

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NUMBER AND APPORTIONMENT OF COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS
County Office Complex
August 10, 2021

Attendance: Chairperson Jim Brey, Supervisor Susie Maresh, Supervisor Rick Gerroll, Supervisor Rick Henrickson, Supervisor Jim Baumann, Supervisor Rita Metzger, and Supervisor Ken Sitkiewitz. Also in attendance were County Clerk Jessica Backus, Associate Planner and GIS Specialist Andrea Raymakers, and GIS Coordinator Matt Randerson. Supervisors Jamie Aulik and Kevin Behnke were excused.

Call to Order: Chairperson Brey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion on the roles and responsibilities of county departments:

Chairperson Brey handed the discussion over to County Clerk Backus who informed the committee that Associate Planner Raymakers and GIS Coordinator Randerson would work together to create the twenty-five supervisory districts once the census numbers are received from the federal government.

The County Clerk's Office will work with Planning and Zoning in regards to any questions they may have while drawing the lines and with the municipalities in coordinating timelines and resolutions/ordinances.

Supervisor Baumann questioned the population on the reports Planning and Zoning provided. GIS Coordinator Randerson provided the formulas they must use when it comes to spreading the population out for each district.

Supervisor Sitkiewitz questioned if the County works on the City of Manitowoc's districting. Associate Planner Raymakers responded the County provides the City with the tentative county supervisory district plan. The City will then try to line the aldermanic districts with the supervisory districts.

Discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the municipalities:

Clerk Backus informed the committee that for the 2011 redistricting, the County reached out to the municipalities, with great success, to see if they would like County Planning and Zoning to draw their ward boundaries. She has reached out to the municipal clerks in regards to County Planning and Zoning drawing the ward boundaries again for 2021 redistricting. As of today, a majority of the towns and villages would like assistance from the County Planning and Zoning Department with drawing the boundaries. The City of Two Rivers is an at-large council, which means they do not have aldermanic districts. They would like Planning and Zoning to draw their ward boundaries for them. The City of Kiel would like their aldermanic districts drawn by Planning and Zoning as well. The City of Manitowoc will draw their aldermanic districts after they receive the tentative county supervisory district plan.

Clerk Backus and Planning and Zoning would work together to send the ward boundaries map along with a resolution to each municipal clerk after the tentative county supervisory district plan is passed by the County Board at the September 21 meeting. The municipal clerks would then present it to the Town or Village Board, or City Council for discussion and hopefully approval at their late September/early October meetings. The municipal clerk would then send a copy of the signed resolutions back to the County Clerk's office by October 15. This would allow Planning and Zoning a week to make any changes before the final supervisory district plan is presented to the County Board at the October 25 meeting.

Supervisor Metzger commented that she did not like the fact that two supervisory districts were combined in 2011. She had to run against the other supervisor because of the combination. Associate Planner Raymakers mentioned the City sent their plan back with the aldermanic district that did not match the county supervisory district. She had to move the lines to coordinate the two. Clerk Backus also mentioned if this wouldn't have been done it would have created two supervisory district ballots for the one polling location causing confusion to the voter and poll workers.

Discussion on the guiding principles for drawing district lines:

GIS Coordinator Randerson mentioned he and Associate Planner Raymakers have taken the virtual trainings with Legislative Technology Services Bureau to prepare for the redistricting. He went through the timeline that they provided with the five stages that need to take place. Stage zero is geometry errors or annexation fixes. Stage one is the supervisory district plan. Stage two is the municipal ward plans. Stage three is reconciliation between the supervisory districts and ward plans. The last stage is the aldermanic plans. The principles for drawing the district lines are based off of contiguity, compactness, population variance, and preservation of communities of interest. Associate Planner Raymakers went over her handout of the definitions of each principle. She explained apportionment; when the maximum population deviation between the largest and smallest district is less than ten percent, a state or local legislative map presumptively complies with the one-person, one-vote rules. We have to follow that ten percent.

Supervisor Baumann questioned whether the populations were correct on the handout. Associate Planner Raymakers informed him the handout is the 2010 census numbers and not the current numbers. She used 2010 as an example of what the diagram will look like when the maps are drawn.

Discussion on the redistricting timeline:

Chairperson Brey presented the redistricting timeline. The one thing we have to wait for is the census numbers and once we receive those the drawing can begin. We are hoping the numbers will be sent by August 23. Clerk Backus mentioned only one map should be drawn. Associate Planner Raymakers said they can do that and then move lines on that one map where necessary. Also, with the supervisory district number staying at twenty-five, they could bring in the 2011 map and make any necessary changes from there as well. Chairperson Brey asked to have the new 2021 map and the 2011 map at the next meeting which would allow everyone to see where and why changes may have been made.

Chairperson Brey has a lot of confidence that Planning and Zoning will be able to get the maps drawn quickly to stay on the timeline.

Adjournment: Supervisor Baumann moved to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Sitkiewitz. Motion passed unanimously. The committee adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Backus, County Clerk