



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Severance agreements allow County to move forward

Knoxville, Tenn. — Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett today signed off on an agreement that will give equal payments to three former employees who were promised severance pay by the previous administration. This move will save taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Under the County's individual agreements with the three former employees, Susanne Dupes, Larry Frank and Bruce Wuethrich will each receive a net amount of \$13,000 from Knox County. Before withholding taxes and retirement contributions are deducted, the agreements amount to \$51,330.06 in total.

"Knox County Law Director Joe Jarret advised me that litigation costs alone would likely cost taxpayers \$100,000, whereas deciding to make a one-time payment would cost the county half that, if not less, depending on the outcome of any litigation that may have taken place," Mayor Burchett said. "This decision allows us to save taxpayer money without having a negative impact of the service or efficiency of county government."

As part of the agreement, each employee waives all claims against Knox County concerning this matter.

"This is a business decision that just makes sense, and now it's time for Knox County to keep moving forward," Mayor Burchett said.

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