

MINUTES

MONROE COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

DATE and TIME: May 26, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Monroe County Courthouse Annex
Board of Commissioners' Committee Room
125 East Second Street
Monroe, MI 48161

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annamarie Osment, Chairman; Mike Hayter; Bill Kipf; Michael Roehrig; Jesse Stanford

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Boudrie, Jeff McBee, Robin Miller, Ryan Simmons

1. A quorum being present, Ms. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Ms. Miller proceeded to take roll call.
3. Ms. Miller led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Nominations/Election of Chairperson – Ms. Miller opened up nominations for the Chairperson of the Commission. Mr. Roehrig nominated Ms. Osment to be Chairperson. Mr. Stanford seconded the motion. There were no other nominations for Chairperson, so Ms. Miller closed nominations and declared the vote unanimous for Ms. Osment to be Chairperson.
5. Approval of Agenda – Chairperson Osment made sure that all present received a copy of the agenda. She asked for a motion of approval for the agenda.

Motion by Mr. Hayter, supported by Mr. Kipf, to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Introductions – Chairperson Osment asked everyone present to introduce themselves.
7. Meeting Rules – Chairperson Osment asked the Commission whether they wished to follow Robert's Rules and asked for a motion to support this if this is the case.

Motion by Mr. Hayter, supported by Mr. Kipf, for the Apportionment Commission to follow Robert's Rules.

MOTION CARRIED

8. Information – Community Planning and Engagement – Mr. McBee informed the Commission that the Census data are not available yet and may not be available until September 30. He went over the State law that governs the apportionment process and all of the criteria for the number of districts and the population in each district.

Chairperson Osment asked about anything in the law regarding percentage of leeway. Mr. McBee stated that the standard is that there is an 11.9% leeway based upon a U.S. Supreme Court case from a different state. He stated that, in 2010, the difference between the smallest and largest district in the County was 11.09%.

Mr. McBee explained that there is a program that Mr. Boudrie can use to work with the members of the Commission in order to come up with various apportionment scenarios. He asked Chairperson Osment if she has heard anything from the Secretary of State yet regarding the availability of the data. Chairperson Osment stated that she has not heard

anything from them yet but thought that the September 30 date was pretty solid. Chairperson Osment and Mr. McBee both thought that the apportionment work needed to be completed in 60 days after that, although Chairperson Osment was not sure if the State was giving everybody the full 60 days to finish it. Mr. McBee said that he would check to be sure that this is the case.

Mr. McBee stated that it is ultimately up to the Commission about how they would like to get to the process of drawing the final map and that Community Planning and Engagement would ensure that the map follows the legal requirements.

Chairperson Osment asked about setting a date for the members of the Commission to look at the software. Mr. Boudrie stated that he would need a few weeks to download the software. They agreed that sometime in July or August would be the best time to meet for this. Mr. Boudrie stated that he would create a map showing where the current County Commissioners live. He stated that, if the population has not changed that much, then the current districts may not have to change much either. He stated that it was ideal not to split voting precincts, though.

Mr. Stanford asked if last time every member drew their own map. Mr. Boudrie stated that this is correct. Chairperson Osment stated that she did not think that we needed to change the number of County Commissioners from what they are now.

Mr. Kipf asked for clarification about whether the population numbers on the current County Commissioner Districts map are the 2010 Census numbers. Mr. McBee confirmed that they are the 2010 numbers. Mr. Kipf asked if the County keeps track of the population numbers in between the Censuses. Mr. Boudrie stated that there are American Community Survey numbers. Mr. Simmons stated that these are based upon surveys and are not exact counts, though, and that we cannot base the new districts off of these numbers.

Mr. Hayter asked if the software being used to make the maps this time is the same one that was used in 2010. Mr. Boudrie stated that it is the same program, but that there is an online option now and that it is more convenient to use because the data and layers are already stored online. Mr. Boudrie stated that the price of this online package is \$3,500. Mr. Boudrie stated that he would let the Commission know when he has the software ready to use.

Chairperson Osment stated that, once the numbers are released, the Apportionment Commission should meet to devise a plan in order to determine if there is a need to change anything from 2010, and that they can then decide to meet with Mr. Boudrie either individually or collectively. Mr. Boudrie stated that the goal should be to make the districts as equal as possible and that different number of Commissioners might give different results in regard.

Mr. Kipf asked if every county in the State uses nine county commissioners. Mr. McBee replied that counties vary in how many commissioners they have. Mr. Kipf asked about other states and how they do their commissioner districts and stated that in Ohio a county can have just three commissioners. Mr. McBee stated that he is not sure how other states do it. Mr. Boudrie stated that it is up to the apportionment commission to decide the appropriate number of commissioners for Monroe County and thus how much of the county population each commissioner should represent.

Mr. Roehrig stated that he thought what should be done first is to agree on how many commissioners that the County should have, and that not knowing this before consulting Mr. Boudrie might be a waste of his time. Chairperson Osment stated that, once we see the numbers, it will be possible to determine if the number of commissioners might need to change. Mr. Roehrig agreed with this.

Chairperson Osment asked if everybody was comfortable with the process that the Commission would be taking. There were no objections to what was proposed. Mr. Roehrig asked if the next meeting would be in the late summer to look at the software. Chairman Osment stated that this would be the case. Mr. Roehrig asked Mr. Boudrie if this would give him enough time to purchase the software if necessary. Mr. Boudrie stated that it would.

9. Public Comment – There was no public present for the meeting.
10. Adjournment - Motion by Mr Hayter, seconded by Mr. Roehrig, to adjourn the meeting.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED

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