

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

"Certified Tax Rate" By Ron Woody, County Executive

Volume 6, Issue 8

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The June budget vote was 8-7 to approve a budget implying a tax rate increase of 30 cents. We disclosed to all department heads, elected officials, and the school board that departmental programs are taking a risk assuming that at a later time, a property tax would be set (increase of 30 cents above certified tax rate) to support their respective budgets.

At the August 10th Commission meeting, the Comptroller's Office presented Commission and the citizens of Roane County with the new certified property tax rate. With the certified tax rate now set by the state, Commission is ready to consider a FY16 tax rate. A public hearing to discuss the intent to exceed the certified tax rate is scheduled for **September 14, 2015 at 5:30 pm** followed by the September Commission meeting.

It appears that one of the eight Commissioners who previously voted to approve the tax rate increase may be unable to attend the next meeting. This means that the approval of the tax rate at a level of 30 cents above the certified rate could be in jeopardy. We will have to wait and see if one of the "no" votes becomes a "yes," and even if one of the "yes" votes becomes a "no" vote, the budget process continues.

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	Rural	King/OS/ Rock	Harri- man	Oak Ridge
Current Rate	2.18000	2.13000	1.99000	1.97000
Certified Tax Rate Adjustment	<u>0.09580</u>	<u>0.09310</u>	<u>0.08690</u>	<u>0.08610</u>
New Certified Rate	2.27580	2.22310	2.07690	2.05610
Adjustment (round)	(0.00075)	0.00195	0.00315	0.00395
Budget Committee Additional Rate	<u>0.30000</u>	<u>0.29000</u>	<u>0.29000</u>	<u>0.29000</u>
Proposed New Rate	2.5750	2.5150	2.3700	2.3500

"Capt. Tim Hawn Exemplifies Serve and Protect"

On Friday, August 21, 2015, Capt. Tim Hawn responded to an accident report on Blair Road. A gentleman had fallen down a steep embankment into Poplar Creek. Hawn was able to descend the embankment and pull the man out of the water until further emergency responders could arrive. Hawn is credited with saving the man's life. Thank you Capt. Hawn for your service to Roane County. More detail are available in the Roane County News, August 24-25, 2015 edition.

Local Board of Equalization Schedule

The Roane County Board of Equalization is scheduling meetings to assist individuals in review of property assessments. If an individual upon receipt of the assessment notice, doesn't feel the property is accurately assessed, a hearing can be requested from the local board of equalization. The board went into session on **August 31st** and will remain in session for 30 days. Appointments are made by calling the Assessor's office at 865-376-4362.

Mass Sheltering of Contaminated Persons

On Thursday, July 30th, the Roane County Office of Emergency Services & Homeland Security completed an evaluation of the HazMat Team's preparedness and emergency response to the decontamination and shelter of contaminated persons in the event of a nuclear incident.

Roane County OES is evaluated every two years due to our close proximity to the Watts Bar Nuclear Facility. The training exercise benefits Roane County in assessing its ability to handle potentially contaminated residents in the event of a catastrophic release of radioactive material.

OES Director Scott Stout, along with Acting Captain Chuck Hiatt, orchestrated the training exercises utilizing the resources of the Roane County

HazMat Team, Roane County Health Department, Roane State Police, EMS, and Sheriff's Office personnel. These local agencies also partnered with the American Red Cross and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) to complete the drill. OES initiated this training exercise at Roane State's main campus located in Harriman.

The graded exercise was successful in achieving the criteria set forth by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards. OES feels confident in its preparedness to respond and meet the community needs in the event of an emergency. OES will remain dedicated to future training endeavors.

Congratulations Gene Stout

Maintenance Engineer **Gene Stout** received the Roane County Health Department's June **Fuzzy Moment** award. Stout has been with the Roane County Government for 20 years and at the health department for 12 years. He is always eager to work hard on every project that is given to him. Stout built the health department's new garden boxes and performs routine maintenance to ensure building systems operate efficiently. His friendliness, consideration and helpfulness are greatly appreciated by all the staff at the Roane County Health Department.

~ TN Dept of Health Commissioner John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH.

Congratulations Gene! You are an excellent example of working together to make Roane County better. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

UT Extension Welcomes New Agriculture Agent

UT Extension Roane County is excited to welcome **Jessica Wilkinson** as the new Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Jessica started on August 1, 2015 and comes from the state of Mississippi. She is a recent graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture Business with a concentration in management along with a double minor in business administration and economics. Jessica was also an intern with Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and with the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. We welcomed her to Roane County at the Extension Open House on August 20th, where nearly 200 members of the community visited with her and saw the great new Extension facility. Many thanks goes to Ron Woody and the County Commissioners for their continued and visionary support of UT Extension in Roane County. We look forward to providing great education for the community with a top notch facility!

Employees Celebrate 25 Years Working for Roane County

Recently four (4) Roane County employees celebrated 25 years of employment with Roane County Government. **Rickey Daniels** and **Jerry Renfro** have worked for the Roane County Highway Department for 25 years. **Benny East** has worked for the Roane County Solid Waste Department for 25 years. **Lucy Guy** has worked for the Roane County Court System for 25 years. We would like to congratulate them on this milestone and thank them for their hard work and dedication to Roane County for all these years. We look forward to working with each of them for many more years.

Ninth Annual Founder's Day Celebration

November 3, 2015

6:00 pm

Circuit Courtroom

Roane County Courthouse

Mark your calendar!

What Are You Doing to Make Roane County Better?

On August 24th, departments under the authority of the County Executive met to answer the question, "What are you (and your department) doing to make Roane County better?" Each department presented a Power Point presentation summarizing operations of the department and sharing challenges and opportunities anticipated in the future. The purpose of the retreat was multifold:

1. Focus on duties of department
2. Identify issues of concern
3. Vision of where they are going
4. Identify areas of cooperation between departments

Presentations will be available for viewing on the website under

Roane County Courts and
Business Offices will be closed

Monday, September 7, 2015

In observance of
Labor Day

County Executive> Departments>A Better Roane County

A couple of immediate changes we hope you will see:

- Consistent format of minutes
- Integration of GIS & Planning
- Improved departmental reporting to Commission

We were glad to get all our departments together and proud to say we have a knowledgeable, passionate and dedicated group of public servants who are working to make Roane County better.

In Memoriam Tom Hamby

Mr. Thomas R. "Tom" Hamby, age 71 of Harriman, passed away Saturday August 29, 2015 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Chester and Sara Belle Hamby. One sister: Patsy Lay. And aunts and uncles: Archie Hamby, Pauline and Mack Cooper, Louise and Harlan Johnson, Robert and Ruby Fritts.

He is survived by his wife: Patsy Gilmore Hamby. One son: Brent Hamby and his wife Edye. Three daughters: Tami Ladd and her husband Steve, Susie Easter, and Robin Newport Fox and her husband Jimmy. One brother and sister-in-law: Bob and Jeannie Hamby. Eight grandchildren: Chase and Sara Hamby, Rylee Easter, Chloe, Summer, Gavin, Ella and Grayce Fox. As well as numerous special friends and loved ones.

The family will receive friends Wednesday September 2, 2015 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at South Harriman Baptist Church. Funeral services will follow at 8:00 PM with Rev. Mason Goodman officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday morning at 11:00 AM in Roane Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to South Harriman Baptist Church or to Riverside Baptist Church.

Working Together Toward a Better Roane County

RILEY CREEK EFFORT

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the Roane County Highway Department for their help in trimming trees which were hanging over the roadway in the Riley Creek Campground. This joint effort made it easier for campers to traverse the road into the camping area and will help prevent possible damage to campers from limbs scraping the tops. Thank you Road Superintendent Ferguson and your crew for working together toward a better Roane County.

STAFF RETREAT

County Executive Woody hosted an all-day staff retreat for department directors. Each director was tasked with presenting a fifteen (15) minute PowerPoint presentation highlighting their department and answering the question, "What are you (and your department) doing to make Roane County better?" Directors spent the day learning more about other departments and ways that departments can work together to make Roane County better.

FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATIONS

Josh Taylor passed his Fire II state commission test on the first try. Blake Stout and Luke Faust received their HazMat Awareness certification on the first try also. Greg Cloyd took the Officer I practical and Chuck Hiatt took the Instructor II written test. They should receive their scores in the next couple of weeks.

Congratulations to these hard-working and dedicated employees who are making Roane County a better place to live.

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"

Did You Know About . . .The First Ambulances in Roane County?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

Until the 1970's in Roane County, if you had a medical emergency that required transportation, whom did you call? You called the funeral home, of course! Roane County did not have a government operated ambulance service until 1971. Up to that time the funeral homes oper-

ated the only available ambulance service. In 1970, two of the funeral homes operating in Roane County discontinued ambulance service citing increasing costs. That led to the county to begin providing the service. From stories that have been told, it could be a fast and interesting ride in the Booth Funeral

Home of Rockwood ambulance. An early 1930's photo of the Lamb & Coulter Funeral Home of Rockwood shows a combination hearse/ambulance. The only difference was the window shades. As an ambulance, the shades were pulled down to show a red cross.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
Sept 3rd	Environmental Review Board	QCR	6:00 pm
Sept 7th	COURTHOUSE CLOSED	Labor Day	
Sept 8th	Fire Board	QCR	Cancelled
Sept 10th	Emergency Services	RMC	6:00 pm
Sept 14th	Budget Cmte	QCR	5:00 pm
Sept 14th	Public Hearing– Tax Rate	QCR	5:30 pm
Sept 14th	Zoning Hearing	QCR	6:30 pm
Sept 14th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Sept 15th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm
Sept 16th	Board of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
Sept 16th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Sept 17th	Housing Grant Public Hearing	QCR	5:00 pm
Sept 21st	Codes Cmte	QCR	6:30 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR– OTHER EVENTS

- Sept 1st– TCCA regional meeting– 5:30p-8:00p– Knoxville
- Sept 7th– Hooray for Harriman– 11a to 7p in Downtown Harriman
- Sept 23rd– Ken Yager’s Grant Workshop– 8:30a -1:00p at RSCC
- Sept 26th– Heritage Commission Gala– 6:30p Historic Roane County CH
- Oct 3rd– Rockwood Fall Festival
- Oct 3rd– Kingston Country Fair– 10a - 5p at Southwest Point
- Oct 7th-9th– TCSA Fall Conference in Murfreesboro
- Oct 12th– Courthouse closed for Columbus Day
- Oct 17th– October Sky Fall Festival– Oliver Springs
- Oct 17th– Alliance Gala– Volkswagen
- Nov 3rd– Founder’s Day– 6:00p Circuit Court Room at Courthouse

Swan Pond Sports Complex

During the last two (2) months, the Roane County Sports Recreation Committee has met to discuss the Swan Pond Sports Complex (SPSC) construction schedule and begin discussion of maintenance and use schedules. Park Director Mike Beard and Executive Ron Woody have met with TVA officials on site the last few months. The Sports Recreation Committee has also inspected the property. Below is a schedule of activities:

- July 2011– Res 07-11-06 approving the acceptance of approx. 75 acres.
- 2011-2014– comprehensive design of SPSC provided by TVA
- Oct 2015– anticipated Lease Agreement transferring responsibility from TVA to Roane County
- Oct 2015– site secured
- Oct 2015– Bids for installation of utilities
- Oct 2015– Bids for shelter/pavilion and bathroom/concession at soccer fields
- April 2016– Soft opening of complex

Relay For Life Celebrity Waiter Event

The 3rd Annual Roane County Relay for Life Celebrity Waiter Event was held at the Community Room at Michael Dunn on August 29th. County employees and their spouses and friends participated along with other community members to raise funds for the American Cancer Society’s fight against cancer. Approximately \$4000 was raised through “tips” for the waiters and a dessert auction. This annual event is held the Saturday before the first UT football game. Make plans to attend next year’s event.

Please submit articles/items of interest to Melanie at melanie.townsend@roanecountytn.gov by the 20th of the month. ~Ron



Industrial Development Board
Chamber of Commerce
Visitors Bureau

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 28, 2015

CONTACT:
Pam May
The Roane Alliance
(865) 376-2093

State Certifies Four New Adventure Tourism Districts within Roane County
Five Districts Now Certified in Rockwood, Kingston, Harriman & the County

Roane County, TN – Adventure tourism is one of the hottest industries in the country and the world. To capitalize on this growing trend, the State passed the Tennessee Adventure Tourism and Rural Development Act of 2011 in hopes to incentivize adventure tourism businesses to invest and create jobs in districts planned all across the state.

Tennessee's abundance of natural resources makes it an ideal setting to support this segment of the tourism industry. The act allows qualified businesses that locate within a certified district to earn a jobs tax credit to offset a portion of the business' Tennessee franchise and excise tax liability. Qualified businesses may include restaurants, hotels, or other tourist related attractions.

“I began the process in February and over the next few months required resolutions from each of the cities where the district resides, as well as the county. They all passed unanimously, said Pam May, Vice President, Roane Alliance, “because Roane County has so many natural resources ideal for adventure tourism - more than 700 miles of shoreline, bluffs and vistas on the plateau, and a large number of Wildlife Management Areas – just to name a few.”

On August 3 Roane County received an approval letter from Commissioner Randy Boyd, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, “declaring the four districts that we submitted in April certified,” added May. “Now being able to offer State certified

adventure tourism districts allows the county to use its geographical strengths in a way that could help generate job opportunities.”

The four districts include Rockwood’s waterfront area including and surrounding Tom Fuller Park; Roane County Park and a large portion of the surrounding area, including Caney Creek and the Tamke-Allan Observatory; Riley Creek Campground; and Kingston’s entire waterfront, including parts of Ladd Landing all the way to Southwest Point. A district in Harriman received certification last year that included Riverfront Park all the way to the site of the Tennessee Medieval Faire.

In order to qualify the business must make a capital investment of at least \$500,000 and create the required number of full-time jobs – for Roane County that is 25 jobs with minimum health care benefits. Additionally, businesses must complete a jobs tax credit business plan which must be submitted to the Department of Revenue.

To learn more about the program and to view the maps for each district visit www.RoaneTourism.com/Adventure.

The Roane Alliance is Roane County's economic development organization and consists of both public and private organizations, including the Roane County Chamber of Commerce, the Roane County Industrial Development Board, and the Roane County Visitors' Bureau. To learn more about how the Roane Alliance promotes economic development and seeks increased opportunities for all Roane County citizens, please visit www.roanealliance.org.

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