



County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

www.roanegov.org



Columbus Day - October 8th
Courthouse Closed

October Tax Fest

It's October and the County Trustee, Ms. Eblen, and office is busy preparing for the tax season. We have submitted an article for the Roane County News about "Where does my property tax go?" but in the event it was not published or you did not see the article we thought we would publish excerpts here. We will also publish the submitted article on our website.

The County levied \$27,557,146 for Fiscal 2013 budget which is the 2012 tax year. Kaley Walker, Director of Accounts and Budget, calculated the levy within \$12,000 which is an amazing estimate in and of itself.

We broke down the levy to support government operations as follows:

Education	13,146,528	47.7%
Law Enforcement (net)	5,364,208	19.5%
Debt	3,286,632	11.9%
General Operations	1,276,983	4.6%
Highway	1,200,885	4.4%
Social, Cultural, & Industrial	1,051,819	3.8%
Emergency Services	910,188	3.3%
Court System Operations (net)	687,858	2.5%
Waste Disposal	632,045	2.3%
	<u>27,557,146</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

A struggle we have with budgets each year is that certain operations have little flexibility of adjustment of local property tax revenue; such as the county must maintain the same revenue in Education as the prior year. The same applies to highways. This is known as the maintenance of effort law or laws. Because of these and other maintenance of effort issues the county has previously been reluctant to raise or adjust revenue into various operations due to having to maintain the effort into future years.

To help solve the maintenance of effort problems, along with other long-term planning initiatives, the County Capital Funds were established. The county debt service is established to pay annual required debt payments. One can readily see that a large percentage of the property tax levied supports operations that are required due to MOE or contracts such as debt payment. Further, the remaining taxes are programmed to both other required or desired services.

One can read more about county financial operations on our website: www.roanegov.org.

Budget Book

Each year after the adoption of the County Budget the Accounting Department puts together a book containing several important budget related documents. This book serves as a reference point for the entire budget as well as a comparison for year to year budgets. As the year progresses, many budget amendments are made to alter the budget from the original, however this book serves as a repository for historic information deemed important through the budgetary cycle. It contains such valuable information as the value of the penny during budget deliberations, the spread of property tax over the different funds, and contact information for all elected officials in the county. All of this information takes time to gather, assemble and analyze. It is the intent of the Accounting Department to have this report out before the October Commission meeting. If there is any data that you would like to see in this document please contact the Director of Accounts and Budgets at kwalker@roanegov.org.

Rural Planning Organization: (by Ron Woody)

A joint meeting of the East Tennessee South Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Executive Board and Technical Committee was held in August to review the Tennessee Department of Transportation Priorities within the East Tennessee Region. Executive Woody sits on the Executive Board and Roane Countian Barbara Pearman on the Technical Committee. Steve Allen, TDOT Planning, presented the Governor's goals and objectives: (1) Safety, (2) Efficiency, (3) Economic Opportunity, (4) Collaboration with local partners, and (5) Environment.

These goals will become the score card for funding projects. The objective of the RPO is to submit, review and prioritize State TDOT projects. The link of land use and transportation has become an increasingly important component as funding is limited and as efficiency is being analyzed.

New Road Superintendent Dennis Ferguson, Executive Woody, and planner Barbara Pearman are Roane County's representatives to TDOT's planning and prioritizing RPO team. **Roane County is engaged.**

(Allen's presentation is filed as Executive Summary # 28 on the website.)

COCTP:

Six more employees recently took the Certified Public Administrator's exam and passed: **Arlene Daugherty, Sheila Lemons, Joyce Nall, Linda Stooksbury, Debbie Terry, and Martha Tucker.** They will be attending the Capstone Event in the spring of 2013 in preparation of becoming Certified Public Administrators.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Website:

The following **Executive Summaries** have been added to our website in the last several months:

Executive Summaries - 2013

- (10a)** Old Jail Renovation – August 2012
- (11a)** Annual Debt Report 2013 – September 2012
- (16a)** Capital Outlay Plan Implementation – August 2012
- (26)** 2012 Fire Study – August 2012
- (27)** New Officials Orientation – August 22, 2012
- (28)** TDOT Presentation to South RPO - August 2012

Pending Executive Summaries

- (2c)** Wastewater Financial Report

Employee Benefits:

Roane County Government will offer a Vision Insurance Plan through the State Health Insurance beginning January 1, 2013. EyeMed Vision will include eye exams, glasses and contact lenses. You should have received a flyer in your payroll envelope regarding the premium cost and allowances.

Employees and their families can begin to sign up for the Vision Insurance during the Annual Enrollment Transfer Period held October 1 through November 1, 2012 with an effective date for coverage beginning on January 1, 2013. Employees will receive information in the mail on how to enroll.

"Come and Go"

Ron Woody's notes and presentation at the Energy Communities Alliance regarding communications, education and working together can be found on the county website under Published Articles/Speeches. (www.roanegov.org)

Roane County Property Committee:

The Roane County Property Committee met in early September to review and receive an update on the status of Roane County-owned properties. This did not include the property purchased at back tax sale or school-used properties.

The Committee reviewed the old jail renovations and compared them to the prior Commission-approved plans. The old jail renovation came in under budget by approximately \$90,000. The committee reviewed Phase I and II of the Courthouse HVAC, electrical, and plumbing upgrade and discussed various Courthouse space allocation issues. Space allocation issues to be addressed at future meetings will be: Agriculture Extension, non-profits, and the old juvenile building.

ROANE COUNTY CORN MAZE

Across from Roane State Community College – next to ball fields.

September 15- November 4, 2012

(Hours: Friday 4 pm till dark; Saturday 11 am till dark; and Sunday 1 pm till dark)

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Leadership Team:

Roane County Government's leadership continues to focus on concerns of our citizens as relayed to us from activities within the community and our County Commission.

We continue to strive to make Roane County a better place to live, work and enjoy life. We now are completing our second year in administration and we feel that much has been accomplished. We took office with many clear goals and objectives and have put together a team of management that has implemented many specific plans.

Part-time consultant **Jack Jinks** was hired to help give management, direction, and leadership and coordinate plans of the County Executive and the County Executive's department heads; the office of Emergency Management, Ambulance Service, Building and Codes, Parks, Solid Waste and Animal Control. Jack has become a valuable resource in coordinating and implementing plans and implementing schedules of the County Executive and County Commission.

Kaley Walker, Director of Accounts and Budget, has assembled an accounting staff that is taking on additional duties of financial reporting with the developing of Capital and Debt multi-year plans and budgets. A foundation we think will serve Roane County for years to come and be copied by sister counties within the state.

The next few issues of the newsletter will focus on more of our management team . . .

Energy Supply and Small Modular Reactors: (by Scott Stout)

Energy supply discussion has changed over the last few years with (1) climate change concerns, (2) the deployment of natural gas as a substantial source, (3) safety issues due to Fukushima. These concerns have slowed down the advancement of nuclear research and funding; not stopped the process, but the urgency is not as important. Coal plants can be relatively quick to convert to natural gas, and would be relatively clean and safe. Further, it appears that the DOE, since they have some breathing room for energy supply given by the natural gas industry, will have time to meet energy needs and thus is making investments in renewable sustainable resources.

That said, DOE still believes that a balance of energy supply is needed and will continue to invest and evaluate the Small Modular Reactor (SMR). There are many advantages to the SMR concept, (1) small site, probably existing coal plant site, availability, (2) improved construction and thus safety by way of factory manufacturing and not custom build on site, (3) cost of being smaller and also building for immediate need and upgrading as needs develop, and (4) shorter licensing time by the NRC.

Information was provided at the June Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) conference in Washington, DC. Area attendees included Roane County Executive Ron Woody and Roane County Risk Manager Scott Stout, along with ORNL Program Manager Paul Flowers, TVA Senior Manager of SMR Technology Dan Stout, TDEC's Dale Rector, ECA Chair Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, and others from Oak Ridge, Anderson County and DOE sites around the nation. The program attendees were addressed by DOE executives as they related their respective views, projects, and policy concerns. DOE plans to award two contracts for designing of SMR's in the near future.

OCTOBER SKY Fall Festival

October Sky Fall Festival is a free, family-oriented festival hosted by the Oliver Springs Historical Society and the City of Oliver Springs. "Heritage at the Depot" is a new feature this year focusing on the history of the three counties that make up Oliver Springs: Anderson, Morgan and Roane. Norfolk Southern has confirmed their Exhibit Car will be on display on October 20th at the festival. This will be one of only 15 stops across the country and the only stop in Tennessee. There will be a quilt show, music, and many interesting exhibits.

The festival begins Friday evening, October 19th with a twilight walk through The Old Town. There will be costumed storytellers at each stop. The walk will end on Main Street with a reenactment of "The Pony Cash Story" written and directed by Robbie Underwood. On Saturday morning, October 20th, the festival opens at two locations, Arrowhead Park and Historic Depot on Winters Gap Road. Attractions include the Three Rivers Antique Tractor Club, Fort Southwest Point Revolutionary War camp, Shriner Clowns, unique crafts, great food, many children's activities, mule-drawn wagon rides and storyteller Diane Hackworth and Mobile Tactics Laser Tag. The day will conclude with gospel and bluegrass music. Watch the website for more details: <http://www.oshistorical.com>.

Upcoming planned events:

October 6 – Kingston Country Fair – Ft. Southwest Point
 Rockwood Fall Festival – Downtown
 Harriman Fall Concert – Princess Theatre

October 10-12 – TCSA Annual Conference – Memphis

October 19-20 – October Sky Fall Festival – Oliver Springs

October 25 – Student Government Day – Courthouse

October 30 – Founders’ Day Celebration - Courthouse

October Meetings and Events:

Check www.roanegov.org for more info

Oct 1	Sheriff’s Liaison Committee	CH	6:30pm
Oct. 2	Beer Board	CH	5:30pm
Oct. 3	Budget Committee	CH	6:00pm
Oct. 4	Committee on Committees	CH	4:00pm
	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
Oct 8	COLUMBUS DAY – CH Closed		
Oct 9	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
Oct 15	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
Oct 17	Board of Zoning Appeals	CH	6:00pm
	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
Oct 25	Student Government Day	CH	9:00am
	County Board of Public Utilities		6:00pm
Oct 30	Founders’ Day Celebration	CH	6:00pm

Did you know . . . ? [by Robert Bailey, County Historian]

That Harriman, "the town that Temperance Built" was named after Civil War Union General Walter Harriman, a former governor of New Hampshire, whose son was one of the directors of the East Tennessee Land Company. Originally, many of the directors wanted the town to be named Fiskville after Clinton B. Fisk, founder of Fisk University, Prohibition Candidate for President in 1888 and the first president of the East Tennessee Land Company. But at a Board meeting, it was decided that there were too many "villes" in Tennessee already. The next day the directors were horseback riding and visited the old Margrave house on Margrave Street, where they found an elderly cripple sitting on the porch. When asked if he had lived there during the War, he said yes, that he had always been too crippled to enter military service. Then he was asked if he remembered when some Northern troops camped on the flats for a few days waiting to be joined by some others. He said "Yes, and they used to come up and get some water from the spring in the ravine back of the house. When they did, the Colonel used to come up to the porch and talk with me. He said, I remember he said once that this would make a fine place for a town, and now you've gone and done it. When asked if he remembered the Colonel's name and he replied, "Yes, Colonel Harriman. He was a very friendly man." At the next directors' meeting, it was voted to name the city Harriman.

Roane County Welcomes Tennessee’s Newest Wildlife Management Area

Roane County’s first County Executive and prior back tax attorney, native son Gerald Largen donates 112 acres to the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA). The tract of land contains one and a quarter miles of lakefront property on the Tennessee River. At a dedication ceremony on September 24th, TWRA recognized Gerald Largen and his gracious contribution of acreage located on Bowman Bend Road. TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter accepted the property in memory of Gerald’s mother, Martha McGlothin Largen.

Roane County now has another recreation treasure in the **McGlothin-Largen Wildlife Management Area**.

Volunteer Tennessee (by Sheila Lemons, County Coordinator)

Nominations for the Fifth Annual Governor’s Volunteer Stars Awards are now being accepted within Roane County. The awards will celebrate the efforts of volunteers who strive to improve their communities through service.

One youth and one adult volunteer will be selected in Roane County to receive this prestigious award. Nominees will be judged based on the community’s need of the volunteer service performed, initiative taken to perform the service, creativity used to solve a community problem and impact of the volunteer service on the community.

Nomination forms can be found at the County Executive’s office in the Courthouse in Kingston, or on the county’s website at www.roanegov.org/interest.html. They can also be accessed online at <http://www.volunteertennessee.net>. Applications must be received in the County Executive’s office by October 31, 2012. For more information about nominations, contact Sheila Lemons @ 865-717-4101 or sklemons@roanegov.org.

Recipients of the Roane County volunteer awards will be honored at the Governor’s Volunteer Stars Awards ceremony at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin on March 4, 2013.

Volunteer Tennessee is coordinating the Governor’s Volunteer Stars Awards at the state level. Volunteer Tennessee is the 25 member bipartisan citizen board appointed by the Governor to oversee AmeriCorps and service-learning programs and to advance volunteerism and citizen service to solve community problems in the Volunteer State.

Roane Imagination Library: by Marla McMaster

On September 29, 2004, the Commission passed a resolution establishing the Roane Imagination Library. The resolution also enabled the county to partner with the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation to provide free books to pre-school children each month. Since that time, Roane children have received almost 150,000 books. Research shows that programs like the Imagination Library contribute to early language development, school readiness, grade progression, and on-time graduation. The benefits of this program are very important for Roane County's future. All children, from birth to age five, are eligible.

To enroll go to www.ImaginationLibrary.com
or phone 717-3767.

Roane County OES Staff Attend Annual Emergency Management Association of TN Conference

By Howie Rose, OES Director

September 11th of this year marked the 11th anniversary of the terror attacks on our country. It was an appropriate day to kick off the Emergency Management Association of Tennessee's annual conference. This year's conference emphasis was **Listen, Learn, Lead**. Director Rose, Deputy Director Stout, Specialist Nunley and Captain Danner were in attendance. Several lectures and focus groups were attended. The capstone presentation was delivered by Tuscaloosa Alabama Mayor Walter Maddox. On April 27th of 2011 Tuscaloosa was ravaged by an EF5 tornado that took the lives of over 70 people. Mayor Maddox spoke about the city's response to the devastating incident and the need for governments to take preparation seriously. Roane County's attendees were very pleased with the conference and received valuable knowledge for our community by being able to attend.

TVA Foundation Meeting

The TVA Foundation Board met in September to receive an update of the Roane County Schools \$3.2 million Phase I projects. Superintendent Gary Aytes and Construction Manager Lee Maines informed the Board that approximately \$1.7 million should remain after completion of Phase I.

The Roane County Schools will then present Phase II to the Roane County Commission who, upon approval, will seek approval from the TVA Foundation Board.

OES Offers Incident Management Class to Local First Responders

by Howie Rose

August 6th thru the 16th the OES offered Intermediate and Advanced Incident Management training to our local emergency responders. These Incident Management classes are required training for all emergency responders. Each of these classes are 16 hours long. OES conducted an Intermediate and an Advanced course at the Emergency Operations Center during the weekdays. Due to the work schedules of the Volunteer Fire Fighters in the county, OES delivered an evening hour class at the Blair Volunteer Fire Department. These evening classes are tailored just for the volunteer emergency responder that works a full time job. In all 43 people received this important training.

NOTICE: The Building and Codes Office will conduct a class on the 2012 codes changes that will go in effect on Jan. 1, 2013. The class will be October 30th, 6-9 pm, at the Kingston Community Center.

Civil War Trail Marker

Civil War enthusiasts now have another reason to research and maybe make a stop in Roane County. Pam May and other staff at the Roane County Alliance have been working over two years to have Roane County placed on the Civil War Trail. A trail marker was placed at the historic Roane County Courthouse in September to help tell Roane County's story of the Civil War.

Heritage Commission Gala

The Roane County Heritage Commission held their annual Heritage Gala on Saturday, September 22, 2012. The Heritage Commission continues their restoration project and historical placements at the Antebellum Courthouse. This was another successful gala with updates from our City Mayors and the main speaker, Gene Pickel.

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!