

The BANNER of TRUTH

The LORD is my BANNER - Exodus 17:15

25 ¢

"Pursuing TRUTH
in Blount County"



Volume 1 - Issue No. 6
April 2011

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WBCR AM 1470 is the only Locally OWNED Media in Blount County bringing you hourly weather and news, plus the live broadcasts of High School Football, Basketball and Baseball.

The articles herein are by concerned Blount County residents, who have brought these issues to the public's attention by speaking at Commission or School Board meetings, and reflect the opinions of the writers.

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DO YOU FEEL SAFE?

by Joe King

That was the title of The Daily Times article in which Sheriff Berrong tried to convince us that his budget couldn't be cut or we'd definitely see more crime in Blount County. He said that reducing his 22 million dollar budget by the requested 12.8% would cause him to lay off 47 employees. Well, a lot of us just don't buy that statement. We study the credit card usage each month, view the number of vehicles listed for his department, carefully watch new vehicle purchases, and cringe at the travel expenses incurred. There are numerous line items that should be chopped before even thinking of laying off people.

But, the question remains: Do you feel safe? Well, in my opinion, it's hard to feel safe when the very people in governmental positions who are supposed to "protect and serve" the public, instead act in ways that cause distrust.

A public forum was held at Heritage High School where our Mayor spoke to the employees about the budgeting problems in Blount County because of our ¼ billion dollar debt. Linda and I went to listen to the questions presented and the answers given. We were met at the door by Ron Talbott who is with the Sheriff's Drug Task Force. He refused us admittance, asking for an employee badge. Linda offered her Press Pass used for radio coverage. Mr. Talbott responded with, "You're not getting in here, period." She immediately got on WBCR radio and reported that we were not being allowed into the meeting. Mr. Talbott apparently changed his mind and came over

to speak to me. He said: "You don't belong here and I don't know why you'd want to be somewhere you're not wanted. You have the right to go in, but I'm telling you that it could get 'volatile.'" (We have this comment on tape.)

During the meeting, Jarrod Millsaps (Community Relations for the Sheriff's Department) stood up and yelled to the audience: "There are two people here that you should know about, Linda King, Citizens against County Employees, and Jim Folts. They don't belong here." His statement was made to incite the employees in the audience. Since Mr. Folts is a Commissioner, he had every right to attend and, as private, taxpaying citizens, my wife and I were justified in wanting to hear the comments and outcome of this public meeting.

Mayor Mitchell handled the animosity that existed in the audience with a great deal of class. He stayed respectful to the speakers even when they were not respectful to him.

We had a member of the Sheriff's Department (Doug Moore) attend last month's Citizens for Blount County's Future meeting. Mr. Moore was upset that his salary was made public when, in actuality, these figures are public information. He disagreed with the figures, even though they were taken directly from county records. Thankfully, The Daily Times recently printed salaries of some of the top elected officials, proving that this data is open and available for public scrutiny. During the meeting, the subject of "Text-A-

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Tip" was brought up as being un-Constitutional because you are not allowed to face your accuser and, again, innocent people can be affected. Deputy Moore defended the snitching method instead of defending the Constitution and his Oath to uphold it.

In the past, we had paperwork that had been put on a table in the hallway of the Commission Room thrown in the garbage by Deputy Jarrod Millsaps. When asked why he had done so, he said: "Because I wanted to and because I can!" What would have happened to us if we'd done something like that to Sheriff Department material?

It's hard to say, "I feel safe", when we are bombarded with instances of violations against innocent citizens by people who take advantage of their positions and use their perceived power to create division between "them and us". What happened to the squad cars that used to say "To Protect and Serve"? Maybe we no longer see that slogan because that sentiment no longer exists in the uppermost positions of law enforcement. I believe that most of our deputies are good, honest people. But, they are all getting a bad rap because of the actions of some who consider their authority to be all-mighty. What happened to their Oath to uphold the Constitution and to protect the public? To threaten "volatile" behavior and then follow through with volatile actions, does not exactly give the citizens a warm, fuzzy feeling.

When people are stopped at so-called "Sobriety checkpoints" (SS checkpoints), they are being assumed guilty until proven innocent. That is totally opposite of how our legal system is supposed to work. Remember our 4th Amendment rights which state: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." I believe that some of our officials care more about their grant money than they care about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights upon which our country was founded.

Now we see the TSA groping paying passengers at our airports. When and where will it end? I believe that people are getting fed up with illegal actions from our government employees, as well as with law enforcement officers acting with superiority. We, the taxpayers, pay the bills and have rights which we will fight to defend. I wish I could say "I feel safe". That will only happen when we see true Oathkeepers in positions of authority, cadets and officers, who are trained to respect the citizens, and a Sheriff who is willing to be a team player in the community, especially in difficult economic times. Let's pray that this time will come and that we will all "feel safe".

- This is the opinion of Joe King, contact information: 681-0662

FROM THE TRENCHES: MARCH 2011

by Commissioner Jim Folts

No debt or budget discussions – More appointments with no qualifications - The Blount County Commission needs to deal with two major problems: the crushing \$230 million county debt; and, the fiscal year 2011 – 2012 budget. Unfortunately, neither issue was on the agenda of the March Commission meeting.

Many Commissioners seem to think the debt problem has been dealt with, since they voted to again refinance the \$46 million balloon payment last

month. Unfortunately, that still leaves the County with \$105 million worth of variable rate debt and \$93 million of interest rate swaps. Interest rates on this debt are reset either daily or weekly. If interest rates begin to rise, as most experts expect, the debt, which already consumes nearly 25 cents out of every property tax dollar, could get further out of control. The time to fix the interest rate on all our debt is now, before interest rates take off. But, most Commissioners seem uninterested in discussing this

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serious problem.

The budget was not on the agenda because the Budget Committee continues to kick the can down the road. At the budget hearings for each County department, held last month, the Committee members listened politely and did not ask any tough questions, even when some department heads (worst among them being the Sheriff) refused to make any cuts to their bloated budgets. The Budget Committee ignored a Citizens for Better Government comparison of our county to the three counties closest to us in population (Washington, Sullivan and Sumner). This comparison shows our county is spending \$9.7 million, or 23%, more than the average of the other counties. The presentation shows there are plenty of areas where cuts can be made. If our County could just reach the average spending level of the other three counties, we would not need any tax increase. I offered, several times, to make this detailed comparison presentation to the Budget Committee, but no one was interested. At this month's Budget Committee, the Finance Director brought back the results of the Committee's inaction. He said that a 21% increase in the property tax will have to be imposed on the struggling citizens of the county to support the bloated spending in the proposed budget. The Budget Committee's only response was to send the Finance Director back to ask all the department heads to look at their department budgets again. Neither the Mayor, the Finance Director, nor the citizens, at the meeting seemed to believe this would accomplish anything.

Cutting budgets is a tough task. By law, the Budget Committee and the Commission must set the total budget for each department. Doing this well, requires leaders who are willing to sort through large amounts of data, and ask lots of tough questions, in order to identify areas of waste and unneeded services. So far, there is no indication that the Budget Committee has done this job.

The Commission was asked to approve a new Judicial has major powers, which most people think are reserved to judges. Judicial Commissioners can

issue search warrants, commit people to jail, appoint attorneys for indigent defendants, set and approve bonds releasing people from jail, and even issue injunctions. If a Judicial Commissioner abuses these powers, the County can be sued. A few years ago, Circuit Court Clerk Tom Hatcher's son was appointed as a Judicial Commissioner. When he later abused his power, the County had to pay \$45,000 to settle a lawsuit. Against this background, you would expect the Commission to exercise extreme care in selecting these individuals. Yet, the proposed Judicial Commissioner, did not have any legal experience on his resume. It also came to light that this individual had been serving as a Judicial Commissioner since last October! Circuit Court Clerk Hatcher told the Commission the appointment was made by a judge using his "emergency" powers. No one explained why it took five months for this "emergency" appointment to reach the Commission for confirmation. Many citizens are very concerned about someone, with no legal training or experience, doing things like issuing search warrants and setting bail. For these reasons, I voted NO, along with Commissioners Monika Murrell and Mike Caylor. Unfortunately, the rest of the Commission seemed unconcerned by this person's lack of qualifications.

A reading of the law governing Judicial Commissioners raised serious concerns that the County has been in violation of this law for an extended period of time. Specifically, the law requires the County Commission to conduct an annual public hearing on the effectiveness and lawfulness of the Judicial Commissioner program. This hearing is supposed to take place before April 1 of each year. The County has not held such a hearing in recent memory. Commissioner Helton thought he recalled such a hearing in 2008 or 2009, but a review of the records of the County Commission in the early part of those years did not show evidence of the required hearing. Since we have not held the required hearing this year, the County seems to be again in violation of the law. Commissioner Ron French asked that the Mayor's attorney take a look at the law and give an

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opinion for the next meeting. If governing bodies like the Commission can routinely ignore the law, particularly in regard to people who have the powers of Judicial Commissioners, I believe we are all in serious trouble.

In another matter, the Commission made two appointments to the Sheriff's Merit (Civil Service) Board. Unfortunately, the Commission was not given any information on the qualifications of either candidate. I refuse to vote for any appointment where no information is presented on the candidates. I voted NO.

Another resolution authorized adding an

additional \$2 million to bring the total balloon refinancing authorization to \$50 million. The problem here is that we only need to refinance \$48.3 million. In the past, other Finance Director and administrations appear to have abused such excess authorizations. I do not believe we ought to be authorizing any more money than is needed. I voted NO along with Commissioner Mark Hasty.

On a positive note, the respect shown for citizens attending, and speaking, at the Commission meeting improved greatly from the ugly scenes that took place in January. I certainly hope and pray that his continues.

CAMPGROUNDS

by Larry Campbell

Items of importance within the proposed resolution to the Blount County Zoning Regulations, for Commercial Campgrounds and Recreational Vehicle Parks.

The passage of this resolution will allow development of these commercial parks on 5 acres of land within the following districts of the county; the Suburbanizing District, Rural District 1, and Rural District 2. Therefore, will be allowing Recreational vehicles, travel trailers, motor homes, camping trailers, tents, and small permanent camping cabins without kitchen facilities, but with sleeping quarters, and bathrooms, to gather in these campgrounds within our Rural Districts.

This resolution has a 270 day limit of time that a recreational vehicle can be parked there, but these cabins can be utilized every day of the year, and it contains an exception for the recreational vehicles utilized by the camp workers, which will allow them to utilize them as a permanent living quarters.

In my opinion there are a couple of things that I would like to see changed in this resolution;

A.) This resolution includes an alternate requirement of at least 18 foot width for roads utilized for direct access to these campgrounds. Please note, The U.S. Department of Transportation

Requirements, allows an exception of 3 inches on each side on the maximum width of 8ft. 6inch for Recreational Vehicles. Therefore, my concern if the requirement of an 18 ft. wide road is adequate for the passage of one of these RV's leaving a campground and one entering it?

B.) I also believe there should be a requirement that these roads should be free of any overhanging trees or rocks?

C.) This resolution limits these campgrounds to the following specific roads of the county;

1) Highway 411 North from the Maryville city limits to the Blount/Sevier county line, 2) Lamar Alexander Parkway (Highway 321) from Maryville city

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limits to the city limits of Townsend. 3) Highway 321 from the Townsend city limits to the Blount/Sevier county line. 4) Old Tuckaleechee Road around the southern boundary of Townsend, 5) Old Walland Highway from intersection with Ellejoy Road to intersection with Melrose Bridge, and 6) Hwy 129 (Calderwood Hwy) from intersection with Six Mile Road to intersection with Happy Valley Road.

Checking the official Blount County Road List, I also have some concerns as to allowing these campgrounds on Old Tuckaleechee road and on Old Walland Highway.

- Page 22 of this road list shows a minimum road width of 17 ft. and a maximum width of 22 ft, for Old Tuckaleechee Road.

- And a minimum width of 18.5 ft. and a maximum

width of 18.5 ft. for Old Walland Highway.

If this official road list is correct do you feel these roads are adequate for the passage of two 9 ft wide RV's?

My interpretation of the Sevier County regulations for Travel Trailer parks is that they are only allowed within their Commercial 1 District on collector streets of a minimum of 50 ft. wide, or at main intersections.

I base the above concerns on the 18 ft width for Recreational vehicles of my experience of doing several thousand dollars of damage to a motor home I previously owned, due to an overhanging rock. Therefore, we need to make sure these access roads have adequate width.

REPUBLICAN TAX INCREASE

by Jay Polk

Hiring someone without knowledge of their abilities is irresponsible. No private company would survive with such a business practice. The issue was the appointment of a Judicial Commissioner, essentially a judge who will sit on the bench in the regular judge's absence. Commissioner Folts pointed out that the statute which lines out the selection of Judicial Commissioners includes a public hearing. Since there has been no public hearing, Folts recommended that the vote be delayed until we have complied with the law. There was also a charge made that the applicant's resume was not provided in a timely manner to the commissioners. Out of 21

Republican commissioners, Folts, Murrell, and Caylor voted "No". Burkhalter abstained. It seems that ignorance is encouraged in the Blount County Commission.

On to other business: This is almost becoming a routine - Republicans preach against raising taxes and say they're for reducing the size of government, yet they continue to spend tens of thousands of dollars without making any meaningful budget cuts. And any mention of reducing the size of government sends them into a panic. Then they scratch their heads and wonder how we got into such a financial mess.

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The March commission meeting was, unfortunately, routine. The first item was a budget transfer of \$8,000 to the library. The rest of the budget increases totaled \$108,987.88. And budget cuts continue to stay off the agenda.

One of the issues concerned the agenda item which was a \$2,000,000 refund in bonds. This was due to the fact that the \$50,000,000 refinancing that was unanimously authorized at last month's meeting was more than was necessary. Why ask for more money than you need? Good question. To this writer the most disturbing thing about this issue is the text of the resolution which reads, "...providing for the issuance, sale and payment of said bonds, establishing the terms thereof, and the disposition of the proceeds therefrom, AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A TAX UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL THEREOF, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST THEREON." (emphasis added) Maybe I just like to play it safe, but I don't think I would ever support any resolution that has a tax increase as an option. Unfortunately our Republican commissioners

don't have the same respect and compassion for taxpayers as libertarians do.

Here is the grading scale:

A - Participated in the discussion and voted to uphold the libertarian values of fiscal responsibility and/or personal liberty.

B - Did not participate, but voted to uphold libertarian values.

C - Participated in the discussion and voted against libertarian values.

F - Did not participate and voted against libertarian values

Here are the grades for March: Folts: C; All others: F.

For a breakdown of the grading scale, an explanation of the grades, and to keep track of your commissioner, go to www.blountcountyp.org/CountyCommissionerGrades

Jay Polk is Chair of the Blount County Libertarian Party
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email:commonsense@bellsouth.net

THE FLUORIDE DEBATE RAGES ON

by Linda King

Interrogatory Question No. 7: Please identify all of the non-hydrofluosilicic acid elements present in the substance YOU are adding to the public water system of which YOU are aware.

This is one of the 30 requests made of the South Blount County Utility District during the Discovery lawsuit by Citizens for Blount County's Future in 2008. I've been reporting on the questions which were never answered because the judge dismissed our case. Since the customers of this water district are being forced to ingest a toxic chemical, it seems to me that the people should at least have the right to know the percentage of arsenic, lead, mercury and other heavy metals that are in the product. That would give them the information they need to make an informed decision on whether or not to purchase bottled water, buy a filtration system, dig a well, or continue to drink the tap water and take a chance with health damage. Doesn't it seem ridiculous that we even have to consider these additional expenses when we should be getting the clean, pure water we pay to have provided?

1,500 scientists, engineers and lawyers from the Union of Scientists at the federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) headquarters in Washington, D.C. came out in opposition to water fluoridation about a decade ago. Since then, they say that opposition has grown, based on the scientific literature documenting the increasingly out-of-control exposure to fluoride and the lack of benefit to

dental and human health from ingestion. The hazards includes acute toxic damage, especially to people with impaired kidney function, as well as chronic toxic hazards of gene mutations, cancer, reproductive effects, neurotoxicity, bone pathology and dental fluorosis from low doses of fluoride ingested over a period of years. The scientists have concluded: "The implication for the general public of these calculations is clear. Recent, peer-reviewed toxicity data, when applied to EPA's standard method of controlling risks from toxic chemicals, require an immediate halt to the use of the nation's drinking water reservoirs as disposal sites for the toxic waste of the phosphate fertilizer industry."

The Sierra Club notes that they understood the historic reasoning for fluoridation; however, there are now valid concerns regarding its' potential adverse impact on the environment, wildlife and human

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health. Therefore, the Sierra Club "believes that communities should have the option to reject mandatory fluoridation of their water supplies". In Blount County, as in all of Tennessee, this practice is not mandatory, but a choice by the water district. South Blount County Utility District can, and should, discontinue fluoridation for the health of their customers. When in doubt, take it out!

Dr. Arvid Carlsson, a Nobel prize winner for medicine in 2000, points out that water fluoridation goes against all principles of pharmacology, because fluoride works topically, not by oral ingestion. He states that, "to the extent that fluoride works to reduce tooth decay, it works from the outside of the tooth, not from inside the body. It makes no sense to drink it and expose the rest of the body to the long term risks." About fifty-percent of the fluoride that enters your body stays there and builds up in bones, bone marrow, the thyroid gland, the pineal gland in your brain and likely other organs as well.

Kathleen M. Thiessen, Ph.D. with SENES Oak Ridge, Inc. in Tennessee has been with several peer-review groups studying the effects of fluoride for over twenty years. She states that, even with the new recommended level of 0.7 mg/L, parents who use baby formula made from concentrate will still need to avoid fluoride by purchasing bottled water, if they can afford to do so. This fact stems from information that fluoride intakes above about 0.03 mg/kg per day have been associated with the occurrence of dental fluorosis. (In regard to the new recommended level of 0.7, it is important to note that SBCUD has still not reduced our fluoride to that amount.)

Dr. Thiessen says that several studies in other countries have shown "associations or correlations between the presence of dental fluorosis and a higher risk of adverse health effects, including those on thyroid function, decreased IQ, and increased risk of bone fracture." She also stated that the best available studies in the U.S. show no benefit of water fluoridation on dental health and no relationship between fluoride intake and caries (cavities or decay) experience. Dr. Thiessen allows that the only "benefit" of fluoride is topical exposure (from toothpaste) and that drinking water contributes essentially nothing to topical exposure since we do not "swish" our drinking water in our mouths before swallowing.

The report from Dr. Thiessen addresses that, while the proposed recommendation for a lower national fluoride level in drinking water is a step in the right direction, and a quiet admission that some people are ingesting too much fluoride, there are still too many unanswered concerns. Infants, people with hypersensitivity to fluoride, athletes and

laborers who have high water consumption, and persons with impaired kidney functions or diabetes all deserve to be protected.

Dr. Thiessen will be the guest of Harry Grothjahn on WBCR Truth Radio, 1470AM, on April 4th at 5:00 p.m. Call in (983-0891) with your questions or comments on fluoridation. After listening to this lady, who is an authority on the subject, I'm sure you'll join the battle to stop fluoridation.

Comments by Linda King of Citizens for Blount County's Future, contact information: 681-0662, Kinglinda@aol.com

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

by Carol Ross

The Blount County School Board met on March 3, 2011. At the end of the meeting during comments from the Board, Dr. McNeilly and Chairperson Davis defended the building of the Prospect School and referred to the Spencer Report that was done in 1997. They referred all to the School Website to see a presentation on this report presented by Dr. Brian Bell. They did, however, decide to discuss at a later date the cost to the school system to not open the school. This decision will be made by the school board at a later date.

There was little discussion prior to passing all items on the agenda. In Dr. Bell's construction report he reported that the builders had saved \$38,000 so they were going to buy an ornamental power gate for the school and ornamental columns along the drive into the school. He also reported that Porter Elementary needed stage repair due to a water line/steam line problem.

Blount County Teachers of the Year were honored. They are:

- Elementary Teacher of the Year: Mr. Craig Hurst, Mary Blount Elementary
- Middle Grades Teacher of the Year: Ms. Susan Koehl, Carpenters Middle

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- High School Teacher of the Year: Mr. Billy Coning, William Blount High

The next school board meeting will be held on April 6, 2011 at 7:00 at the Central Office Building. *This report was written by Carol Ross. Any opinions are hers and do not reflect the opinions of the publisher or editor of this newsletter. Ms. Ross can be contacted at scent4life@earthlink.net*

ARE YOU READY FOR A GLOBAL ID?

by Tona Monroe

It wasn't so long ago, that our parents and grandparents fought a world war and were victorious against the genocidal tyrant Adolf Hitler, who pushed for world government and had implemented a papers please society in Germany. Unfortunately most Americans today don't realize that we also live in a "papers please" society. What are these papers? Your driver's license or "state issued" ID card.

In 2005, under the guise of fighting terrorism, the federal government passed REAL ID as an amendment to a tsunami relief bill, without any debate in the Senate. It had failed twice before as a standalone bill, but as Rahm Emanuel said, the government never wants to waste a good crisis. In a bill for financial aid to tsunami victims, the District of Criminals (DC) thrust a global ID card on this country.

REAL ID is an unconstitutional mandate with 18 benchmarks for the drivers license (DL) and State issued ID cards. The Department of Homeland Security adopted the International Civil Aviation Organization, an U.N. agency, standard for the digital facial photographic image on driver's licenses. The photo must be facial recognition compatible linking you to a global ID card that affects your ability to buy, sell and travel.

States must join the Drivers License Agreement (DLA) to comply with REAL ID. The DLA allows States to share your information with Mexico and Canada. It's possible that the DLA will expand to include other foreign nations in the future. Identity theft could become rampant with your personal information in Mexico, for illegal aliens and terrorist to steal. The DLA with Mexico and Canada lays the foundation for a North American Union and NAFTA Super Corridor.

The cost of REAL ID implementation is enormous, resulting in the states resurrecting the founding fathers method of dealing with federal tyranny, which is nullification. In essence, nullification occurs when

the states tell the federal government we're not going to take unconstitutional orders from you and we refuse to comply.

If only it were that simple. Despite about half of the States enacting laws prohibiting or resolutions opposing REAL ID, most States are actually working toward compliance of all 18 benchmarks.

In 2009, Tennessee passed HJR 285 urging a two year extension for REAL ID compliance or repeal of the act in its entirety. The Tennessee Department of Safety ignored this resolution and accepted federal grant money, which paid only a small portion of the cost, to implement REAL ID. Bureaucrats rarely resist the intoxicating urge of "free" grant money, no matter what it commits us to.

The TN Department of Safety recently announced a new driver's license complying with REAL ID benchmarks and on March 24 introduced State legislators to a new self-service DL and ID kiosk where you'll be able to renew your global ID card without waiting in line at the DMV. How will the kiosk know it's you? Face recognition software will compare your face with your current picture on file. This means the globalist already have a biometric photo of you and that one world government is coming unless you peacefully resist it now. You can resist now or resist later, but we have a better chance if you start right now!

Call your state legislators and ask them to support HB1874 and SB1638 to ban REAL ID in Tennessee, although this is not enough. Ask them to ban government use of biometrics and RFIDs, defund Fusion Centers, and to repeal the 6th plank communist manifesto driver's license restoring our Creator-given right to travel.

- This article reflects the research and opinions of its author Tona Monroe. She can be reached at tona@breezeair.net and maintains a political blog at www.bcpublicrecord.com where you can read more about REAL ID and Fusion Centers.

Citizens for Blount County's Future

- To promote a smaller, more accountable government
- To protect private property rights
- To defend freedom of speech
- To achieve responsible spending of taxpayer monies resulting in lower taxes

NEXT MEETING APRIL 19th

Meetings are held the Tuesday before the Commission meeting
6:30PM at the Blount County Public Library

SPOKESPERSON: Linda King ph. 681-0662 email: Kinglinda@aol.com