



County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Synopsis of January in Roane County Government

by County Executive Ron Woody

As you can see in our monthly newsletters, county government is a big and busy operation. My staff and I spend the time to write this newsletter to help inform our Commissioners, employees, and the general public on activities related to your government. We touch on very little of the day-to-day activities and try to write only on major policies, initiatives, projects, and services, provided by our tax dollars, with a few human interest stories from time to time. We hope you are getting some benefit from our comments. The following is a listing of some of the January activities:

- The Wastewater Treatment Operation has undertaken a project of what could be defined as a “peer review” or “bench-marking project”. With the leadership of Chairman Stan Malone we have met with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) to evaluate our plant operations. The county finance department will compile a wastewater report including financials and the MTAS report for our Public Utility Board and the Commission. We were pleased to have MTAS agree to this service and met with their representative in early January. The scheduled report date is May 2012.
- Legislative update. The Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Legislative Update and heard reports from Senator Yager and Representative Hurley. Other business took me to Nashville in late January where I met with our representatives once again. Legislation dealing with having available a 50-year partnership option is moving through Committees. This legislation could apply to the Plateau Partnership Park agreement.
- Preliminary re-design of the Recycling Center was reviewed with our engineers, Ralph Steward and Jack Jinks. The county has set aside funds in our capital budget for this design enhancement.
- A new initiative of Risk Management was undertaken and assigned to the Office of Emergency Services. Scott Stout has been assigned the leader of Risk Management. Scott serves as Deputy Director of OES and County Safety Officer. Scott's role has been expanded and will focus not only on internal risk to county government but external risk to the government, or risk to the citizens as a whole. This initiative will help fill the void of the old Local Oversight Committee.
- Restructuring has taken place on The Workforce Investment Act which is a consortium agreement with ten surrounding counties along with the Tennessee Career Centers.
- As we have proceeded with the recreation initiative, a meeting was held with the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency regarding the use of Mt. Roosevelt as a bike trail-head. Preliminary work continues on exploring this as a bike trail possibility. TWRA has given us a green light to further study the project.
- A Quarterly Training Session and Board Meeting of the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments (ATVG) was held in Nashville. TVA presented the agency vision of power demands and their coal, gas, and nuclear power operation schedule. A special note of interest is the TVA in-lieu-of-tax payment formula and potential change which could impact counties' funding due to TVA leasing instead of owning respective power units.
- Plateau Partnership Park's lead contact has changed from Gregg Ridley to Ray Evans. Ray is a former CEO of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon.
- Ambulance Committee and the Emergency Services Committee have been combined and met to review the operation of the departments. The Ambulance operations were reviewed in detail. The committee expressed their support of the Ambulance employees and the current direction of the management team. The goals expressed for the Ambulance Operation were:
 - Maintain Class A ranked service
 - Maintain Industry Standard or Better Response Times
 - Community Acceptable Level of Risk
 - Be Self-Supporting Financially

The Committee also expressed their desire to maintain a local operation and to include local property tax support of the current 1¢ property tax rate or maybe 2¢, if needed.

ROANE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT . . . DID YOU KNOW?? By Laura Conner

The Roane County Health Department offers a wide variety of programs and services in order to protect, promote, and improve the health of our citizens. These include:

a. Immunizations	b. Well Child Exams,
c. WIC	d. Family Planning
e. Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening	f. Primary Care
g. Dental	h. Communicable Disease Testing and Treatment
i. Vital Records (Birth and Death Certificates)	j. Child Health and Development (CHAD)
k. Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS)	l. Children’s Special Services (CSS)
m. Emergency Preparedness and Management	n. Environmental Health, Health Education
o. Community Outreach/TENnder Care	p. Nutrition Education

Most of our services are provided on a sliding fee scale based on the patient’s family size and income. Patients are never refused service based on their inability to pay. We partner with many agencies, organizations and schools to improve our ability to reach out to a wider population. We have a multidisciplinary staff that is committed to the work that we do and believes wholeheartedly in our mission.

To highlight a few special events currently taking place:

a. We are providing FREE flu shots to any adult (regardless of insurance status). It is not too late to protect yourself against the flu. So far, we have been fortunate and this has been a mild season, but experts are anticipating a longer than normal season this year.
b. In February, we celebrate National Children’s Dental Health Month
c. On February 3, we celebrate National Wear Red Day to promote awareness and support of women’s heart health.
d. We are also in the early stages of a Performance Excellence program.

We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for this year as we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of services we render. We are very pleased that contracts have been signed to begin roof repair for the health department. A pre-construction meeting was held on 1-24-12. We are anxious for this work to begin.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
In Roane County
May 5, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Roane County Recycling Center in Midtown
Bring your household hazardous waste!

Local Oversight Committee (LOC) and Inter Local Agreement

The Local Oversight Committee (LOC) was dissolved by their Board of Directors on Monday, January 9, 2012. The same evening the Roane County Commission voted to join an Interlocal Agreement with the respective counties of the prior LOC.

The purpose of the new government group will be to execute a portion of a DOE and State of Tennessee Oversight Agreement. Roane County is implementing a Risk Management Plan to help administer Roane County oversight of the DOE reservation.

Do you know about . . . The Town of Cardiff?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

One town in Roane County which has now been lost to History was the Town of Cardiff which was located about 4 miles from Rockwood, now where the Roane County Industrial Park is located. In 1890, there were professional town companies promoting the creation of towns along the railroad. One of these was the town of Cardiff and it started off with a boom. At the land sale, it grossed over \$1,000,000 for the Cardiff Land and Improvement Company (which was claiming \$5,000,000 of investments and property and \$165,000 worth of buildings in the form of an exhibition hall, hotel and office space).

Unfortunately, for Cardiff, the next year, the Cardiff Coal and Iron Company went into receivership and the Panic of 1893 caused the end of Cardiff, so that today all that can be seen of Cardiff is a church and a few of the original homes.

The Roane County Commission will have a Workshop with TVA on Monday, February 27, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Courthouse in Kingston.

Decision Making Analysis (DMA)

A tool we use in management at Roane County Government is what we refer to as a **DMA** (Decision Making Analysis) form. This tool allows us to collect information, analyze, and make decisions based on the current information available. At times, the decision reached is to study the issue in greater depth.

Currently we have eight (8) DMA's posted on the website; the last deals with the selection of property for a storage facility for Office of Emergency Services equipment. With this DMA we have written a letter to TVA requesting access to the property for further study.

We will bring our finding to the Property Committee for consideration after further study is completed.

Industrial Summit

An Industrial Inventory Summit will be held in late March or early April to gather all the representatives and experts who develop and market our Industrial Properties. The Summit is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. (Eastern) on the date chosen.

We anticipate a joint power point presentation with each representative spending 5-10 minutes on the property he/she represents. We will have representatives from the Department of Energy, Horizon and Heritage Centers, Roane Regional Business and Technology Park, Roane County Industrial Park, and Plateau Partnership Park. We have also invited representatives for the city governments to attend. We have asked the participants to also discuss any privately held industrial property which they may be aware of that may be on the market.

Commission Action - January 9, 2012

- Approved Resolution #11-11-18, approving an Interlocal Agreement between several counties and Oak Ridge City to cooperate on issues related to the DOE's Environmental Management Program and Emergency Management activities.
- Approved Resolution #01-12-15 amending the membership of the E-911 Board and adding Marilyn Calfee as a Board member.
- Approved resolutions establishing the Committees for 2012, accepting grants, amending budgets, surplussing vehicles and authorizing refunds to several taxpayers.
- Approved Resolution #01-12-30 approving and appropriating funds for a supplemental retirement program

Update on Joint Commission/School Board Work Session

The Roane County Commission and the Roane County Board of Education met on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in a Joint Workshop to discuss school test scores, BEP funding and economic and budget concerns for Fiscal 2013 and beyond, and to discuss the School Board's plan forward.

Dr. McGriff gave a power point presentation to the group regarding the current test scores and an explanation of the change in testing standards. A brief presentation was then conducted on the negative impact to Roane County due to the change in the capacity to pay index from the TACIR to the CBER model. County Executive Woody shared with the group his continued concerns of local revenue for education. Woody's concerns stemmed from employee reduction at the TVA Steam Plant and DOE environmental management funding reductions. Woody indicated that he anticipated flat to reduction in local sales tax. Local revenue to education had increased \$3.5 million over the past five years and the bulk was sales tax growth.



Supplemental Retirement Benefit 401k

At the January County Commission meeting, Resolution #01-12-30 was adopted which will allow employees to set aside a portion of their paycheck for retirement savings. The good news is the County Commission approved matching the first \$10 per pay period (\$240 per year). We would like to thank the County Commission for this benefit product. Although this may seem like a small amount, it is a giant step in the right direction for employees to have sufficient funds for retirement. We hope employees will contribute more than \$10 per pay period, but this is an excellent start and hopefully over the next few years the county will add to their contribution. The program is scheduled to start in April. More to come.

Thanks Commission!

Fire Extinguisher Safety

By Scott Stout

It is important to know how to use a fire extinguisher, where to keep them and how many you should have in your home.

It is recommended to have at least one fire extinguisher on each floor of your home. Also, keep them in plain sight and no more than five feet above the floor. Do not put them in closets because that will cost you valuable time when you are reaching for it. And even though a fire extinguisher may not match your décor, do not put it behind curtains or drapes.

The most important places to have a fire extinguisher are in areas that are more susceptible to fire such as the kitchen and the garage.

How to use a fire Extinguisher:

P A S S

Pull the Pin at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.

Aim at the base of the fire, not the flames. This is important - in order to put out the fire, you must extinguish the fuel.

Squeeze the lever slowly. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.

Sweep from side to side. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out. Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, several feet away, and then move towards the fire once it starts to diminish. Be sure to read the instructions on your fire extinguisher - different fire extinguishers recommend operating them from different distances. Remember: Aim at the base of the fire, not at the flames!!!!

Five Point Star Management System

We are continuing our management style of having only five major focus points at one time. The county website under "Executive Office" outlines the theory and implementation of our focus points – www.roanegov.org.

We are pleased to be able to check a few off our list and add new ones from time to time. We would like to thank the Roane County Commissioners for their support in the implementation of our program.

The current five points (updated 1/3/12) are:

1. Departmental policies
2. Emergency Services
3. Recreation/Tourism
4. Sewer Operations/Capital Plan
5. Risk Management



February Meetings and Events:

- February 2, 2012 – Legislative Committee – 4:00 p.m. Courthouse
 - Environmental Review Board – 6:00 p.m. – Courthouse
- February 6, 2012 – Sheriff's Liaison Committee meeting – 6:00 p.m.
 (at the Sheriff's Office)
- February 7, 2012 – Tourism Committee – 5:00 p.m. – Alliance
 Road Committee – 6:30 – Highway Department
- February 13, 2012 – Budget Committee – 6:00 p.m. – Courthouse
 --County Commission – 7:00 p.m. – Courthouse
- February 14, 2012 – **VALENTINE'S DAY**
- February 14, 2012 – Fire Board – 6:00 p.m. – at the Courthouse
- February 15, 2012 – Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 p.m. – Courthouse
 - Planning Commission – 7:00 p.m. – Courthouse
- February 20, 2012 – Courthouse CLOSED for Presidents' Day
- February 23, 2012 – County Board of Public Utilities – 6 PM – Courthouse
- February 27, 2012 – TVA Workshop with Commission – 6 PM - Courthouse

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