

County Executive's Report July 11, 2016

Wednesday, July 13 @ 9:00 am- McNew Bridge ribbon cutting at the bridge
Tuesday, August 16th @ 6:00 pm- Housing Summit in the Raider Room at RSCC. More information to follow.

Industrial Economic Development Front:

As you may have seen in the Wednesday's Roane County News, we had a check presentation for site development at the RRBT. We just completed the Jones Road road construction last month with partnership on the TVA InvestPrep program where TVA contributed \$296,200 , the IDB \$210,000 and RC \$210,000 .

Tn ECD check presentation this past Wednesday was for site development where the new road was built with the Invest prep funds. ECD contribution is \$356,072, IDB's is \$250,000 and RC is \$250,000 . This investment will complete environmental permitting, wetlands mitigation and 1/3 of the site's grading.

Roane County is preparing for success in the Industrial Economic Development area.

Housing Summit

There will be more on a scheduled Housing Summit as we lock down a date. We are planning on inviting our local developers, real estate brokers, city governments, and banking community to RSCC to discussing the Industrial prospects and how we are preparing for future industrial retail development. Hopefully, Roane County be able and willing to provide housing for new workers in our region. More to come....

2017 Budget

The 2017 Budget resolution will be considered on Monday. We have written a number of articles about the budget and Kaley said it best in her article featured on page 1 of the June Newsletter to the Commission that "No Budget is Perfect". We need to focus some attention on employee raises and benefits (county has an ad hoc committee) as there are no raises in the 2017 budget for general employees. The schools have budgeted about a 2% raise for their employees.

We are also struggling with our rural special purpose fund (Fund 121) which includes Animal Control and Fire Control. You will hearing more about both of these at an August 9th workshop.

Resolution# 07-16-02

This resolution that has been recommended by the County Owned Back Tax Committee to sale properties in which the county has already received the Tax Deed. The minimum bids will be \$100. Four (4) properties were in Harriman that the county would be trying to sell for the Harriman taxes; however, it is my understanding that Harriman voted on Tuesday July 5, to abate their city taxes; thereby, the resolution should have an amendment offered to set those properties' minimum bids at \$100. These properties will be offered on www.govdeals.com if the resolution is approved.

Building and Codes Office Operations and Planning.

We have focused a lot of time and energy on the Building and Codes Office the last several months and more is to come. I thought I would update you on our progress.

First, we had a spring house cleaning to clean up the inside of the building. **Next**, we had some inmate labor to spruce up the outside. **Third**, we had inmate labor that cleaned out the

basement and with the assistance of Commissioner Junior Hendrickson, we were able to place a number of file cabinets in the basement for Building and Codes records and other offices, if needed. **Continuing on** we had to replace the air conditioning unit and we have purchased furniture for the office (probably the hardest thing for me to do is spend this money). We have also been getting the building into code compliance, go figure, with the installation of an entrance door that now swings the correct way. We have a little electrical compliance to be completed once the new furniture is installed.

Why are we doing all of this one may ask? Well, we are planning for activity in Roane County as our Industrial/retail recruitment is successful.

We will be **changing the way we communicate** with a **new text message program** (no cost), more communication **by email** (no cost), a more robust or maybe I should say an **Internet presence** with information on the website for the house builders, owners, and others. The staff is working hard and struggling at times to embrace the many changes. If we can develop the office operations to a higher level of service, we may consider assisting our builders with septic and electrical permits but, we are not willing to even consider these functions at this time. We are streamlining this office for more efficiency, not just for today, but looking to our needs in 12 to 24 months.

Issues are still running loose on the Animal Shelter Operations

For your information we had asked the Sheriff Department to investigate an alleged "cover up" complaint from a Teresa Clark and Regan Wright. To my knowledge there were no issues found. We also had to deal with the alleged contract with Tiger Haven for apparently our euthanized animal, I think some folks started a rumor that these animals were being fed to the tigers. It was discussed by a citizen at the public hearing that our local Health Department could run our Animal Shelter and the Sheriff Department could take over the rural animal control. Our Animal Control Board has a lot of work to do over the next several months.

Swan Pond Sport Complex and other Recreation Activities

Construction continues on the restroom and pavilion at the Swan Pond Sport Complex. We are not yet ready for play but should have a good update for next month.

Riley Creek Campground is a crown jewel for Roane County and we have not had any issues in the campground this summer.

Roane County Park has been extremely busy and our workers has been meeting our customer needs. Way to go Parks and Recs.

Summary

We have tried to manage on a Five Point Focus system. Our current points are: 1) 2017 Budget, (2) Industrial Economic Development (3) Recreation, (4) Emergency Management, (5) Administrative Operations. As I reflected on this email I think we have touched on all five of the topics. As soon as we adopt the 2017 Budget we will shift to our 2017 capital budget deployment. We will also begin a more in-depth review of Jail future capital needs. Along with all of this, we are studying the future delivery service of education