



January 13, 2025

The Surry County Board of Supervisors at the January 12th special meeting announced the retirement of County Administrator Melissa Rollins, effective July 1, 2026, marking the culmination of an extraordinary 31-year career in local government service. Ms. Rollins was recognized by the International County Management Association (ICMA), for her three decades of service. During her time with the County, she became a Certified Credential Manager under ICMA.

Ms. Rollins served Surry County for 24 years, providing steady, visionary leadership and working in close partnership with the Board of Supervisors, County staff, jurisdictions across Hampton Roads and the Crater Regions and the community. During her tenure, the County achieved significant advancements in broadband access, public safety, capital infrastructure, fiscal stewardship, economic development, and regional collaboration—positioning Surry County as a model for effective rural governance.

Chairman Robert Elliott praised Ms. Rollins' service, stating:

“Melissa Rollins has dedicated her career to public service, and Surry County has been profoundly shaped by her leadership. Her integrity, commitment to excellence, and deep care for this community have left a lasting footprint. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I extend our sincere gratitude for her decades of service and wish her the very best in a well-earned retirement.”

The Board also expressed appreciation for Ms. Rollins' continued commitment to the organization during the transition period and her focus on ensuring the County remains well positioned for continued success.

As part of this transition, the Board announced its intent to name David Harrison as Interim County Administrator, effective upon Ms. Rollins' retirement. Mr. Harrison has served as Deputy County Administrator for the past four years. Prior to his current role, he served the County as Economic Development Director and Planning Director. He has also served on the

Surry County Economic Development Authority and previously was appointed to the Surry County Board of Supervisors to fill the vacancy of his father, the Late Mr. Reginald O. Harrison.

Mr. Harrison holds a degree in Public Administration from Virginia State University, where he began his career in senior administrative roles. He brings a broad and diverse depth of knowledge and experience to the organization and has been instrumental in securing millions of dollars in federal grant funding for critical water infrastructure projects. The Board expressed confidence in Mr. Harrison's ability to provide continuity of leadership and to advance the County's strategic priorities during the interim period.