

# Kini Hamby Named North Wilkesboro Interim Fire Chief

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Veteran firefighter Kini Hamby has been named interim chief of the North Wilkesboro Fire Department.

The decision was made late last week by Interim Town Manager Scott Buffkin, said North Wilkesboro Mayor Marc Hauser in an interview with *The Wilkes Record*.

Hamby, 58, is filling the void left by Jimmy Martin, whose retirement was effective as of Friday, Oct. 7. Hamby has served on the fire department since 1988, starting as a volunteer. He became a fulltime North Wilkesboro firefighter in 1996, and has been an engineer for nearly three decades.

Hamby, in an interview with *The Wilkes Record*, said he's excited about the position. "I'm just getting my feet wet," he said, adding, "I'm looking forward to it."

A permanent replacement for Martin will be selected by Holly Minton, who will be sworn in on Monday, Oct. 17, as North Wilkesboro's new town manager, Hauser said, adding that the town is accepting applications for the position.

Hamby said he plans to apply for the fulltime chief's job.

Minton was hired and Martin announced his retirement both during the Oct. 4 meeting of the North Wilkesboro Town Board of Commissioners.

Hamby will be sworn in for the interim position at 9 a.m., Oct. 12, in Mayor Hauser's office in North Wilkesboro Town Hall.

Hamby is the brother of former longtime North Wilkesboro Fire Chief Niki Hamby.