

CLINTON COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2021

DATE 09/09/2021 CALL TO ORDER	The Clinton County Apportionment Commission met in Organizational session on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with Chairperson Spagnuolo calling the meeting to order pursuant to MCL 46.403(1).
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL	<p>The pledge of allegiance was given to the flag of the United States of America. Roll was called and a quorum reported.</p> <p>Clerk Zuker introduced the members present: Tina Ward, County Treasurer Diane Zuker, County Clerk Tony Spagnuolo, Prosecuting Attorney Jenell Leonard, Republican Party Chairperson Eric Schlenkerman, Democratic Party Chairperson</p>
OTHERS PRESENT	Kam Washburn and Eunice Link.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	<p>The agenda was amended to include the following item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of August 19, 2021 meeting minutes <p>ACTION: Member Ward moved, seconded by Member Leonard to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.</p>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<p>The August 19, 2021 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. There was one typographical correction to be made to a date contained in one of the subtitles of the minutes.</p> <p>ACTION: Member Ward moved, seconded by Member Leonard to amend the minutes to correct the typographical error in the date as noted by the Clerk. Motion carried.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS	<p>Chairperson Spagnuolo called for public comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kam Washburn, Clinton County Board of Commissioner Chairperson stated his purpose in attending this meeting was to gain an understanding of the commission's timeline to finalize their redistricting plan and to provide input. Mr. Washburn stated that the county currently has 7 commissioner districts and functions very well with 7 members. He would like to see the county continue with 7 Commissioners, even with the increase in population from the 2020 census.
LEGAL OPINIONS – DISCUSSION	Chairperson Spagnuolo noted that recent legal opinions concluded that the official release of census data was on August 12, 2021. Even though there seems to be conflicting information about the date of the official release, the members all agreed that we should err on the side of caution and proceed using August 12 th at the date of the release. Members felt there would be less risk by using an earlier date.

NUMBER OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

Chairperson Spagnuolo introduced discussion regarding the number of Commissioner Districts for Clinton County.

Member Ward stated that historically the commission has decided on the number of commission members before drawing or introducing any plans.

In 1970, Clinton County had 11 Commissioner Districts, however since that time the County has had 7 Districts.

Members briefly discussed pros and cons of increasing the number vs. leaving the number at 7.

Member Leonard stated that she felt the county runs efficiently and effectively with 7 members and she would like to see the number remain at 7.

All members verbally stated they agreed with the number of county commission members remaining at 7.

ACTION: Member Ward moved, seconded by Member Schlenkerman to keep the number of Commissioner Districts at 7. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

Members discussed the timeline and scheduling the future meetings, knowing that the process must be completed by October 11th. Therefore, the members have set Tuesday, September 27 @ 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 5 @ 7:00 p.m. for the next meeting dates and times.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC
COMMENTS

Chairperson Spagnuolo called for additional public comments. There were none.

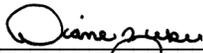
OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Spagnuolo called for any other business.

Clerk Zuker introduced discussion regarding the district variance. She stated that the variance should be 11.9% according to 413 Mich. 224, whereby the Supreme Court concluded that a districting plan meets the constitutional population standards if the total departure of the largest to the smallest district from the average size does not exceed 11.9%. She noted that other percentages have been circulating, but do not appear to have any backing. All members agreed that the variance of 11.9% is what should be factored in when drawing proposed plans based on the Supreme Court ruling.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: With no further business to come before the Commission, Member Zuker moved, seconded by Member Leonard to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried.



Diane Zuker, County Clerk

NOTE: These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of the Commission.