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Wilbur Dean appointed as county coordinator via 3-2 vote



Wilbur Dean speaks to the Levy County Commission.

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 18, 2017 at 8:07 a.m.

LEVY COUNTY -- Despite the mention of potentially switching from the antiquated county coordinator method of running Levy County to having a county manager or county administrator, a short discussion and then a quick motion by Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks, seconded by County Commissioner Mike Joyner on Tuesday (Jan. 17) led to the appointment of Wilbur Dean as the county coordinator - effective immediately.

Dean was the assistant to the county coordinator.



The appointment came after a motion by Commissioner Lilly Rooks (left) was seconded by Commissioner Mike Joyner.

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Listed as a request from Levy County Human Resources Manager Jacqueline Martin as "Request direction from the Board on how to proceed with filling the vacancy left by Mr. (Freddie) Moody's retirement," Rooks almost instantly made a motion to appoint Dean.

That was followed by a second by Joyner. Commissioners Matt Brooks and Rock Meeks both stated their opinion that Dean had performed well as the assistant county coordinator.

County Commission Chairman John Meeks said the county leaders may want to consider changing to a county manager form of leadership for the day-to-day operation of Levy County.

When the vote was called, it was Chairman Meeks and Commissioner Brooks who voted "No."



County Commissioner Matt Brooks (left) and County Commission Chairman John Meeks voted 'No' to the appointment.

After the meeting, the chairman said his vote was not a reflection on his not feeling Dean had done a good job as assistant county coordinator or that he was not the best choice. However, Chairman Meeks said after the meeting, had the County Commission advertised for more candidates and Dean been the choice over the other contenders, then that may have been better for Dean as well as for the county.

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County Attorney Anne Bast Brown (left) is seen during the meeting. To her right, County Commissioner Rock Meeks is among the three who voted in favor of Wilbur Dean being the person to replace now-retired County Coordinator Freddie Moody.

There was some discussion during the meeting about the recently-filled post of assistant to the county coordinator. Dick Tummond formerly held that post. In his job, Tummond handled SHIP loans and other facets of county government. After Tummond's retirement from county work, Chairman Meeks saw Moody having to answer the phone one day due to a staffing shortage, and that is when he felt motivated to get that post filled.

Dean's selection as assistant to the county coordinator, Chairman Meeks said, should not have been seen as him being the "heir apparent," just as the next person to be chosen for that post should not feel some sort of automatic choice is bound to happen.

Dean has experience as a member of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners as well. He served two, four-year terms there -- from 1992 until 2000.