



County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission



FY2012-2013 Budget by Kaley Walker

The budget committee has been hard at work these last few months. There is a light at the end of the tunnel at this point, but it is still a little ways down the track. The budget committee has met several times this spring and summer, starting in March and working right through to the end of June. The last scheduled budget committee on the FY2012-2013 budget has been set for June 28th, at 6:00pm. There have been nine meetings held, including one all-day meeting to discuss the upcoming budget.

This budget is not perfect, no budget is. The goal of the budget committee is to provide the optimal budget within the constraints of revenue sources available. Property Tax revenue, the growth in a penny levied, has remained at the same level as last year. Sales Tax collections are at 98%, which means we have only 98% of the sales tax money that we had received at the same time last year. These two factors together have removed much of the growth money from the General Fund and General Purpose School Fund for this budget year.

We are in the 3rd year of having an active Capital Fund established. This fund not only assists the county in making prudent growth objectives long term, it allows for the planning of such activities in a way to offset any increase in debt issued facilitating these objectives. The continued support of the Elected Officials and Commission has made Roane County one of the only counties in Tennessee to be using capital planning in such a positive fashion.

One of the first policy objectives the current administration set forth was to have a multiyear debt budget established that set the tax rates for this purpose in such a way as to ensure that current debt liabilities would be covered without an increase in taxes. This has been accomplished by the approval of the debt policy and subsequent budgets.

Another policy change that has occurred is establishing the “balancing principle” between debt and capital. This principle allows a shift in tax revenue within the debt service funds to capital. The additional revenue from the sale of property or other investments can be used to offset the tax rate established. This then will allow the movement of tax money for a finite period to be used toward capital improvements, thus negating the need to issue additional debt for those projects.

Issues that were encountered during this budget process include the following:

- Lower than optimal fund balance in the General Fund
- Excess usage of fund balance in the General Purpose School Fund
- E-911 Contract requesting a large increase in funding over the next 5 years
- Courthouse and Jail reserve is basically depleted for large capital items
- Funding of the Crystal Cove road work
- Some Fee Offices are not bringing in enough revenue to support their expenditures

Manhattan Project National Historical Park Update:

Chairman Doc Hastings (WA), Congressman Chuck Fleischmann (TN) and Congressman Ben Lujan (NM) have introduced legislation (**H.R. 5987**) in the House of Representatives to establish a Manhattan Project National Historical Park that will include facilities at Hanford, Washington, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Los Alamos, New Mexico. H.R. 5987 has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) introduced the companion bill (**S. 3300**) in the Senate which has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**Roane County DOESN'T
Welcome the Emerald Ash Borer**

By Grant Palmer, County Director
Roane County Agriculture Extension Office



The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a very small but very destructive beetle; metallic green in color, its slender body measures 1/2-inch long and 1/8-inch wide. The average adult beetle can fit easily on a penny.

Native to China and eastern Asia, the EAB probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer goods, auto parts, and other such products. This beetle is responsible for the death or decline of tens of millions ash trees.

We have seen the monitoring efforts to track this little guy all around Roane County in the form of the purple boxes we see everywhere. Now the EAB has been found in Roane County and Anderson County. Based off the presence of EAB both counties have now moved into the EAB quarantine.

In Tennessee, EAB quarantines exist for Anderson, Claiborne, Blount, Grainger, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Knox, Loudon, **Roane** and Sevier Counties.

Firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species of trees; nursery stock, green lumber, and other material living, dead, cut, or fallen, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, mulch and composted and un-composted chips of Ash CANNOT be moved out of the quarantined counties. All of these products may be brought INTO the quarantine counties, but then cannot leave.

How do I determine if I may have EAB attacking my trees?

The canopy of infested trees begins to thin above infested portions of the trunk and major branches because the borer destroys the water and nutrient conducting tissues under the bark. Heavily infested trees exhibit canopy die-back usually starting at the top of the tree. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy will be dead within 2 years of when symptoms are first observed. Sometimes ash trees push out sprouts from the trunk after the upper portions of the tree dies. Although difficult to see, the adult beetles leave a "D"-shaped exit hole in the bark, roughly 1/8 inch in diameter, when they emerge in June.

Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees. If you suspect your ash tree could be infected with EAB call TDA's Regulatory Services Division at 1-800-628-2631 or the Roane County Extension Office at 376-5558.

Celebrations of Success Conference update (Joyce Nall)

Roane County was honored to speak at the Cumberland Business Incubator's Celebrations of Success Conference. The conference focused on economic successes in the Upper Cumberland area.

Joyce Nall presented "Assessing Community Inventory". The presentation (Executive Summary #24 on www.roanegov.org) featured the steps that Roane County has taken to inventory and evaluate its weaknesses and strengths as we try to prepare for the future. Special attention was paid to Recreation and Industrial inventories and the status of each.

Other presentations included updates on area business incubators, Tennessee's 3 Star Program, Chamber activities, the Monterey Depot Museum and its impact on the town, regional partnerships, and an update from the East Tennessee Economic and Community Development staff on new state programs and changes to existing programs.

It is an exciting time in Tennessee and especially Roane County.

From the Local Oversight Committee to the Board of Mayors
(by Scott Stout)

Over the years the structure and operations of DOE, TDEC, TEMA and local government operations and management has changed; thereby a need developed to change the operation and structure of the Local Oversight Committee. The new structure is the Board of Mayors.

The Board of Mayors has met three (3) times since the Local Oversight Committee was dissolved in January of this year. The Local Oversight Committee (LOC) was a non-profit, regional organization established in 1991 to represent the counties and communities affected most directly by the Department of Energy's activities in Oak Ridge. One of the major philosophical changes from the LOC to the Board of Mayors is to change from an Executive Director and a Board of Mayors to a Board of Mayors (voting members) and with an optional staff person representing each county or city (non-voting members). As it was discussed in the May meeting, elected officials may change every four years but having permanent staff representatives attend and participate in the meetings and activities will allow each of the governments a greater understanding of DOE environmental recovery processes for years at a local level.

Under the LOC, the local government leadership was often not involved and informed of the organization's activities. Although, many of the board members and permanent staff do not possess an understanding of the in-depth processes of clean-up or impacts of legacy waste within and outside the boundaries of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Money has been budgeted for the services of consultants as needed. This approach will provide local governments with the ability to make decisions or make requests based on information gathered by the organization.

Roane County Economically Speaking by Joyce Nall

The Tennessee Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) was formed in 1978 to fulfill a need for a permanent intergovernmental body to study and take action on patterns, powers, functions, and relationships between governmental bodies.

One of the areas most studied by TCIR is economic indicators across the state. Recently together with MTSU, economic data was gathered and analyzed county by county.

One area that we felt of interest is the unemployment rate of Roane County and surrounding counties and how they compare to the U.S. and Tennessee rates.

March 2012

U.S.	TN	Roane	Rhea	Anderson	Cumberland	Knox	Loudon	Morgan
8.2%	7.9%	7.3%	9.5%	7.5%	8.6%	5.5%	6.3%	9.8%

One year ago, Roane County had 7.7% unemployment rate.

Tennessee was named this month in Chief Executive Magazine as holding the No.4 ranking among 50 states for its favorable business climate. Roane County stands to gain as more and more industries looks to Tennessee as their new home.

Did you know? ... The Beginnings of Oak Ridge

(Article No. 2 in a series by Robert Bailey, County Historian)

[This is the second of a series of articles about the history of Oak Ridge, the “Secret City.” Oak Ridge made a tremendous impact on our area in 1942 and the possibility of a National Park would again have a major impact in our County.]

The Gaseous Diffusion Plant (K-25) was the first of the three (K-25, X-10 and Y-12) plants to be built. Construction of the Gaseous Diffusion Plant (K-25) began in 1943 and was built primarily by the J.A. Jones Construction Co., of Charlotte, N.C. at a cost of about \$500 million. Carbide and Carbon Chemical Company, later Union Carbide Corporation, became the operating contractor because of its experience in the chemical and metallurgical fields and earlier contributions to the atomic energy program. K-25 was the war code name for the plant “K” representing the Kellex Corporation which designed the plant. In 1945, about 10 percent of all the electric power generated in the United States was required to operate K-25.

It consisted of five process buildings—K-25, K-27, K-29, and K-33 and about 70 auxiliary buildings covering about 640 acres. The U-shaped K-25 building was a half-mile long and was the largest building in the world under one roof at that time. Each wing is 2,450 feet long, averages 400 feet in width, and is 60 feet in height. The total area of the building covered 44 acres. Along with K-27, the K-25 process building was shut down in 1964.

The plant produced large quantities of enriched uranium-235 from uranium 238 through the gaseous diffusion process to be used either in weapons or to fuel nuclear reactors.

[The next article will discuss X-10 (Oak Ridge National Lab) Plant.]

Commission Action June 11, 2012

As the county prepares to close the 2012 Fiscal Year, few resolutions were filed outside the typical budget adjustment and zoning or cleaning up of dilapidated properties resolutions. One area that had much discussion however, was policies and procedures for transporting deceased patients.

The Commission discussed for approximately 30-40 minutes how the Ambulance Department and Rescue Squad is being over-burdened on transporting of the deceased. Both time and resources are in high demand in cases where transportation is made to the hospital. County Executive Woody indicated that a Decision Making Analysis (DMA) is being completed and, when complete, further discussion and potential policy changes would be forthcoming.

July Meetings and Events:

Check the website www.roanegov.org or more information on Committee meetings.

July 4 – Courthouse closed for Independence Day!

July 5 - Industrial Liaison Committee – 5:30 pm (Alliance)

June 9 – County Commission – 7:00 pm (CH)

July 10 - Tourism Committee – 5:00 pm – Alliance Bldg.

July 10 – Fire Board – 6:00 pm (CH)

July 18 – Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 pm (CH)

July 18 – Planning Commission – 7:00 pm (CH)

July 26 – County Board of Public Utilities – 6:00 pm (CH)

2013 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes:

As the Budget Committee meets and recommends the 2013 Budget, the related minutes are available on the county website, www.roanegov.org. Go to the drop-down menu on the 'County Executive' button and hover over 'Departments' then click on 'Accounting and Budget Department'.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Revolving Loan Program by Joyce Nall

The EDA Revolving Loan Fund continues to assist existing and new or start-up businesses that are creating new jobs in Roane County.

During the past 18 months, the Board has funded a bakery, lawn service, real estate office, chiropractor, hardware store, restaurant, and interior design business. Each of these businesses is contributing jobs and tax revenue to our county.

In addition to the loans made, the staff has met with several others who, through formulating a business plan decided the timing and funding availability wasn't right for their plans.

Many of the applicants are not familiar with business planning and actual operation of a business. Seeing that there is a need for more business mentoring, we have invited Dana Peterka of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) to assist the board and staff with business planning and mentoring new business owners.

We welcome Dana and look forward to working with him.



Happy 4th of July!

**Did you see the purple ribbon?**

If you happened to notice the purple ribbon tied at the Courthouse in June, did you realize what it was for? June 15th was proclaimed "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day." Last year over 10,000 cases of elder abuse were reported. Take a moment to think of the elderly people in Roane County that you know. Could they be victims of Elder Abuse? If you think so report it anonymously by calling 1-888-277-8366. Learn more at www.tvaonline.org.

If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me. Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.

Ron Woody