

## **2 Year Anniversary!**

We are approaching our two-year anniversary as new management for your county government. We appreciate the support you gave us to undertake this privileged task and we hope your support and confidence continues as we journey forward.

We promised to manage with you on a five-point star management system and will continue with this approach the next 24 months. Details of our focus, tasks, management, and the five-point star management system can be found on the county's website, [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org).

One of our first points was to improve communication about county government and activities your government is involved. Although we have not reached the level of communication we desired, we feel we have made great progress in openness and transparency in your government operations.

One of the first challenges we took on was to write and publish both in hard copy and on-line, a monthly newsletter. We would encourage all to explore the county government website and read our newsletter about what is going on in your county.

The following is the lead article of the August 2012 edition:

---Beginning of article---

### **Sustainability and Viability:**

Each year we go through a cycle of budget submission, development, review and adoption and often times do not fully explore our core purpose and how we deliver services to our citizens. We further look only year-to-year, not being aware of the near-term or long-term challenges and opportunities. Roane County changed this year to year view about two years ago. I have been extremely pleased with our Commission's acceptance of looking into the future and what future challenges and opportunities await us.

Our goals as public servants are not only meeting the current needs of our citizens but to examine, explore, plan and insure long term sustainability and viability of the government's operation. We look no further than the newspapers and television to see national problems and many state problems. We are fortunate that Tennessee is not mentioned as having some of the same problems that other states have or often experience.

Back to sustainability and viability, governance and decisions we make are often not the most popular or the easiest to make, and often take discipline and many times sacrifice or the postponement of immediate desires. One case in point is the development of a sports complex. Many want a sports complex now and are willing to (1) pass new indebtedness to the next generation or (2) to issue debt and start paying for it over time. As we looked to the future we recognized the TVA would be granting to us available land and helping prepare the sports field. So instead of burning funds to purchase and build we chose to postpone immediate desire and sacrifice for the long term sustainability and viability of government by (1) accepting property from TVA at no cost, (2) allowing TVA to provide grade work and other site preparation at no cost, and (3) building the facility in stages instead of all at once. The sports complex is just an example, as we look forward we are exploring other avenues of sustainability and viability. We understand, however, that a balanced, compromised, collaborative approach is the best governance.

Our primary goal for these first two years was the building of a firm foundation in order for us then to plan out sustainable and viable county government. We will continue exploring opportunities and identifying challenges.

**What has been accomplished?**

- 1) Multi-year Debt Budget and Annual Report
- 2) Capital Asset Management Plan and Multi-year budget
- 3) Industrial Infrastructure Investment Program

**What's next? --- A multi-year operating budget.**

The multi-year operating budget will start first with the wastewater treatment operation. Our goal for 2012-13 is to begin this process and to review multi-year budgets for Fiscal 2014.

*---End of article---*

Please let us know how we can be of service to you and we encourage you to read our monthly newsletter about your county government. [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)

Ronald B. Woody  
Roane County Executive  
August 27, 2012