



# COUNTY OF PATRICK

*Board of Supervisors*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Patrick County Board of Supervisors Appoints New County Administrator

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Beth Simms as its new County Administrator.

The Board announced the hiring at its meeting tonight after approving an employment agreement with Ms. Simms.

Ms. Simms is a native of Franklin County, Virginia and currently serves as its Director of Economic Development. She also has private sector experience in sales and as a small business owner and has taught in the public school system.

Ms. Simms will succeed Geri Hazelwood, who resigned from the position of County Administrator on March 1. Retired Henry County Administrator Tim Hall, an Executive Manager with the Berkley Group, has served as Interim County Administrator during the recruitment process for a new manager.

Board Chair Clayton Kendrick said, "We are pleased to have found someone with diverse experience and a familiarity with Patrick County to serve as our County Administrator. The Board was impressed with Beth's



knowledge of local government, her experience in economic development and tourism, her enthusiasm for this new role, and her intention to continue to grow professionally to better serve the citizens of Patrick County. We look forward to working with Beth to build on the assets of the County and further improve its quality of life for all of its residents.”

The Board of Supervisors conducted a national search for the new County Administrator, assisted by The Berkley Group, of Bridgewater, Virginia. The Berkley Group received applications and conducted initial interviews with the most qualified candidates. It then assisted with selecting finalists for interviews with the Board.

Ms. Simms received a Bachelor’s degree from Ferrum College and has done post-graduate work in government, education, and accounting at Hollins University and the University of North Carolina/Greensboro. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma’s Economic Development Institute and the University of Virginia’s Local Government Equity Clinic.

Ms. Simms started her working career while still in college and was ultimately promoted to a management position in the restaurant industry. She served as a Social Studies teacher for two years in Henry County and was then the owner of a CrossFit business in Eden, N.C. Relocating to Rocky Mount, Virginia, where she currently resides, Ms. Simms worked in the beverage industry and became an active community volunteer. In 2020 she was appointed as the Cultural and Economic Development Director of the Town of Rocky Mount, responsible for business development, tourism, and the operations of the Harvester Performance Center. Ms. Simms became the Director of Economic Development for Franklin County in 2021.

Ms. Simms said “I am honored and excited to have this opportunity to continue my career in local government in a region that I and my family love. I look forward to moving to Patrick County and working with the Board of Supervisors to implement its vision for the community. I appreciate the confidence that the Board has shown in me, and I am anxious to get to work in service to the Board, the staff, and the citizens of Patrick County.”

Ms. Simms will assume her duties as Patrick County Administrator on October 12, 2023.