

# County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

## "Next Six Month Challenges" By Ron Woody, County Executive

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2015

New Year's Day— Jan. 1st

MLK Day— Jan. 19th

As we begin the next calendar year, we thought it would be appropriate to identify some challenges which will come before commission in the next six (6) months. As always, the beginning of the calendar year starts the annual budget process. Commission has made many major steps over the last number of years in establishing a more formal budget development process as budget focus has been divided into operating budgets and capital budget. We are not to the point we should be a yet in both funding and understanding but much as been accomplished and that I call a success.

Now to our six month challenges.

1) More deployment of capital budget. We plan on working on this in February and March. The questions to be answered are: Are we setting aside

enough funds for replacement of our assets? Where do these set aside funds come from and how do we protect these funds from competing services?

- 2) Insuring that the county has a successful reappraisal program which includes not only accurate value but an understanding of the reappraisal impact.
- 3) Funding of operational budgets which are either strained (general government) or suffering major loses (schools).
- 4) Educational plans of capital improvements and related funding whether consolidation of schools are considered or not.

### Where Could We Be in a Tax Rate for 2015?

If reappraisal reflects a decline in appraised and thus assessed value of 15% here is what could occur: our \$2.18 tax rate becomes certified at \$2.56. Operational loss of schools at .30 becomes .35 thus tax rate goes to \$2.91. Even with \$2.91 tax rate, there is no improvement in operational programs or additional investment in capital assets.

### Roane County Has a National Park - Another Success Story

The county has another success story as the U.S. Congress has approved legislation that includes the designation of the Manhattan Project as a National Park. Roane County played a vital part in the Manhattan Project and the project's contribution to the successful end of World War II with the creation of the "Little Boy" uranium atomic bomb. Much work will take place in the next two years as Oak Ridge City, Anderson County and Roane County work with the U.S. Department of Interior and Department of Energy to create a national park environment. Let's celebrate the passage of this legislation.

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#### Connect with our Cities

[www.cityofharriman.org](http://www.cityofharriman.org)

[www.mykingstontn.com](http://www.mykingstontn.com)

[www.oakridgetn.gov](http://www.oakridgetn.gov)

[www.oliversprings-tn.gov](http://www.oliversprings-tn.gov)

[www.rockwoodtn.org](http://www.rockwoodtn.org)

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"

# Employee Consideration

The Courthouse will be closed

Thursday, January 1st

In observance of

New Year's Day

Monday, January 19th

In observance of

MLK, Jr. Day

## 5 Star Management Points

1. Reappraisal 2015
2. Budget 2016
3. Departmental Review (25)
4. Capital Planning Review (26)
5. Planning to Go Forward (27)

More on these points can be found on the county website:

[www.roanecountytn.gov](http://www.roanecountytn.gov) - County Executive

## **Hybrid Retirement Plan for New Employees**

The county commission will consider at their January commission meeting a new retirement plan for newly hired county employees. The Roane County teachers hired after July 1, 2014 were required to be covered under the new plan as teachers are considered

quasi-state employees. All new state employees are now under the hybrid plan. The local municipalities (counties and cities) have the option of new employees being covered under the hybrid plan with approval of their respective bodies.

A resolution for commission consideration has been filed for January. A Decision Making Analysis (DMA) which discusses in further details the retirement plan is filed as correspondence. The DMA is also available on the county website under County Executive.

## **County Employees Assume Leadership Roles**

Director of Accounts and Budgets Kaley Walker received her Certified Government Financial Manager designation, which is a professional certification recognizing the unique skills and special knowledge required of today's government financial managers.

Scott Stout was confirmed as Director of the Office of Emergency Services at the December Commission meeting. An article is available in the Roane County News dated December 12, 2014.

Commissioner and E-911 Director Mike Hooks was appointed to the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board by Gov. Bill Haslam. An article is available in the Roane County News dated December 12, 2014.

County Executive Ron Woody was elected as President of the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments, which is an advocacy board for TVA and the local governments that reside in the Tennessee Valley region.

Executive Woody was also elected Secretary for the Energy Communities Alliance, a national organization of local governments that are adjacent to or impacted by Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.

Road Superintendent Dennis Ferguson has been elected Region I President of the Tennessee County Highway Officials Association which also places Dennis on the TCHOA Board of Directors. Region I includes most of the East Tennessee area.

## **County Management Theories and Philosophies**

Submitted to our local media has been a series of five (5) articles on some of the theories and philosophies of managing county government. Published on the county website under Published Articles/Speeches are a

number of these theories and philosophies. The list of articles are:

1. "Tomorrowville"
2. Balancing Act of Government

3. Balancing Government: Diversified Portfolio
4. Balancing Government: Evaluate Assets
5. Balancing Government: Roane Alliance

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"

**Did You Know About . . ."Pickel" Fritts?**

**By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian**

Horace "Pickel" Fritts was probably the largest man to have served as a Roane County deputy. He served under Sheriff Chester Davis who was sheriff from 1936 to 1942. A newspaper article states that when Pickle Fritts was appointed he was six feet five inches tall and weighed 530 pounds.

Before this appointment, he

had been in the circus and appeared in several side-shows being billed as "the worlds tallest fat man." In his obituary it tells that "in 1930 he was with the West Wonder Shows, operating out of Norfolk, Va. He went to Coney Island, N.Y., as a side attraction in 1931, and in 1932 he was the Bernardi Greater Shows of York, Pa." He became known as "Tom-

Tom" and wore specially designed Russian costumes. In his lifetime, his greatest weight was 747 pounds. It is also said that he traveled with the Ringling Brothers circus.

In his latter years he operated a pool hall in Lenoir City. He died at the age of 52 in 1950.

*You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself in any  
direction you choose. You're on  
your own, and you know what  
you know. And you are the guy  
who'll decide where to go.*

*~Dr Seuss*

**Veterans' Service Office Expands**

With the approval of Resolution #12-14-09, the Roane County Commission made another investment for our military veterans by providing funding to allow 40 hours per week coverage in the Roane County Veterans' Service Office. A contingency and succession plan were established in

the event our primary Veteran Service Officer leaves our service. Roane County Veterans' Clinic is in its first year of operations and the county determined that the VSO should be staffed during the same hours as the clinic. The county employs the VSO on a part-time basis.

With the approval of the budget resolution, an additional part-time VSO will be hired allowing a minimum of 40 hours of coverage a week, along with back-up assistance and a succession plan.

**DAV Receives Investment Funds**

**The Disabled American Veterans service organizations have received a one-time contributions from the county. The Harriman DAV provides transportation services and was approved \$5,000 to assist in purchasing a new van. The Oliver Springs DAV was approved \$5,000 to assist in kitchen improvements at their meeting facilities. Roane County continues to invest in our military veterans.**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
January 1st	<b>Courthouse Closed</b>		
January 5th	Sheriff's Liaison Cmte	QCR	6:30 pm
January 6th	Budget Cmte	CR	5:00 pm
January 8th	Emergency Service Cmte	QCR	6:00 pm
January 12th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
January 13th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
January 19th	<b>Courthouse Closed</b>		
January 21st	Board of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
January 21st	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
January 22nd	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm

If you have any items of interest for the newsletter, please submit to Melanie at [mtownsend@roanegov.org](mailto:mtownsend@roanegov.org) by the 20th of the month.

*~Ron*