



County Executive's Newsletter to the Roane County Commission

February 2017
Volume 9, Issue 2



A View of Our County Finances

I hate to bore our readers but we must once again talk about the finances of the County. The Budget Committee will start deliberation earlier than normal this year as we need to tackle some tough issues.

Starting on a positive note, I must once again say "Thank You" to our Commission, Elected Officials, and Department Heads as all have embraced looking long term in planning our financial future and being good stewards of our taxpayer funds.

We continued this long term view with an expanded review of its county's capital needs as various department heads had two meetings in January. We were pleased to have our highway department, school representatives, and Alliance President representing Industrial Board needs to round out all capital asset stewards in these meetings.

For February and/or March, the Commission will have an opportunity to review some of the county's indebtedness to be refinanced. It appears by the refinancing we could shorten the term and build our fund balance in the event we enter into a capital construction program of either jail or education or both.

In mid January we received an offer to purchase the Dollar General Store which not only does the Budget Committee evaluate but also the Property and Sheriff /Jail Committee. The Committees and Commission has some big decisions to consider.

While reviewing our financial situation we must take a hard look at the self insured dental fund. This fund has been under review the past few years as the premiums we have increased but not enough to sufficiently cover cost.

We have not had any surprises in our operational budgets so far this year. We hope our revenue estimate continues to be good and our departments hold the line on operational expenses. If all holds true our issues on finances we hope will be minimum this year. The Budget process once again starts or maybe we should say always continues.

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The Roane County Courthouse and Courts will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2017 in Observance of President's Day!



Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all....George Washington

Prior Monthly Newsletters are available on the County Website under the County Executive tab.

www.roanecountytn.gov

Hyper-Reach Community Sign –Up Campaign....Sign Up Now!!

Hello everyone!

The Roane County Office of Emergency Services is gearing up for our 2017 Hyper-Reach Community Sign-Up Campaign! Please, helps us get the word out about this important emergency notification system.

It is a great way for everyone to put in their preferred means of emergency communication, including email and text alerts. The purpose of this sign up page is that 911 data only includes landline numbers. Cell phones, emails and 'special needs technology', like TDD for the hearing impaired, are not included in the Accu-Reach data unless the individual involved signs up for messages from these other-than-landline sources. There is a link to a sign up page online specific for every user.

Please, forward this information to family, friends, and community members.

The link for community sign-up is as follows:

<http://www.Hyper-Reach.com/tnroanesignup.html>

Thank you all for your help and support.

Traci Cofer

Program Manager

Roane County Office of Emergency Services

865-717-4116 Traci.Cofer@roanecountyttn.gov



Roane County Highway Department Update.... By Brian Matthews

We have had a busy two months and we are looking forward to seeing what else the New Year has in store for the Roane County Highway Department.

During the last round of winter weather, we worked around the clock and put out over 32,000 gallons of brine and many loads of salt to keep Roane County moving. (See picture below on right). We also had the privilege of hosting the Roane Leadership class during January.

While here, they received a tour of the RCHD and we got to tell them everything we do and answer any questions that they had. (See picture below on left) If your organization would like a tour of the RCHD, please give us a call at 882-9782 and let's get one set up.



Special thanks goes out to the Highway Department as once again they did an outstanding job of clearing the courthouse parking lot allowing the courthouse to remain open to meet our citizens needs.

Thank you,
Ron Woody.

County Updates

Roane County Animal Shelter

Pictured below is a new animal control truck and John Griffin, Director, that is now in service. Providing more efficient animal control needs to Roane County Residents.



Roane County Animal Shelter Winter Event

The Santa Paws 2016 Fundraiser was a success and we look forward to Santa Paws 2017. Thank you Roane County for your support.



Volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Congratulations to Roane County EMS

On January 1, 2017 one of our ambulance units responded to a 911 call at a local gas station where a young girl had been exposed to gas being splashed on her. The mother of the child wrote the letter below expressing her gratitude to the Ambulance employees.

Scott Thomas, CC-WMT-P and Beverly Riggs, AEMT were the employees on the unit. I would like to recognize them and say thank you for a job well done. The Roane County EMS has an excellent staff that goes above and beyond their duties to insure our citizens are taken care of.

Tim Suter, Director

Mr. Suter,

I am writing regarding assistance I received last night as I was traveling through Roane County. (January 1st, 2017)

The short version of the story is that as I was pumping gas with my daughter waiting beside me to go inside to use the restroom, something went wrong and gas spewed out and all over her head and face. She was just the right height for it to splash right in her face and eyes.

I panicked and ran into the gas station to begin rinsing her eyes, not really knowing if that was even the right thing to do. My oldest daughter dialed 911 as I was trying to rinse the gasoline out of the youngest child's eyes. The ambulance was there in a very short period of time. Luckily, by the time they arrived I had her eyes well rinsed out and she seemed ok. But your staff provided reassurance for me that rinsing her eyes was correct and that there wouldn't be any long term damage. I am sorry I didn't get their names, I was a little frazzled at the time.

As a parent who was traveling alone with young children just the reassurance that I didn't need to worry, go to a hospital and that she was going to be ok was incredibly valuable. They were kind to me and the kids and helped turn around a terrible situation.

I'm attaching a picture of my daughter with the toy she was given by the EMT's last night.....it's her new favorite toy.

Thanks again.

Keena Eyster-Terrill



Did You Know About... The Controversial Dike at Kingston? by Robert Bailey

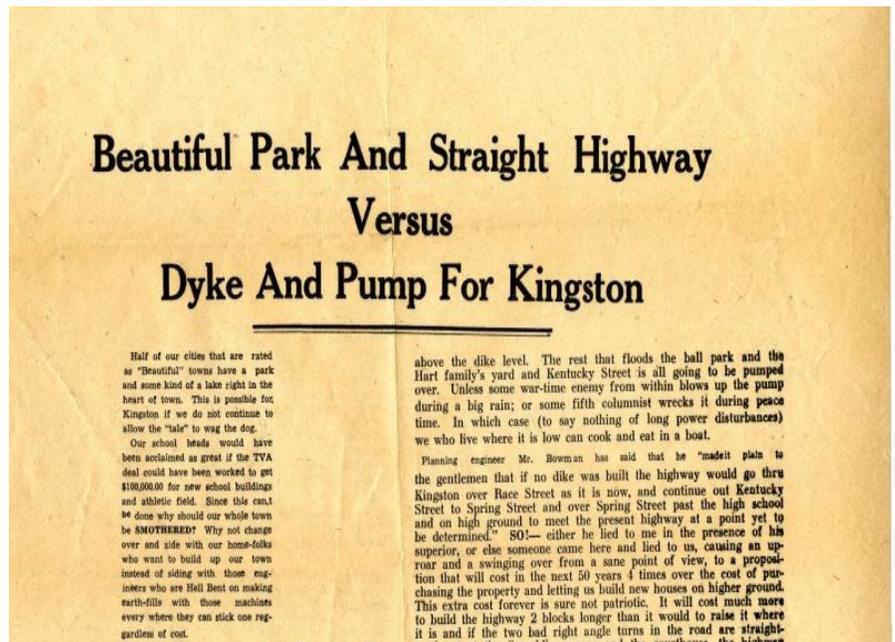
The Controversial Dike at Kingston?

In 1939/1940, the Tennessee Valley Authority drew up plans to create a dike on Highway 70 at Kingston which would keep the waters of Watts Bar Dam from flooding the town of Kingston. This plan was supported by TVA and many of the citizens of Kingston and Roane County.

The dike allowed traffic to travel directly on Highway 70 West from Knoxville, instead of the route which had for many decades required drivers to turn right onto Kentucky Street coming from Race Street and then turn left on Cumberland Street. The plan was controversial, in that there were people who were for the dike and those who opposed the building of it. Those for the plan pointed out the amount of land that it would take up and the amount of flooding that still would occur if the dike was not built. Plus the costs would have included Roane County having to replace Roane County High School. Still there were some citizens who were opposed to it. However, many of these opponents would have ended up with lakefront property. But the plans continued as originally designed.

The following article appeared in The Rockwood Times, July 3, 1941 about the completion and the description of the dike. "Work on Kingston Dike Against Lake Nears Completion. Roadway On Structure To Make Beautiful View Of Lake Area Available." The much talk of the dike being erected by the TVA to keep the backwaters of Watts Bar dam from inundating the town of Kingston is now receiving the finishing touches. The main construction has been completed and the roadway on top of the dike has been aided with a temporary rock surface which will be later converted to concrete or asphalt. The main dike is tied into the hill just beyond the home of Hugh E. Wyatt and extends out through what was the Wilkey bottom through the Evans, Muecke and Oran lots coming to grade at the intersection of Cumberland street and Harriman avenue where the dike and Highway 70 or Broadway of America come together. The highway has been raised too, so as to become a part of the dike on out to the old Clinch River bridge. Most local travel will now go down Cumberland Street and go on the new highway where the dike and highway come together. The main travel through town will come down Race Street which has been raised to go onto the dike near the M.E. Church property. Highway 58 intersects with Race Street at the junction with Kentucky Street and the travel going over this highway will go into Race Street and on over the dike.

The dike itself is approximately 35 feet high, 160 feet wide at the base and is 1550 feet long. The top is 40 feet wide with a roadway and sidewalk on the side. The north side of the dike is being sodded (sic) and the south or lake side is being rip-rapped with heavy stone. At the west end of the dike a boat ramp and parking area is being erected. From the top of the dike is one of the best scenic views in all the TVA territory and thousands will stop and gaze upon the beauties of the lake extending down the Pellissippi (sic) to historic Southwest Point and the main lake of the Tennessee River. The boating and fishing of this immediate lake cannot be surpassed in all the country of the Tennessee Valley.— "Roane County Banner."



"Part of a bulletin opposing the dike."

Roane County Park Remodeling/Emory Gap Playground Update..... by Mike Beard

Winter is just as busy as Summer around here!

Remodeling continues at the Roane County Park Cottage. A new coat of ceiling paint is being added to the fresh wall paint and the new counter



tops already in place. The new flooring comes in next week. Your Roane County Parks and Recreation Team invites you to come by for a visit.

Meanwhile at Emory Gap, your team has completed their site preparation and grading contribution to the new playground equipment project and are eagerly awaiting the delivery and professional installation next week.



Firefighter of the Year Award

Congratulations to our Volunteer Firefighter of the Year from each district in Roane County. We appreciate all you do for the citizens of Roane County.



- * West Roane County VFD ~ Regina Durham
- * Blair Roane County VFD ~ Jim Thacker
- * South Roane County VFD ~ Captain Michael Ferrell
- * East Roane County VFD ~ Lt. Frances Henderson
- * Midtown Roane County VFD ~ Robbie Shillings

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Feb. 2nd	ERB	Conf. Room	6:00 pm
Feb. 6th	Ro. Co. Comm./ERB	CCR	6:30 pm
Feb. 7th	Jail Study	QCR	6:30 pm
Feb. 9th	Emergency Services	OES	6:00 pm
Feb. 13th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Feb. 14th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm
Feb. 14th	Fire Board	QCR	6:15 pm
Feb. 15th	Board of Zoning	QCR	6:00 pm
Feb. 15th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Feb. 20th	Courthouse and Courts Closed	President's Day	

Valentines' Day
February 14, 2017



President's Day

The Roane County Courthouse and Courts will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2017 in observance of President's Day.



Please submit articles/items of interest to Arlene at arlene.daugherty@roanecountyttn.gov by the 20th of the month ...Ron