

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

By Ron Woody, County Executive

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2014

Presidents Day— Feb. 17th

January was another busy month for Roane County Government activity.

Work has begun on the following projects and we thought we should update you on project status.

- \$265,000 Hub and Spoke Recycling Grant was received and we have met with our cities to begin the recycling project implementation. Our cities will be considering the recycling partnership with the county at their upcoming council meetings.
- Sale of county owned back tax property is finally progressing. The issue is most complex and complicated and that is the major reason little activity has taken place over the years. A detail policy and procedure is being developed to streamline the process. We anticipate meeting with the city governments to gain a better understanding of county owned properties within the cities with delinquent taxes owed.
- A financial analysis has been updated on the Roane County Wastewater Public Utility. As the

construction project is reaching completion, we thought the commission should be updated. A *pro-forma* analysis of the PUB financials will be in the February commission packet.

- The screening process continues on the hiring of Roane County's first part-time Veteran Service Office. A panel of three veterans has screened the applicant resumes and will be conducting interviews with the state Veteran Officer. Thanks to all the applicants for their interest and support of the Veterans' Service Office department.
- Work is taking place at the Roane County Park with the construction of a new playground and a shelter roof replacement. More in an upcoming newsletter.
- The Roane County Accounting and Budgets Department is preparing for a bond refinancing which should save the county over \$100,000 a year. Action will be required by commission in the March or April meeting. Expect to see an analysis during February.

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A Bit of Statistics— Who Pays the Property Tax?

For the 2014 budget, the breakdown of property tax burden is:

- Industrial/Commercial/Public Utility 26.2%
- Residential 64.9%
- Others (Residential/Commercial) 8.9%

These statistics show that a change in the county property tax levy will harm or benefit the respective groups. Roane County's total tax levy is approximately \$27,300,000.

"If once you forfeit the confidence of your fellow-citizen, you can never regain their respect and esteem."

~Abraham Lincoln

Employee Consideration

The Courthouse will be closed
 Monday, February 17th
 In observance of Presidents' Day

"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence."
 ~George Washington

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Partnership Promise Requirements

We all like saving money. We all want to be healthy. Now, thanks to the Partnership Promise, Roane County Employees have the chance to do both! If you want to commit to taking pro-active steps, and really playing a hands on role in managing your health, the Partnership Promise PPO might be for you.

If you are healthy, you make the cost of health care lower. It's really quite simple. Lower costs equal lower premiums. This doesn't just help you; it helps everybody by making our insurance more affordable.

By participating in the Partnership Promise you must agree to take charge of your health. To do this, there are a few mandatory things that you will be required to do. You must complete the online Healthways Well-Being Assessment @www.partnersforhelathtn.gov. This is a health questionnaire that was developed to assess your overall health. This must be done by March 15, 2014. Secondly, by July 15, 2014, you have to complete a biometric health screening. This will include height, weight, blood pressure and waist circumference as well as drawing blood to check cholesterol and blood sugar levels. You can do

this by having your primary care physician fill out the required forms, (available on the partners for health website) or you can make an appointment to go to our in-house screening, which will be at the bus garage on February 6th from 7:30-11:30. Remember, you must make an appointment for this. This can be done by going to the website or calling Healthways at 888-741-3390.

After the screening, you may be assigned a health coach who will help you on meeting your health goals. They may require you to enroll in a tobacco cessation program if you use tobacco. You are not required to stop smoking but you must enroll in the program. The health coaches are made up of registered nurses, licensed dieticians, licensed clinical social works, certified health educators and those with degrees in exercise physiology, exercise science and health promotion. They will help guide you on healthy lifestyle choices and answer any questions you may have regarding meeting your personal health and fitness goals. Your contact information must also be kept up to date. You can do so by calling Jennifer Bolling at 717-4114, or by calling Healthways.

New Employees and newly covered members are required to meet the requirements within 120 days of their insurance effective date. These steps are applicable to all Partnership members and their covered spouses. Children are not required to fulfill the Partnership Promise.

If for some reason you or your covered spouse do not meet the Partnership Promise all claims will still be paid, however, you will not be able to stay in the Partnership PPO the following year, and you will have to choose the Standard or Limited PPO for one year until you become eligible to reenroll in the Partnership.

This may sound like a lot of work, and you may be asking, "What's in it for me?" Not only can you improve your health, but by qualifying for the Partnership PPO, your deductibles will be almost cut in half. For individual coverage the difference is a \$450 in-network deductible versus \$800 for Standard.

If you are not already enrolled in the Partnership you may do so during the annual enrollment transfer period in the fall.

COCTP Training Opportunities– Spring 2014

The County Technical Assistance Service provides the County Officials Certificate Training Program for professional development of county employees. This program is available to all full-time county employees. For more information, please see the CTAS website below.

After obtaining COCTP certification, employees must complete 16 hours of recertification hours each year. Please see the link below for a listing of training opportunities available Spring 2014.

<http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/PUBLIC/web/ctas.nsf/Training?readform>

Did You Know About . . .The Election That Ended in a Tie

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

Throughout Roane County’s 212 years of existence, there have been several close elections. One of those elections involved a tie between Maggie (Madge) (Fulks) Sneed and Charles Snow for the Circuit/Criminal Court Clerk in 1962.

For thirty-two years the Fulks family had occupied the Circuit/Criminal Court Clerkship in Roane County. Josh Fulks was first elected in 1930 and served until he died in 1947. Then his widow, Clara Fulks served from 1947 to 1962. In 1962, Mrs. Fulks decided to retire and when the 1962 election came up, their daughter, Maggie (Madge) Sneed ran

for the office. Her opponent was Charles Snow.

At first the unofficial election results showed that Maggie Sneed had won by one vote. However, an error was found in the Kingston Ward 1 precinct vote count which gave Charles Snow another vote that had not been counted. The final tally was 2720 for Sneed and 2720 for Snow ending in a tie. State law gave the Roane County Election Commission the right to make the final decision for the office. The Election Commission chose Maggie Sneed.

Four years later in 1966, Maggie Sneed and Charles Snow faced off again. And

again it was a very close race. This time Charles Snow came out victorious by 43 votes out of 7193 votes cast.

That same year, Robert Audubon Ladd won by 7 votes in the School Superintendent election. He was the first School Superintendent to be elected by vote. The race for sheriff was won by Robert L. Elliott by 34 votes over the incumbent Sheriff Herbert Stanley.

Charles Snow served as Circuit/Criminal Court Clerk for 20 years from 1966 to 1986. Maggie Sneed became the Register of Deeds in 1972 when Marilyn Black resigned. She served in that position for 10 years.

Roane Alliance Board searches for new President/CEO

The Roane County Alliance Board formed a CEO Search Committee to recommend a replacement for retiring CEO Leslie Henderson. The committee received over 50 applications from around the country. UT MTAS assisted in the initial screening and various search committee board members sat in on the second

round of screenings which consisted of interviews. The second round screening narrowed the applicants to six (6) individuals which then interviewed with the six (6) member search committee.

Hopefully the Roane County Alliance will have the new CEO replacement announced

soon. A special thank you to Alliance chair and search chair, Sharon Templeton, and the entire search committee of Chris Whaley, Jim Henry, Jim Gann, Jerry Stephens and Ron Woody.

A special thanks goes out to our retiring CEO, Leslie Henderson, for a job well done.

Playground Progress at Roane County Park

Installation of the new highly-inclusive playground at Roane County Park is slated to begin on February 17th. Work has begun on the grading needed to lay the foundation.

This new playground is funded through a LRPN grant from the State of Tennessee.

Input from both the State and the Michael Dunn Center was solicited during all aspects of the design phase.

The Michael Dunn Center has volunteered to help with mulch retrieval as a portion of the county’s in-kind contribution.

The new playground will be a real asset to Roane County and will allow even more residents to enjoy the natural beauty with which Roane County is blessed.

What a wonderful example of community cohesion. Thank you Michael Dunn Center for your contributions.

“I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud if him.”
~Abraham Lincoln

**KEEP ROANE
LITTER FREE**
Make 2014 your year of reducing, reusing, and recycling!
You can make a difference by recycling at home, at school, and at work. Encourage your family and coworkers to recycle more and choose reusable products.



Happenings at Roane County Park
Recently, students from Michael Dunn worked at Roane County Park to help shovel the old mulch off the playground. They were helping get ready for the new playground to be installed soon.

If you have any items of interest for the newsletter, please submit to Melanie at mtownsend@roanegov.org by the 20th of the month.
~Ron

Roane County Government

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
February 6th	Property Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
February 10th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
February 11th	Beer Board (if needed)	QCR	5:30 pm
February 11th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
February 12th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
February 13th	Emergency Svcs Committee	OES	6:00 pm
February 18th	Road Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
February 25th	Public Utility Board	Waste Water Plant	5:30 pm

Grants Update by Joyce Nall, Grants Administrator

Roane County received a Christmas surprise from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. On Christmas Eve we were notified that we had received \$265,000 to begin a new recycling program. The Hub and Spoke Program is a new state project that extends recycling efforts to our cities and even an adjoining county. Roane County Recycling Center will serve as the "hub" of Roane County recycling with our cities being the "spokes" in the

wheel. The county and cities will provide containers and trailers at drop off points inside our cities' limits. Those containers, when filled, will be transported to the Recycling Center and sorted, baled and sold. Each city will then receive a monetary return based on their contribution of recyclable goods. The \$265,000 grant will pay for a new baler at the Recycling Center with the capacity to handle the increased load and also funding to pave some ar-

reas where containers will be placed, loaded or unloaded. In addition, this will allow Roane County to partner with Loudon County to assist them in recycling plastics. The county also received a \$9200 grant to be used to purchase an oil burning heater. The heater will be installed in the Roane County Park maintenance building and fueled with used oil collected at our recycling center and convenience centers. This will be the county's fifth used oil heater. The existing ones are at

the Animal Shelter, the Highway Department, the Recycling Center, and the School Bus Garage. Thanks to all those involved in securing this funding for Roane County. We especially thank our Senator Ken Yager and Representative Kent Calfee. Roane County is a model for recycling in the state and we are excited and proud as we work toward a more sustainable and green county.



Budget Update by Kaley Walker, Budget Director

Since it is a new year that means it is time to work on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year which starts July 1st. It's hard to believe it's that time again, seems like we just adopted this budget but that was over 6 months ago! The Budget Committee and Commission have seen fewer budget amendments this year and that can be attributed to the hard work of the legislative bodies as well as the budgeting efforts by the Elected Officials and Department Heads.

Budget request forms along with capital planning spreadsheets have been distributed. The Accounting Department is working on getting the calculation together for Budget Committee to set a value of the penny which is the very first step in the budgeting process. As is our method Budget Committee will begin with the debt funds and move forward from there into the operations and capital budgets for departments. The departments have until March to return their budget requests but there are several items that can be addressed by the Budget Committee prior to that. It is anticipated that the school system will not get their budget to Budget Committee before June.

Budget Committee meeting will begin in February to work on the budget. These meetings are open to the public and are held at the courthouse, please check the website for dates and times.