

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**October 29, 2007****6:00 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and at the above stated time in the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex Building, located at 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina, for the purpose of resuming the regular scheduled meeting that was recessed on October 22, 2007.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

James E. Prevatte, **Vice Chairman**
 Amon E. McKenzie
 Bill Memory
 Lynwood Norris
 Ricky Bullard
 Ronald Gore

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Leo Hunt, **Interim County Manager**
 Steven W. Fowler, **County Attorney**
 June B. Hall, **Clerk to Board**

APPOINTEE ABSENT:

Bobbie Faircloth, **Deputy Finance Officer**

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Sammie Jacobs, **Chairman**

MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 6:00 P.M., Vice Chairman Prevatte called the resumed Regular Session Board Meeting to order, and stated the Board would enter into Closed Session for the purpose of interviewing one (1) applicant for the County Manager's position.

DISCUSSION of BENEFITS ENTITLED to JIM VARNER by SIGNED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT:

Vice Chairman Prevatte stated the Board requested that Steven W. Fowler, Columbus County Attorney, review the Employment Agreement of Jim Varner, former Columbus County Manager. The purpose of the request was for the Board to make a determination of what benefits he may be entitled to, due to recent discussions between Mr. Varner and Mr. Leo Hunt, Interim County Manger. The Board requested Mr. Fowler and Leo Hunt, Interim County Manager, to report their findings on the contents of the Employment Agreement.

Mr. Hunt stated that from his interpretation of the Employment Agreement, Jim Varner, former County Manager, is due the following:

1. Ninety-six (96) hours of sick leave could be used;
2. Two hundred twelve and 67/100 (212.67) hours of annual leave time; **and**
3. Longevity pay.

Mr. Fowler stated that from his interpretation of the Employment Agreement, Jim Varner, former County Manager, may be due the following:

1. Ninety-six (96) hours of sick leave; **and**
2. Annual leave; **and**
3. Possible longevity.

Discussion was conducted relative to the following:

1. Time sheet record keeping;
2. Consideration of the need for time sheet record keeping by the County Manager; **and**
3. Sections of the Columbus County Personnel Manual that may be relevant to this situation.

After further discussion was conducted relative to this matter, it was the general consensus of the Board that Leo Hunt, Interim County Manager, contact Jim Varner and request the total amount of time away from work that had been taken by him for any, and all reasons, during his employment with Columbus County. Based on that conversation, offer him an amount of fair compensation.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) PERSONNEL:

At 6:17 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and RESUME REGULAR SESSION:

At 7:21 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

At 7:22 P.M., Commissioner Memory made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (3) Attorney-Client Privilege, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

No official action was taken.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:

At 7:59 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Norris. The motion unanimously carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

At 8:00 P.M., Commissioner McKenzie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gore. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED:

JUNE B. HALL, Clerk to Board

SAMMIE JACOBS, Chairman