



Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission

Ray Dochterman
Cindy Golding
Sarah Halbrook
Dave Machacek
Nate Willems

Jean Oxley Public Service Center
935 Second Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Minutes

Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission Friday, August 18, 2017

Call to Order: The Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission met in the Informal Board Room at the Jean Oxley Linn County Public Service Center on August 17, 2017. Commission Member Sarah Halbrook called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Members Present: Ray Dochterman, Cindy Golding, Sarah Halbrook, Dave Machacek and Nate Willems.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Joi Alexander, Communications Director; Darrin Gage, Director of Policy & Administration; John Harris, County Supervisor; Beverly Hayden, Recording Secretary; James Houser, County Supervisor; Gary Jarvis, Assistant County Attorney; Brent Oleson, County Supervisor; Ben Rogers, County Supervisor; Jason Siebrecht, GIS Manager and Mitchell Schmidt, The Gazette..

Commission Members and Linn County staff introduced themselves.

Elections of Officers

Willems nominated Halbrook for Chair. Halbrook accepted the nomination. Machacek nominated Dochterman for Chair. Dochterman declined the nomination. There were no further nominations. All members voted to elect Halbrook as Chair.

Willems nominated Dochterman for Vice Chair. Dochterman accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. All members voted to elect Dochterman as Vice Chair.

Gage told the Commission that Iowa Code Section 42.5 provides for Commission members to receive a per diem and travel expenses. Willems moved that commission members not receive a per diem or travel expenses, second by Machacek. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Orientation

Gage recommended Robert's Rules of Order for the Commission's rules of procedure. Willems moved to adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the Commission's rules of procedure, second by Machacek. Motion carried unanimously.

Gage reviewed Iowa Open Meetings and Open Records laws with the Commission. He told members that commission meetings are recorded and posted on the Linn County web site. Jarvis told the Commission that any three members deliberating on Commission business constitutes a quorum and the Commission business must be conducted at a public meeting.

Jarvis discussed provisions of Iowa Code chapters 42, 49 and 331 relating to the Temporary Redistricting Commission and redistricting requirements. He explained that the Commission will use 2010 US Census data to create a supervisor redistricting plan. Jarvis said that prior to Commission adopting a supervisor redistricting plan and submitting it to the Board of Supervisors for approval, the Commission must conduct at least one public hearing at which time the public may present proposed redistricting plans for Commission consideration. After the public hearing is conducted, the Commission will submit a plan to the Board of Supervisors for review and/or approval. If the Board of Supervisors does not approve the plan, it shall provide written reasons to the Commission and direct the Commission to create a second plan. The Board of Supervisors may amend the second plan submitted by the Commission, but must state how the amendment brings the plan closer into conformity with Iowa law. Once the Board of Supervisors approves a plan, it is submitted to the Secretary of State for final approval. The deadline for approval by the Secretary of State is February 15, 2018.

Jarvis further described redistricting criteria contained in Iowa Code Section 42.4, 49.3, 49.4 and 49.6. He said Cedar Rapids shall only be split into two districts. He said one district must be entirely Cedar Rapids population, one district must be the remaining Cedar Rapids population and the necessary population from outside of Cedar Rapids to meet the optimal population target and the other district is the remaining Linn County population. He also said there cannot be more than a 1% variance between the optimal and proposed district populations. Jarvis said that Marion, townships and precincts cannot be divided into more than one supervisor district.

Golding asked if all annexations are complete. Jarvis explained the precinct maps might change for the populations, but the population numbers cannot be changed until the next census count is completed. Willems stated that is the reason why redistricting is done right after a census is taken. Further discussion was held by the Commission regarding the criteria for the maps.

Siebrecht gave a presentation on the software the Linn County GIS Department can use to produce supervisor district maps. He offered space in the GIS office for Commission members to produce their own maps. Jarvis reminded commission members to avoid a quorum outside of a public meeting. Gage gave names of four other companies that provide the GIS service for a fee. Johnson County offered to create maps as a learning tool using the same software used by the Linn County GIS Department. Siebrecht can attend all Commission meetings and change the maps as requested by the Commission, the other companies may, or may not be able to be that flexible. Discussion was held by the Commission regarding which organization or company to use for mapping.

Golding moved for the Commission to use the Linn County GIS Department for the redistricting process, second by Dochterman. Motion carried unanimously.

Golding moved to request three or four supervisor plan maps from the Linn County GIS Department that meet redistricting criteria, second by Machacek. Motion carried unanimously.

Siebrecht will provide maps in PDF format for Commission review

Next Meeting

Discussion was held regarding the next meeting date. It was determined the next meeting will be Friday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Informal Board Room at the Linn County Public Service Center.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Beverly Hayden, Recording Secretary

Approved
Sarah Halbrook, Chair