

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

September 09, 2021

The Redistricting Committee convened at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, September 9, 2021, in the County Board Room at 181 West Seminary Street and via videoconference and teleconference.

Committee members present included: Bob Frank, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Chad Cosgrove, Aaron Joyce, Bobbi Ann Goplin, Susie Hauri, Alan Lins, Dorothy Thompson, and John Poole.

Others present included: Derek Kalish, County Clerk; Lynn Newkirk, GIS Technician; Tammy Wheelock, Deputy County Clerk.

- 1. Call to order:** Frank called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2. Proof of notification:** Kalish verified that the meeting had been properly noticed.
- 3. Agenda approval:** Motion by Thompson, second by Cosgrove for approval of agenda. All ayes, motion carried.
- 4. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Motion by Poole, second by Goplin to approve minutes from August 26, 2021 meeting. All ayes, motion carried.
- 5. Discussion and Possible Action on the Tentative Plan:** Kalish presented the adopted guidelines and gave brief overview of tentative plan.

Newkirk explained that with the tentative plan, 3 townships are affected. Sylvan would have an additional ward added, making a total of 3 wards. Marshall would have 1 ward removed, making a total of 1 ward in that township. Dayton would have an additional ward added, making a total of 2 wards. Minor changes were made to Buena Vista and Rockbridge Townships and the City of Richland Center.

Murphy-Lopez commented that he'd like to see more compactness, and referenced "Guideline 3.) Make districts contiguous and compact, and not irregularly shaped." Noting that 7 districts are under .20 in compactness. Frank comments that the guideline also says contiguous, which needs to be taken into consideration. Thompson notes that District 9 does not appear contiguous or compact, to which Kalish referenced his conversation with the Legislative Redistricting Board, which they recommended focusing on deviation. Kalish stated that all districts are within legal parameters with the tentative plan. Hauri approves of the changes made, thinks that less change the better as it ultimately impacts the Town Clerks and voters. Per Kalish, to make the districts more compact we'd have to look at changing the number of supervisory districts. Goplin questions when the process to reduce supervisory districts should start. Kalish states closer to the 2030 census. Frank notes that the redistricting process for 2020 census is a unique one with Covid-19.

Hauri questions if a resolution is needed to pass these changes at the township level. Kalish states only the township with the ward added. He will work with and support the affected townships.

Newkirk displays and explains changes to the City of Richland Center. Joyce believes the redistricting process was successful. Mentions District 14 is "lightest" but purposely kept that way to accommodate for expected growth. Kalish also approves of the changes and states they put thought into the future when making the changes they did.

Poole questions how or if citizens are notified of changes in their districts. Kalish explains that is partially the purpose of the Public Hearing or they can contact their municipal clerks. Ultimately, it is the voters' responsibility to know their polling place.

Motion made by Hauri to accept the tentative plan, second by Cosgrove. Ayes by Frank, Cosgrove, Joyce, Goplin, Hauri, Lins, Thompson, and Poole. No by Murphy-Lopez. Motion carries. Murphy-Lopez expresses that he would like more attention given to “Guideline 3.) Make districts contiguous and compact, and not irregularly shaped.”

Thompson asks what the procedure is if anyone objects at the Public Hearing. Kalish states the Public Hearing is informational only. Frank notes the committee will call a special meeting if issues are found with the tentative plan.

6. Future Agenda Items: None noted by committee members.

The next meeting will be the Redistricting Public Hearing on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Health and Human Services, 221 W. Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581, in Conference Room C, and via videoconference and teleconference.

7. Adjourn: Motion by Poole, second by Lins to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Tammy Wheelock
Richland County Deputy Clerk