
Committee meeting,
Commission Work Session

June 2, 2015
6:30pm

Qualls Commission
Room at
Roane County
Courthouse

What Difference Does a Grant Make? By Joyce Nail

How does grant funding affect our county budget and level of service? Many of our existing programs are supplemented through funding received from state and/or federal funding assistance, and special Capital Projects are often made possible through grant funding. How does grant funding affect our county budget and level of service? Many of our existing programs are supplemented through funding received from state and/or federal funding assistance, and special Capital Projects are often made possible through grant funding.

Our **Juvenile Program**, which serves juveniles and their families throughout the county, receives \$9000 from the State of Tennessee's Commission on Children and Youth each year in order to supplement our officers' training.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services supplies \$37,300 annually to the **Sheriff's Department** to augment an officer's salary, benefits and supplies to

serve child support warrants. The Sheriff's Department also receives several grants from TDOT's Governor's Highway Safety Program that enhances services for child passenger safety, and to raise awareness of road hazards, including alcohol and drugs. These grants totaled \$117,800 during the last fiscal year. The Department of Justice, through the Bullet-Proof Vest Program, reimburses the county one-half (1/2) the costs of vests worn by our officers.

Our county **Health Department** provides many services and programs for all citizens of the county. Included in these programs is grant funding of \$15,000 annually for a diabetes awareness and prevention program. The county has been successful in receiving this grant for three consecutive years for a total of \$45,000. The Tennessee

Department of Health also supplements the health department operations by providing \$572,000 in the past fiscal year to continue necessary services. In 2014/15 the county also received \$37,000 to participate in a Tobacco Awareness program with an emphasis on the dangers of using tobacco during pregnancy and when children are present.

Through TEMA, our **Offices of Emergency Services** receives grants annually to enhance the county's ability to respond to emergencies efficiently and effectively. These grants currently total approximately \$80,000.

During the past year, The Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has given the county a total of \$280,000 to our **Solid Waste Department** to improve our recycling program and to partner with municipalities and

our schools in this effort.

TDEC's **Parks and Recreation Department** grant made it possible for the county to install a new ADA accessible playground at Roane County Park to replace the one that was out dated and not accessible. The county worked with Michael Dunn Center in the planning and installation of the new structure. The state provided \$50,000 to this project.

The county's **Economic and Industrial Development** efforts are also supplemented with funding from grant revenue. The Volkswagen project received in excess of \$2,000,000 in grant funding. This included infrastructure and road construction at the site in the Roane Regional Business and Technology Park.

Roane County Public Utilities, providing sewer service, has also been able to expand and update (*cont p4*)

Highway Department Update by Brian Matthews

First, we want to congratulate all of our recent graduates. We are proud of you! We had a great group for student government day and we want to thank Aaron Noe, Tyler Thompson, Summer Smith, Luke Simmons, and Isaak

Kerley for taking the time to visit with us. Also, we want to thank the students and staff at Midway Middle School for inviting us to come and see what all they are doing with their recycling program.



Just a reminder, we are a drop off location for used oil and filters to be recycled.



Also, the mowing season is under way and we are asking everyone to follow signage and use caution when traveling in areas where mowers are present.



Did You Know . . .What Happened to “Second Street” in Kingston?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

If you travel east through Kingston on Race Street, you will notice the signs that show a First Street, a Third Street, a Fourth Street and a Fifth Street, but no sign showing a Second Street. The 1811 plat of Kingston shows all five streets. However, the road that was originally named Second Street became known as Kentucky Street because the road led to Kentucky and through

the years the name was changed. Other name changes were King Street to Cumberland Street, a n d Loveley Street to



2016 School Budget

The Roane County Budget Committee has recommended a tax increase for the General Purpose School Fund (141) of 20 cents and an additional 2 cents for their Capital Fund (177). We ask what’s new in the school budget? Really there is nothing new. So why the tax increase? In very simple terms, we can identify three (3) areas: 1) The state cut education funding for Roane County in 2010-11 by \$1,000,000. 2) There continues to be movement of the teachers’ salary table (scale) by both advancement in years, additional degrees obtained and raises applied to the table over the last five (5) years. 3) The school operational fund has experienced net losses over the past 4 out of 5 years and their savings have been depleted to lower than desired levels. We commented a number of years back that the current operations needed 29 cents to experience a financial breakeven status. We are faced with either major cuts and reorganization of the school system, or an increase in tax to meet current operational needs.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
June 2nd	Budget Public Hearing/ Commission Work Session	QCR	6:00 pm
June 4th	ERB	CR	6:00 pm
June 8th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
June 9th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
June 11th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm
June 11th	Emergency Services	OES	6:00 pm
June 17th	Board of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
June 24th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
June 25th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm

What is my tax liability for next year?

The county has a property tax calculator where one can calculate the reappraisal impact and any proposed tax increase impact. Located on the county website— homepage www.roanecountytn.gov
New Property Tax Calculator

Manhattan Project History:

The code name of the research and development project known to us today as the Manhattan Project was Development of Substitute Materials. The name “Manhattan Project” caught on because the main office of Colonel James C. Marshall, US Army Corps of Engineers, was in Manhattan. Marshall was the head of the Army’s portion of the project. The Army was chosen to head the project because of their experience in large-scale construction projects. The Manhattan Project employed over 130,000 people and cost around \$2 billion, or \$26 billion in today’s economy. There were more than 30 sites across the United States that were involved in the project.

Please submit articles/items of interest to Melanie at melanie.townsend@roanecountytn.gov by the 20th of the month. ~Ron

What Difference Does a Grant Make? By Joyce Nall (cont. from P2)

their equipment with two different state programs. The county was able to borrow funding from TDEC in the amount of \$4,468,000 at a low interest rate, with \$1,117,000 of the loan being given to county as a grant with no payback. This money was used to upgrade existing lines and equipment and also add new service lines in the Midtown /Rockwood area. In addition, Roane County received a Community Development Block Grant this fiscal year in the amount of \$487,067 from the State Department of Economic and Community Development which enabled the installation of sewer lines to serve residents in Midtown.

Other projects in the county that have benefitted from grant funding includes the installation of **used oil heaters** at several county facilities, two annual litter reduction grants from TVA and also TDOT, an Energy Conservation grant that helped pay for courthouse infrastructure needs, a waste tire grant, and numerous school and Highway Department safety and construction grants.

The County makes every effort to match needs with funding opportunities so that through careful planning, the assistance available through grants enables us to offer needed existing services to the citizens at less cost to the tax payers and keeps options open for new and improved opportunities to improve our quality of living in Roane County.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Thursday, June 4, 2015
6:00 pm

Final TVA Public Hearing regarding the ash spill

RCHS auditorium



Mrs. Robin Harris Jarnagin, age 59, of Harriman, entered Heaven's Gates Friday afternoon, April 24, 2015. She was born June 16, 1955 to the late Fanny "Peggy" Harris and Richard Harris.

She was a member of Child's Memorial Baptist Church where she enjoyed being involved in teaching Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and directing Christmas programs.

Robin's favorite place was Navarre Beach, Florida where she loved vacationing with her family,

In Memoriam: Robin Jarnagin

collecting seashells and walking on the beach. She loved crocheting, writing novels, camping, dancing to 60's classic Rock and attending her son Dan's band concerts. Robin was passionate about life, and her faith in Jesus Christ was inspiring to so many.

Robin was "Gigi" to three grandchildren, Ethan, Paige and Rylee. They brought her so much joy and she loved being their Gigi.

She was preceded in death by her mother: Fanny "Peggy" Harris.

She is survived by her husband of 30 years: Gary Dean Jarnagin.

Her children: Daniel Jarnagin, David Jarnagin and his wife Sarah Elizabeth, Ashley Ott and her husband Marcus, Sarah Jarnagin and Laura Walls.

Three grandchildren: Ethan Jarnagin, Paige Ott and Rylee Jarnagin.

Her father: Richard Earl Harris.

Her brother: Richard Earl Harris, II.

Two sisters: Deborah Tuck and Dayle Walker.

As well as many nieces and nephews and friends whom she considered family.

Robin was a seventeen (17) year employee of the Roane County Clerk's Office. Robin will be greatly missed by everyone in the Courthouse but particularly by her co-workers in the County Clerk's Office. We continue to hold her family and friends in our thoughts.