



## **Buncombe County Board of Commissioners**

### **Request for Board Action**

**Meeting Date: 8/6/2019**

#### **Presentations**

**Department:** Internal Audit

**Presenter(s):** Larry Harris, Chair  
Internal Audit Committee

**Contact(s):** Margaret Ellis, Interim HR Director

**Subject:** Consent to Hire Trisha Burnett as Internal Audit Director

#### **Brief Summary:**

The position of Internal Audit Director was vacated on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The position was advertised for a three week period from May 14<sup>th</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>. Eleven qualified applications were received, one withdrew from consideration, and the remaining ten were invited to participate in phone interviews with a panel of four staff members. The highest score was automatically invited to interview with the Audit Sub-Committee. We invited the second and third highest scores to an in-person interview to determine the second candidate to present to the Audit Sub-Committee. The Audit Sub-Committee requested to only review two candidates. The Audit Sub-Committee conducted in-person interviews with the two finalists and Trisha Burnett, who had the highest score in the phone interviews, was moved forward to Skype with the full Audit Committee. The Internal Audit Committee, by a majority vote, nominated Trisha Burnett to the Board of Commissioners to fill the office of Internal Audit Director with a tentative start date of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at an annual salary of \$93,615.

Trisha holds C.P.A., C.I.A., & C.F.E. credentials. She has served in the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor and as Chief Auditor for the University of Oregon, where she built the Internal Audit department. Trisha's skill and supervisory experience convinced the committee that she is the best fit for this position. Her passion for public service will make her an asset to the County and those this function serves.

#### **Recommended Motion & Requested Action:**

Requesting Board consent to hire Trisha Burnett as Internal Audit Director

#### **County Manager's comments and Recommendation:**

Manager recommends approval.

## Trisha Burnett

Trisha was born and raised in the Asheville area. She received her undergraduate degree in Accounting from UNC Asheville and her Masters in Accounting from Western Carolina University. She holds active CPA licenses in NC and OR, as well as the international Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) certifications.

Trisha spent most of her career in public service in Western North Carolina. She worked the majority of her time with the NC Office of the State Auditor with audit responsibilities over state universities, community colleges, and clerks of superior court. She also served as the Director of Internal Audit for UNC Asheville.

For the past four and a half years, she has lived in Eugene, Oregon, drawn to the opportunity of helping to create the University of Oregon's first ever Office of Internal Audit. She currently leads a team of four staff that includes three audit professionals and a support professional. She developed a partnership with the College of Business to provide opportunities for students to learn and work in the internal audit field.

Her goal is to integrate internal audit into everyday operations of any organization she works, including – given the opportunity – Buncombe County. She strongly believes in partnering, collaborating, and communicating with those she works with, as well as leveraging all resources possible, to ensure the best processes are in place that allow the mission and objectives of an organization to be met.