



County Executive's Newsletter to Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

2012 BUDGET:

A new year and it's time to start thinking about the 2012 budget. Hopefully we have cleaned up the 2011 budget to assist us in financial management the remainder of this year and give us a start on the 2012 budget. We are asking our departments to please continue to monitor your 2011 budget and let us know if we can assist you in any way.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:

Thank you all for your participation in the recent Christmas luncheon. We held the luncheon on Friday, December 17th on the third floor of the courthouse. Approximately 120 people attended including not only employees, but former employees, officials, judges, commissioners and spouses, and our state legislators.

Thanks to all of you for the surprise 50th birthday wishes!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

In the event we experience inclement weather and there is a question of whether or not the Courthouse is closed or delayed in opening, employees and the public can access the following media for information:

- (1) www.roanegov.org then "links of interest" then Roane County OES—Facebook link;
- (2) or www.facebook.com then search "Roane County Office of Emergency Services";
- (3) www.wbir.com,
- (4) www.wate.com,
- (5) www.volunteertv.com.

Elected officials/Department heads should fill out a Rapidcast Point of Contact Form for notification. Sheila Lemons has forms available to complete and return to her. Please complete and return to Sheila by January 7, 2011. We will test the system Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

This system will call your mobile and home phones and email and text your respective accounts. Department head shall still notify their own employees. We would like to provide all employees this contact but are unable to due to a limited number of user accounts.

All individuals may also call 865-717-4100 for closure information.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU:

A very special, heartfelt, thank you to all our emergency responders: Roane County EMS personnel, Roane County OES personnel, Roane County Sheriff's Department personnel, and Roane County Highway Department personnel.

While most of us were home enjoying holiday traditions, they were out working to keep us safe.

THANK YOU!

TNCIS PROGRAM:

Our newly elected Circuit Court Clerk, Kim Nelson, is excited to announce that her office will have the new TNCIS software installed beginning May 1, 2011. Ms. Nelson contacted officials with Local Government Corporation after the election in August and lobbied them to move Roane County off the bottom of the list for installation of the new software. The new software is promised to be a much more efficient system for managing the cases that are processed in our courts. The Circuit Court Clerk's offices are currently using an antiquated system that was installed in the early 1990's.



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FOUNDERS' DAY:

A date has been set for the Founders' Day celebration. It will be Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse. Please put this on your calendar and try to attend as we honor a new class of Roane Treasures!

CELL PHONE POLICY UPDATE:

The implementation of the cell phone policy has begun.

Three phones were cancelled with no stipend given. Twenty-nine employees have been transferred to the stipend plan. Nickel phone plans are being maintained and monitored

PLATEAU PARK PUBLIC FORUM:

We are trying to schedule a February meeting with the County Mayor/Executives of Cumberland and Morgan Counties along with their respective commissioners and all potentially involved public utilities. The date has been tentatively set for Tuesday, February 15, 2011. More information will be forthcoming.

COCTP:

Joyce Nall will be working with Ben Rodgers of CTAS to set up some classes here in Roane County to provide opportunities for people who are enrolled in the COCTP program to accumulate credits toward fulfilling the required number of credits in both categories. Joyce will contact participants when classes have been scheduled.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FUND 128 SOON TO BE FUND 204:

Roane County is one of only a handful of counties in the State of Tennessee that owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant.

The January 2011 County Commission meeting will decide whether or not to convert this Special Revenue Fund 128 into an Enterprise Fund 204.

I recommend the conversion for the following reasons:

- We would like to obtain funding from a State Revolving Loan Fund which requires enterprise fund accounting.
- The State Revolving Loan Fund has a 2% interest rate and a 20% forgiveness of principal. Thus, for each \$1 million dollars we will only pay back \$800,000.
- An Enterprise Fund establishes fee rates which pay for operational cost and retirement of debt. No taxpayer money would ever be anticipated to support future operations.

There are several downsides to enterprise fund accounting which are:

- More accounting work by our accounting staff.
- Certain budget controls could be changed from the Commission to the Public Utility Board.

I recommend adoption of a resolution to create a new enterprise fund for wastewater accounting. Look for a resolution at the January Commission meeting.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The Courthouse will be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 17, 2011 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.



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You Need to Know About Our DOE Neighbors. . . .

Since the 1930's Roane County and our citizens have benefitted from the DOE facilities for economic growth and sustainability. During the last several economic downturns, along with our current national recession, Roane County has missed a majority of the national recession woes due to stable Federal employment, the Federal Stimulus Packet, and the millions of dollars pumped into our DOE facilities.

It appears that with the most recent START treaty between the U.S. and Russia, billions of dollars will be pumped into the DOE facilities and hopefully Roane and Anderson Counties will be big beneficiaries.

From my recent meetings with DOE and UT/Battelle officials, I have the following observations for our near future:

- Oak Ridge's DOE facilities are the highest carbon emission facilities of all DOE facilities due to the Melton Hill coal-fired plant, the National Center for Computational Services, and the Spallation Neutron Source, along with others.
- DOE will work to reduce the carbon footprint.
- TVA and DOE will propose to reduce the carbon footprint with a modular nuclear plant at the old Clinch River Breeder site. Do not expect operations until at least 2020. There are preliminary drawings for the new generation of nuclear power plants of Bechtel, and Babcock and Wilcox, along with others.
- X-10/Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Oak Ridge Science and Technology Park will continue to lead the world in computer technologies and material sciences.
- Spallation Neutron Source Center will continue to be one of the larger research centers of its kind in the world.
- Carbon fiber technology is in its next generation and Roane County is positioned to be a leader.
- A potential general aviation airport is being considered at or near the old K-25 plant/Heritage Industrial Park.
- The Tennessee Valley is preparing to be an Energy Valley with new and innovative technologies to produce power.

Thank you to our DOE neighbors for your contributions to our economy.

⇒ Did you know that UT/Battelle is Roane County's largest taxpayer?

⇒ Did you know that Roane State Community College has a satellite campus at the Oak Ridge National Lab?

⇒ Did you know we have over 2,300 Roane County workers at the facilities?



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Fund 359 - Economic Development Administration:

Last month's newsletter focused on the county's special revenue Fund 119—Industrial Economic Development. The 119 Fund is the county's annual contribution for our Industrial Park projects along with funding our recruitment effort with the Roane Alliance.

This month's fund focus is a unique (only county-operated fund of it's kind in Tennessee) and highly successful (helps create and maintain county jobs) Revolving Loan Program.

In 1986 the county petitioned the Federal Government for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Funds for use as revolving loan monies. Aspects of the loan program are:

- Interest rate below market rate for businesses to expand or locate in Roane County.
- Loans between \$25,000—\$100,000 but no more than 50% working capital.
- Intended to help minority-owned or women's business development.

The County's success is/has been:

- 34 total loans
- 10 active loans
- Outstanding portfolio value — \$461,600
- Current available funds — \$421,000

Applications are available in the County Executive's Office.

Contact Joyce Nall.

Happy New Year!

