

**MINUTES
REDISTRICTING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

Members Present: D. Vander Heiden, C. Spears, C. Fallona, D. Culbertson, D. Gabrielson, K. Suprise

Members Excused: J. Nooyen

Chair Spears called the teleconference meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 31, 2021

MOTION: SUPERVISOR D. VANDER HEIDEN/D. GABRIELSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF AUGUST 31, 2021 AS PRINTED. VOTE: AYES; UNANIMOUS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR A PERIOD OF 15 MINUTES (limit 3 minutes per speaker)-NONE

UPDATE ON PHASE 2: MUNICIPAL WARD PLAN PROCESS

Development and Land Services Director Kara Homan indicated there was a public hearing on the tentative supervisory district plan at the beginning of the County Board meeting on September 14, 2021 at which the plan was adopted. At that time, they had already received some feedback from the municipal clerks pointing out some necessary changes for the final supervisory district lines. They immediately began work on all wards in Outagamie County with the exception of City of Appleton and Village of Combined Locks who have indicated they will be able to develop their own ward plans. Once they started the ward plans and took into consideration the feedback received from the clerks, they discovered a few more details to address. Homan provided an update on Phase 2 of the Municipal Ward Plan Process and indicated they did send all of the draft plans to the clerks and have outlined all the necessary dates that each municipality will approve at the municipal level. The entire process continues to be on time and all the ward drafts are complete.

IMPACTS OF WARD PLANS ON TENTATIVE SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS

Homan summarized in general where most of the changes originated. As they were working on the municipal ward plans, they discovered a couple nonconformities in the previous plan that did not meet the population thresholds. Homan explained that the state software made certain areas look like islands but, in actuality, the description clarifies there are no islands which changed how they were to interpret the redistricting principles. A few of the requested changes were more driven to ease election administration with a few of them creating an unnecessary amount of wards in a community or it split up school districts in an odd way. The changes will make it easier to have less ballots and in some cases, the map was much more compact and contiguous. Homan reviewed the changes in the City of Kaukauna and the Town of Kaukauna, they have met with the affected municipality to review and confirm they are supportive of the change from their municipal perspective. Homan and Supervisor Vander Heiden discussed one ward that was undersized causing a move from District 13 back into District 10 which cleaned it up and reduced the County Board Supervisors in the Town of Kaukauna from three to two. They had also met with the City of Kaukauna Clerk who was supportive of the move back into District 10 since for the most part, it is their industrial park that does not have voters in that area.

ILLUSTRATION OF POTENTIAL CHANGES NEEDED TO FINAL SUPERVISORY DISTRICT PLAN IN LIGHT OF DRAFT WARD PLANS

Homan discussed how they found fragments of the Town of Vandenbroeck co-mingled with the Village of Little Chute. The Village of Little Chute Clerk questioned why District 14 instead of District 32. The legal descriptions for both discovered that what looked like islands were not islands and were actually connected by road right of ways. Homan pointed out that when a municipality is contiguous, there is the redistricting principle of keeping the municipalities in one district whenever possible especially when connected legally. They also adjusted population from District 23 back into District 13 and moved that line north so that area is now squared off more and the other area will continue to have squiggly lines due to the set municipal lines. Otherwise, they would have had wards that did not meet population size due to being contiguous.

Supervisor Gabrielson inquired if the areas ever get annexed by the larger community, if it would change their voting for the next ten years. Homan indicated that it does not get changed with annexation and would only get changed when the county reinitiated redistricting. Homan presented a situation where they could not keep municipalities together using the Southside of Kaukauna, District 10-12, as an example. It is a principle to keep municipalities together but there is a point when it gets so big that it has to be split.

Homan demonstrated changes to the area of Apple Creek Road and Broadway Drive that involved a couple details that ended up combining a small portion of the Appleton School District with the Freedom School District. The City of Appleton requested the line be drawn along Broadway Drive so they would not need multiple ballot styles. The change will clean up the map and keep supervisory districts more in alignment with the school district boundaries, simplifying the election administration. There was also a portion in the City of Appleton that was cleaned up in an area that was annexed due to the road right of way for construction. Homan reviewed a very small change along Prospect Avenue and County Highway BB, there were a couple parcels that were flipped from one district to the next with straightening some lines.

Homan reviewed the biggest change involving the Town of Dale, the Town of Hortonia, and the Town of Ellington. It was the area discussed the most when they originally reviewed the maps. One of the goals was to preserve Stephenville and Dale and were not able to achieve that in the initial tentative plan. They knew they could not create a nonconforming ward and also discovered a nonconforming ward in the Town of Ellington with two wards that did not meet the population threshold. Homan reported the best way to fix it was to remove District 31 from the Town of Ellington which means they only have two districts, District 29 and District 36. By taking that population out of District 31, almost all of Stephenville was kept together and they could use the contiguous portion of Town of Hortonia, to put into District 31 which was almost equal population. The change also enabled the Town of Dale to stay together. Overall, it keeps two communities of interest together that could not be kept together previously. District 31 and District 30 deviate the most from target populations, however, considering the WIS 15 bypass being constructed, they anticipate that area will grow the fastest and will eventually reach those population targets within the next ten years. Supervisor Spears supported the changes especially if balloting is simplified and the changes support future growth.

MOTION: SUPERVISOR C. SPEARS/D. VANDER HEIDEN MOVED TO SUPPORT THE CHANGES TO THE TENTATIVE SUPERVISORY DISTRICT MAP AS PRESENTED. VOTE: AYES; UNANIMOUS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT STEPS IN PROCESS

Homan reported that they have sent the ward maps to the municipalities and believes all changes will be solid and not require further attention.

AROUND THE TABLE

Supervisor Spears stressed the importance of the committee to have a supportive nature in doing the best for Outagamie County as they move forward with the maps and make things easier for the clerks. Supervisor Gabrielson confirmed that the updates would be put on the interactive GIS map that is on the Redistricting website.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: SUPERVISOR D. CULBERTSON/C. FALLONA MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 1:34 PM UNTIL NOVEMBER 2, 2021. VOTE: AYES; UNANIMOUS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Tyson

Shelly Tyson, Legislative Services
September 21, 2021