

May 13, 2020

## PRESS RELEASE

Today is Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and this is a 10:00 am update. I will cover four (4) topics.

- Testing
- Executive Orders
- EDA Revolving Loan Fund
- Where Do We Go From Here?

### **First, testing.**

Roane County is still showing excellent numbers with 2,145 being tested. We have had eight (8) positive cases and seven (7) of the eight (8) have recovered.

In comparison, Rhea County has six (6) positive cases with only 810 people tested.

McMinn County has 122 positive cases with 1,991 people tested.

Cumberland County has 86 positive cases with 2,505 people tested.

Morgan County, in line with Roane County, has twelve (12) positive cases with the testing of 2,698 people.

### **Second, Executive Orders.**

Yesterday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Governor Lee signed two additional Executive Orders #36 and #37.

Order 36 is a 22-page order dealing with:

- Tennessee Emergency Management Plan
- Medical Licenses
- Inspections
- Practices Certification
- Pharmacies and Prescription
- Child Care Licensures

A lot of Administrative issues from Marriage Licenses to law enforcement training. It also mentions the Real-ID suspension and shareholder meeting.

Order 37 deals with Notaries.

Both Orders, unless extended, will expire June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Third, EDA Loan Program.**

I would like to discuss Roane County's EDA Revolving Loan Fund. Roane County received some Economic Development Administration funds in the 80's to assist small businesses, startups, and expansion. We want to make our community aware of this program during this pandemic to maybe assist businesses.

The minimum loan is \$25,000. The maximum shall not exceed \$100,000. A Working Capital Loan is available. The current interest rate is at 4%. Appropriate assets must be pledged as security for the loans. Call Amber Cofer at 865-376-5578 for more information and an application.

#### **Fourth, "Where do we go from here?"**

The big question everyone is asking is "Where do we go from here?"

We have seen some dramatic changes in operation of government service from classroom to online education. We went from an overcrowded jail of 350 inmates, to having 100 inmates in a 176 capacity facility. We also went from in person courtroom hearings to video arraignments.

Hopefully many of these forced changes will become operational practices.

The new normal should force us to rethink delivery of education and judicial services.

What's next, we do not know except that there are many unknowns.

We do anticipate the State making budget cuts when they reconvene in June. As the County prepares the 2021 Budget, we must consider reduction of services as well.

Pray for our County, State, and our Nation.

RW/ba  
C:media