



# County Executive's Newsletter to Commissioners

July 2011



**Dear Commissioners:**

**2012 BUDGET:** (by Ron Woody)

**Unprecedented.** That's how I would describe our 2012 budget work. Much progress has been made in the development; however, much may remain until adoption. One sees quotes in the newspaper and on local blogs that he/she will not support tax increases. I think all of us agree that we don't like taxes. We all agree that we don't want increases. We all may agree that government is too big but we don't agree on the solution. We must, however, make the recommendation on how to solve the problem. What is your recommendation? And not a broad statement to have everyone cut their budget or cut a position from a department but which service do you recommend reducing or abolishing? The budget committee has made some of these recommendations and it appears that a few jobs may be eliminated. These jobs are in a rural tax only operation of the solid waste reduction in a convenience center site and reduction in hours of operation in the least used sites. That saves only rural residents taxes. Another debated program was rural fire service, or county-wide fire protection. Again only the rural residents pay this tax. Where is our problem in the budget? The payment of county debt. Is it a surprise? Prior administrations and commissions borrowed money for Industrial Parks, Jail, Computers, Furniture, and Buses. We have been given the bill. We will pay the bill but we must have additional revenue to support debt service. All residents are paying this debt. So here we are, rural residents have cuts in service, and increases in debt tax and it all balances out. City residents' services have not been proposed to be cut and debt tax must be increased, thus, a tax increase for the cities. We continue to look for solutions.

July 7, 2011

Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2012 Budget ----6:30 p.m.  
Budget Committee meeting following the Public Hearing  
Commission Workshop following the Budget Committee meeting

**Committee Reports, Minutes, and Agenda:** (Ron Woody)

If you recall one of the 5-star points of our management focus deals with Department Policies. We have focused on cell phones and vehicle use and started about a month ago implementing a reporting system for our department for the commission. We are striving to improve the delivery of information and thus the decision-making process with the new reporting system. Here is how we will implement the system: Our department heads will:

- (1) Develop a standard agenda and work with the committee chair for an approved agenda for each meeting.
- (2) Prepare a standard report format which includes:
  - (a) Prior minutes
  - (b) Agenda
  - (c) Director's report
  - (d) Benchmarks
  - (e) Accounting/Financial reports
  - (f) Other reports or areas of opportunities or threats
- (3) Prepare the minutes for approval by the committee's elected secretary

We hope the streamlining of reports will assist the committees and commission with their important decision-making tasks.

Please let us know if we can assist in any other way. Our goal is to make government work better.



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### Midtown Sewer Project:

The State Revolving Loan Fund Board met on Friday, June 24, 2011 and approved the county's application for a loan for a wastewater collection system extension in two areas, the Delozier Lane and Post Oak Valley Road area, and the Keylon Drive, Swan Pond, and US HW-70 (near the Clinch River) area.

Work will begin on this project the first of August.

### Riley Creek Campground update:

The County has assumed operation of the campground and has hired an on-site manager. Sites are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. NO RESERVATIONS.

#### **Rates: (all taxes are included in rates)**

**Nightly:** \$30.00 per night [County employees: \$25.00]

**Seasonal (5-month minimum):** \$400.00 per month  
[County employees: \$360.00]

**Special Fall rate beginning September 6, 2011:**  
\$125.00 for 7 nights

### Building Codes, Codes Enforcement and Zoning Office: (Submitted by Kay Christopher)

The number of building permits issued may be down, but the Codes Enforcement and Zoning Offices are as busy as ever.

Recently, several permit fees have been waived due to the county being exempt from being charged a fee for building permits. Since the county owns the schools, the permit fees for the new school and renovations to the others have been waived.

These exempt projects require inspections whether the fees are waived or not. When the school projects are completed, we expect to have performed hundreds of inspections on them—without any additional revenue reflected on our building permit fee reports.

H.T. Hackney's permit fees totaled approximately \$15,000. By the time the huge structure in the Roane Regional Park was completed, eighty inspections had been performed on the building.

Again, although the number of building permits and fees collected in the past year may not reflect an increase, the workload has not decreased.

## Congratulations!

**Congratulations** to Gene McClure, Director of the Roane County Wastewater Treatment Plant. Gene recently fulfilled the requirements set by the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Board and is now recognized as a **Grade III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator**.

**Congratulations** to James Hill of the Roane County Wastewater Treatment Plant. James recently fulfilled the requirements set by the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Board and is now recognized as a **Grade I Wastewater Collection System Operator**.

**Congratulations** to Phil James, GIS Tech/Analyst with the Property Assessor's office. Phil recently graduated from Roane State Community College with a diploma in the Geographic Information Systems program and received an Academic Excellence Award for his 4.0 gpa. Phil is no stranger to awards, when he started his studies he received the Outstanding GIS Student Award, and in July 2010 he received the Developmental Writing Award.



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Tennessee Department of Transportation is working in Roane County.

We wanted to update you on these projects, their location and status.

Location	Mileage	Description	Status
<b>Rockwood</b>			
Ables Valley	5.6	Safety	Contract Fall 2011
US 27	6.7	Widening	Right -of -Way Process
Kingston Ave	2.1	Widening	Engineering
Airport Rd, S Chamberlain, Front Ave, etc.		Resurfacing	Contract Fall 2011
Post Oak Valley	2.0	Resurfacing	June 2011
US 70	1.6	Widening	October 2012
I-40 MM342	0	Slide Repair	October 2011
<b>Harriman</b>			
SR 61	9.7	Environmental Study	Complete
SR 61	3.7	Reconstruction	Right-of -Way Process
Shanty Branch	0	Bridge Repair	Engineering
Griffith Drive	0	Signalization	Contract June 2011
Pine Ridge	.9	Widening	Right-of-Way Process
<b>South of Kingston</b>			
SR 72	0	Intersection Safety	Right -of-Way Process
Stamp Creek	0	Bridge Replacement	Contract Fall 2011
<b>Oak Ridge</b>			
SR 58	3	Reconstruction	May 2012

### Committee Action:

The Property Committee met on June 9, 2011 and recommended that 30-minute parking places be set aside on the first row of parking (facing the courthouse) in the places that are not currently designated as "handicap" parking. Signs have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they are delivered.



## County Government Meetings

July 4:	Courthouse Closed	Independence Day	
July 7:	Public Hearing on Budget Budget Committee meeting Work Session on Budget	6:30 pm	QCR
July 11:	County Commission	7:00 pm	QCR
July 12:	Beer Board Fire Board	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	QCR QCR
July 19:	Emergency Services Safety Committee	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	EOC EOC
July 20:	Board of Zoning Appeals Planning Commission	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	QCR QCR
July 28:	County Board of Public Utilities	6:00 pm	Courthouse

## Events of Interest

July 3:	Continuing Kingston July 4th Parade	7:00 pm	
July 4:	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> <u>City of Kingston &amp; Parks and Recreation 2011 "Smokin' the Water" July 4th Event</u> The City will close Highway 70 between Rocky Top and the Heli-Pad starting at 7:00 a.m. <b>11:00 a.m.—9:30 p.m.:</b> Events at Kingston City Park, Fort South West Point, Roane County High School, Byrd Field, and the Gravel Pit. <b>FIREWORKS at 9:30 p.m.</b>		

## Long Range Planning: (by Ron Woody)

The Commission has discussed over the last several months the prospect of reinstating a Long Range Planning Committee. I would like the Commission to know that our office would like to facilitate or assist in the development of long range plans. Our office, along with the commission, has developed the vehicle which shall identify, plan, and budget costs associated with the plan by the development of the General Capital Projects Fund (Fund 171). Further, the Land Use Committee has been working with the State Planning Office regarding the county land use plan.

Here are my initial thoughts on planning:

- (1) Change will occur – business economics will be the driving force.
- (2) Should governments be aware of the economic change; guide, prepare, facilitate and/or assist in these changes?  
I believe that governments should be involved in the changes, and as such we must prepare, as best as possible, for these changes.
- (3) With the establishment of the General Capital Project Fund (Fund 171), we have a vehicle for financial planning for changes.
- (4) A long range planning committee should be appointed and convened in the Fall of 2011 after budget adoption and the Land Use Plan has been developed.
- (5) The committee should focus on where we as a county are going due to economic changes, and what the role in government should be in these changes.



## **Annual Law vs. Order Softball Game**

The 2nd annual Sheriff's Department employees "Law" vs. Courthouse employees "Order" softball game was held Saturday, June 11, 2011 at Roane County Park. The game lead changed a few times before the **Law** secured the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning. The winning pitcher was **Terry Stooksbury**. No serious injuries occurred; however, there was much entertainment when Scott Guinn tried to make a heroic catch and flipped over the center field fence.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** And **THANKS!** To all who participated.

## **TCSA Post Legislative Conference:**

The Tennessee County Services Association held its post legislative conference on June 7-8, 2011.

County Executive Ron Woody and Commissioners Randy Ellis, Bobby Collier, Carolyn Granger and Ray Cantrell attended.

Speakers at the conference were: Jason Mumpower, Office of the Comptroller; Senator Ken Yager, Chairman, Senate State and Local Government Committee; Representative Bob Ramsey, Chairman, House State and Local Government Sub-Committee.

Several subjects were discussed at the conference, such as the requirement for county's to have a debt management policy by January 1, 2012 and the upcoming redistricting that will be required because of the recent census.

## **Disc Golf Tournament:**

Approximately 50 participants entered the Disc Golf Tournament on June 19th at Roane County Park. It was a very fun, successful event.

The Courthouse will be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for Independence Day.

# HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> of JULY!

## **HAVE AN ITEM OF INTEREST FOR THE NEWSLETTER?**

If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me.

Deadline for submission is the last Wednesday of the month.

**Ron**