

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



2017 Budget

Has Government Grown? Not Much.

By Kalyey Walker, Director of Accounts and Budgets

FY2016-2017 Budget

The budget committee has been hard at work these last few months. There is a light at the end of the tunnel at this point, but it is still a little ways down the track. The budget committee has met several times this spring and summer, starting in March and will be working right through to the end of June. The goal of the committee is to have a recommended budget on the July Commission agenda. There have been nine meetings held, included one all day meeting to discuss the upcoming budget. There are still three (3) more meetings scheduled including May 31st at 5:30 to discuss and vote to recommend or not the school budget requests. The committee has recommended all but the General Fund (101) and the Fire & Animal Fund (121) for FY17.

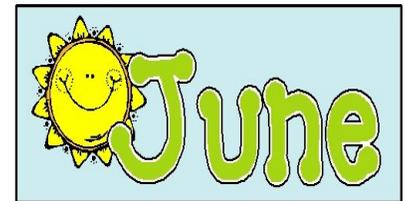
This budget is not perfect, no budget is. The goal of the budget committee is to provide the optimal budget within the constraints of revenue sources available. Currently there is only one fund that appears to have revenues reducing and that is the General Fund (101). There are several sources of revenue which are staying steady; these include property tax, sales tax, and grant funding (for specific departments). Some sources are diminishing such as TVA impact funding will be reduced by 25% each of the next 4 years until it is completely gone. This will have a \$100,000 cumulative effect each year. The current Hall income tax provides \$100,000 to the General Fund, but the state has approved legislation reducing this tax each year until it is abolished. This could be a \$10,000 to \$20,000 reduction for FY17.

The flip side is that expenditures are not reducing; in fact, they are growing slowly. The total appropriations from 2010 to now, has changed from 93.6M to 94.5M, a 1% increase over 6 years. Some of this is attributable to raises for employees; in the General Fund this change is approximately \$650,000. Other associated increases are from increased health insurance premiums, E911 contract expense and additional services offered. The veteran service officers are two (2) new part time positions which did not exist in 2010. They are located at the VA clinic and assist our veterans with VA benefits. This service comes at a cost of about \$55,000. The park system has added the Riley Creek Campground, which charges users and those fees cover its operation. Work has begun at the Swan Pond Sports Complex and this is 70 new acres to be managed by our recreation department with no associated revenues. The Fire and Animal Control Fund (121) is supported by rural property tax and rural sales tax. This fund has seen a dramatic increase in the effect of the E911 bill on the fire departments related expenditures. The department head has been asked to brain storm some solutions as to the future of rural fire protection in Roane County.

Roane County Government

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County Updates

Roane County Equalization Board

The Local Board of Equalization is scheduled to go into session in June 2016. Appointments may be scheduled by contacting the Roane County Property Assessor's Office at 865-376-4362, beginning June 2, 2016. The initial appointments will be scheduled Monday through Friday, 9:00-12:00 noon the entire month of June. This board will assist individuals in review of property assessments. If an individual upon receipt of the assessment notice, doesn't feel the property is accurately assessed, a hearing can be requested from the Local Board of Equalization. Members of the board for Roane county are Mary Holley, Thaxton H. Brown, Jr., Freddie Harvey, Barbara Pearman and Donna Davis. The Local Board of Equalization will be sworn in on June 1, 2016.

Working Together Toward a Better Roane County

Staff Retreat 2016...

County Executive Woody hosted an all day staff retreat on May 24, 2016 at the UT Agriculture Extension conference room for department directors. Each director was asked to present a fifteen (15) minute PowerPoint presentation answering the questions, "What have I done over the last year to make Roane County better?" and "What areas do I anticipate focusing on next year to make Roane County better?" Directors became more in touch with ways that departments work together to make Roane County better.

Fight the Bite! ... by Laura Connor, Director of the Roane County Health Department

In last month's newsletter, County Executive Ron Woody, discussed Zika Virus. We are continuing our efforts to educate the public on what Zika is and how best to prevent it. Zika is not a new virus, in fact it was first discovered in 1947. Zika outbreaks first began in Africa, Southeast Asia, and most recently, South and Central America. In general, Zika is a very mild virus. Most will never know they have been infected because they do not have any symptoms. Those who do go on to develop symptoms are generally mild and include low grade fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes. The primary concern for Zika is the distressing effect it has for a pregnant woman and especially the developing fetus. During the recent outbreak in Brazil, there has been an enormous spike in negative pregnancy outcomes including miscarriages, stillbirths, and a condition called Microcephaly. Microcephaly is a devastating diagnosis and is

marked by a baby having a small head, sometimes very small. The fetus' head does not grow normally because the brain does not grow and develop normally. This can lead to serious lifelong complications. Currently, no vaccine or treatment exists for Zika. Prevention is the key to stopping Zika, even before it reaches us. It is important for everyone to take precautions and avoid getting mosquito bites. If you are outdoors, you should use insect repellent on both your clothes and skin (Fight the Bite). It is also critical to get rid of areas of standing water around your home (Tip-n-Toss and Drain and Cover). Mosquitoes can breed in as little as a bottle cap full of water. There is much more information available on the web at www.tn.gov/health and www.cdc.gov. We are also doing presentations to groups and individuals and have lots of educational materials available at the health department. If you are interested, please contact Laura at 354-1220 or by email at Laura.Conner@tn.gov.

Roane County Agriculture Happenings...by Jessica Wilkinson

The UT Agriculture Extension Office has opportunities for the citizens of Roane County to engage in.

- **Master Gardener Happenings**

The Master Gardeners have kick started a Lunch & Learn Series. These take place on the second Saturday of each month, and cover various topics that a master gardener may "specialize" in. So far topics that have been covered include: raised bed and container gardening, apple cider fermentation, and roses, with more to come.

- **2016 Master Gardener Intern Class**

The 2016 Intern Class is scheduled for Tuesday's and Thursday's from August 25, 2016 to October 20, 2016 from 5:00-7:30p.m. Download the application from <https://extension.tennessee.edu/Roane/Pages/Agriculture.aspx> and bring it and payment for the class in to sign up for this year's class. (Applications are also available at the Extension Office). Contact: Jessica Wilkinson @ 865-376-5558 Office

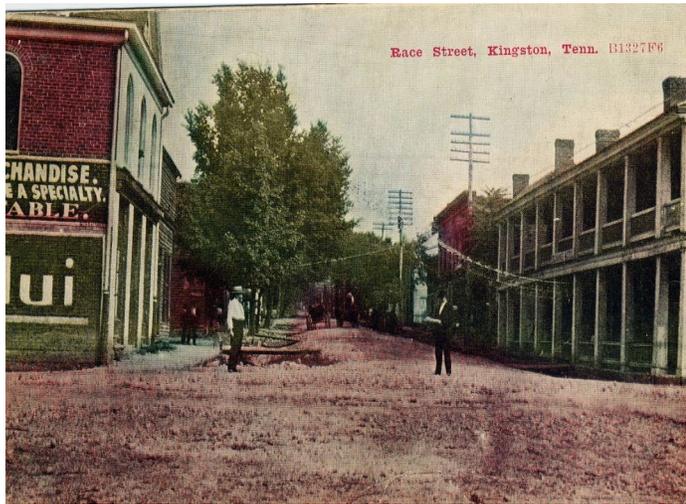
Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.
Thomas A. Edison

Did You Know About...the Main Streets of the Cities of Roane County?

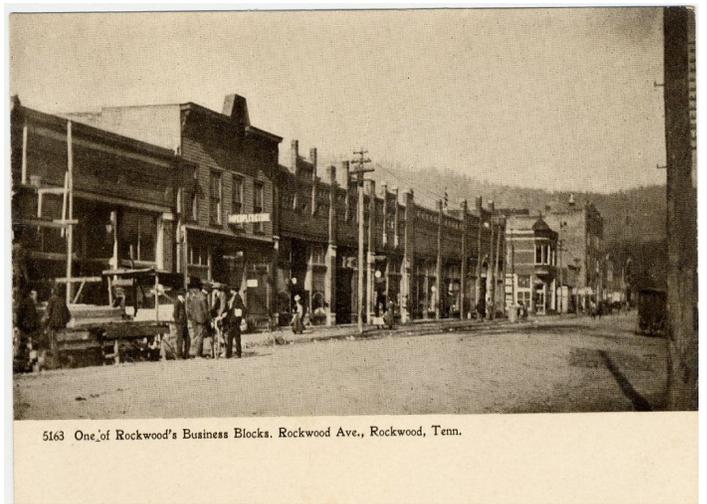
By: Robert Bailey, County Historian

In Roane County, all the main streets in the history of these cities are still being used.

- In Kingston, Race Street was part of the roads going west which included the Great Road and the Stagecoach Road. It is legend that the road got its name from horse races but there is no documentation of that.
- In Rockwood, Rockwood Avenue (also known as Rockwood Street) led to the Roane Iron Company furnaces for which Rockwood was created.
- In Harriman, Roane Street is the main street in and around which the city grew.
- In Oliver Springs, it is Main Street, for which buildings such as the Seinknecht building still exist.



Race Street in Kingston, TN



Rockwood Avenue in Rockwood, TN



Old Roane Street, Harriman, TN



Main Street, Oliver Springs, TN

Highway Update.... By Brian Matthews

Paving, paving, and more paving! We are continuing to pave and we still have our crews out mowing in all districts. We want to thank the budget committee for all of their hard work and the support that we received during the budget meeting.

We would like to welcome Loch Haven HOA as our newest adopt-a-highway member and thank them for having Road County Superintendent, Dennis Ferguson at their last meeting to talk about what is happening at the Roane County Highway Department.

We also want to thank the TDOT Beautification Office for having us present at their recent training.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to stop by the office or give us a call at 882-9782.

The History Of Flag Day



The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885.

BJ Cigrand, a school teacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'.

In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
June 2nd	ERB	QCR	6:00pm
June 9th	Emergency Ser. Cmte	OES	6:00pm
June 13th	County Commission	QCR	7:00pm
June 14th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30pm
June 14th	Fire Board	QCR	6:15pm
June 15th	Bd of Zoning if needed	QCR	6:00pm
June 15th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00pm
June 20th	Building Insp. Code & Review Committee	QCR	6:30pm
June 27th	Property Committee	QCR	6:30pm



Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow."
- Mary Anne Radmacher

Please submit articles/items of interest to Arlene at arlene.daugherty@roanecountytn.gov by the 20th of the month. ~Ron