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Commission scrambles to fill top post

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BUNNELL -- Flagler County Administrator Doug Wright left his post Friday, several weeks shy of the 60 days notice required by his contract.

[CB&A Note: Several Paragraphs of the Article That Occurred Here Have Been Omitted]

[Commissioner] Holland told the board Jarrell told her he "was not looking forward" to covering both his post as deputy administrator and Wright's post, too. She recommended the commission utilize Florida City and County Management Association's "Range Rider Program" to find a temporary replacement for Wright. The Range Rider Program is a no-cost service that utilizes former city and county managers to assist elected officials in the hiring process.

"I have no aspirations to be the county administrator," Jarrell told commissioners. He admitted that decision was, in part, because of "tough times" on the horizon, but said it may be easier for him to "keep the ship moving than [get an outsider serving as interim manager] up to speed."

In the end, commissioners approved a nationwide search for an administrator that is estimated to cost \$20,000. Commissioners decided not to accept bids and hired Colin Baenziger & Associates out of Wellington, based on the firm's recent "successes" in Palm Coast and St. Johns County.

"I was impressed at how in-depth they go (during the recruiting process)," said Joseph Mayer, human resources director.