



Board names new county manager

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Charles M. Jackson was announced as the new Northampton County Manager Monday by members of the Northampton County Board of Commissioners. The announcement came after the board held a closed session meeting that lasted almost an hour. The purpose of the special called meeting was to discuss personnel issues.

Jackson, a Whiteville native currently living and working in Richmond, Virginia, was one of more than 30 people who applied for the job, said Northampton County Interim County Manager Robert Murphy, following the meeting's adjournment. Jackson will take over from Murphy starting July 15 at a salary of \$95,000 per year, according to Northampton County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charles Tyner.

Tyner said the board decided on Jackson as the county's new manager due to his experience following the meeting's adjournment.

"He has a lot of experience in finance and county government," Tyner said. "He has worked in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area and in Wake County. Out of all the candidates that we interviewed, we felt that he brings all the things the county needs."

Jackson was not on hand for Monday's announcement. Northampton County Board of Commissioners Vice Chair Geneva Riddick-Faulkner said his absence was work-related. "He is currently working in Richmond, and he wanted to respect his current employers," Riddick-Faulkner said. "It's just a professional courtesy. He will be here on July 1, but will start working July 15."

According to biographical information provided at Monday afternoon's meeting, Jackson has more than 15 years of public service experience at the local, county and state levels. The information additionally states Jackson specializes in fiscal policy, operations management and program evaluation.

Jackson's bio states he most recently worked as a fiscal and policy adviser to the Richmond City Council. Some of his duties in the position included coordinating the city's budgets, analyzing legislation focused on local taxes and fiscal policies, and managing community and policy matters. While employed with the State of North Carolina, Jackson worked on the fiscal and policy of Medicaid programs and initiatives, according to his biographical information. He also served as liaison between the state and its federal and county government stakeholders. Jackson's biography notes that he has also worked with the City of Raleigh, providing oversight to one of the city's multi-million dollar enterprise funds. The fund supports the operation of the city's residential recycling and solid waste programs.

Jackson's appointment as the new Northampton County Manager comes more than four months after Murphy was hired to replace the county's former county manager, Kimberly Turner. Turner resigned Feb. 4 and was replaced by Murphy two days later on Feb. 6.

Under Murphy's management, Northampton County received its fiscal year 2016-17 audit, which was delayed due to issues such as bank reconciliations and staffing issues. The county also completed and adopted its budget for FY 2019-20 under Murphy's leadership.

Murphy talked about his time working in Northampton County following the board's meeting Monday in Jackson.

"I really enjoyed working with the board members," Murphy said. "They were great to work with. I am looking forward to getting back to retirement, though."

Northampton County Commissioner Nicole Boone said she is optimistic about Jackson's addition to the county.

"I firmly believe he will work well with us and with the county," Boone said.

Jackson said in a statement to the board, he is looking forward to starting his new job.

"I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve in Northampton County," Jackson said.