



COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

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Columbia County Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee Minutes September 29, 2021

Members present: James E. Foley, Vern E. Gove, Barry Pufahl, Matthew L. Rohrbeck, John Stevenson, Mike Weyh

Also in attendance during all or portions of the meeting: Nancy Long, Eric Shimpach, Dean Kaderabek, Sue Moll, Joe Ruf, Brian Zirbes

Members of the public in attendance were Marie Moe, Patti Herman, and Tess Carr.

The meeting of the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee was called to order by Chair Foley at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was properly noticed as required by the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. The meeting was held at the Administration building, Meeting Room #113-115, 112 E. Edgewater Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Chair Foley read the rules for non-member participation during Public Input.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Rohrbeck to approve the agenda as published. Second by Pufahl. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion by Rohrbeck to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee meeting. Second by Pufahl. Motion carried.

Public Input

Nancy Long spoke on behalf of the City of Lodi, stating a tentative change was made to the ward boundaries in the City. There was no impact on the County Supervisory district boundaries. Tess Carr spoke on the redistricting priorities and the protection of incumbents should not be set as criteria.

Review Boundaries to the Tentative Supervisory Map

Moll identified some proposed changes to the tentative supervisory district plan. The changes are based on suggestions to keep supervisory district boundaries within school district boundaries to avoid additional ballot styles at polling locations. The impacted municipalities are the Town of Lowville and the Town of Wyocena. A map was distributed with the proposed changes.

Town of Lowville

Suggested changes would impact Supervisory District 15 and Supervisory District 23, adjusting the Supervisory District 15 boundary outside of the Rio School District boundary. The population deviation remains within the 5% margin.

Motion by Pufahl to approve the recommended changes to the tentative plan for consideration by the County Board. Second by Stevenson. Motion carried, not unanimously.

Weyh arrived at 1:21 p.m.

Town of Wyocena

Suggested changes would impact Supervisory District 11 and Supervisory District 15, adjusting the Supervisory District 15 boundary outside of the Rio School District boundary.

Motion by Pufahl to approve the recommended changes to the tentative plan for consideration by the County Board. Second by Stevenson. Motion carried.

City of Wisconsin Dells

The City of Wisconsin Dells proposed a change to Supervisory District 1, based on the completion of a new apartment complex which would raise the population by approximately 120 residents of voting age. The proposed change would move the Supervisory District 1 boundary to Hwy. 13. Discussion was held on the validity of deviating from the 5% margin based on the potential of increased population.

Motion by Rohrbeck to keep the existing tentative plan boundaries for Supervisory District 1 unchanged. Second by Pufahl. Motion carried.

City of Portage

Marie Moe, City of Portage Clerk, presented proposed changes to the City of Portage. A map identifying the proposed wards and potential changes to the tentative county supervisory districts was distributed. The proposed wards have not been considered by the City Council.

Motion by Rohrbeck to hold on a decision until the ward boundaries are approved by the City of Portage Council. Second by Pufahl. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date

Moll stated the deadline for municipalities to approve the ward plans is October 18, 2021.

Motion by Rohrbeck to set the next committee meeting on October 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Second by Pufahl. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing on the Proposed Supervisory District Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Special County Board meeting to adopt the final plan. Moll was directed to publish a Class 3 Public Hearing Notice with the Portage Daily Register. The Notice will also be posted on the Columbia County website along a proposed map, once it is available.

Motion by Rohrbeck to adjourn the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee meeting. Second by Weyh. Motion carried. The Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike Weyh
Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee Secretary

These minutes were recorded by Sue Moll, County Clerk