

LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2011

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following Committee members were present: James Heisler, Chairman; Ersel Schuster; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; John Jung, Jr.; Marc Munaretto and Pete Merkel. Nick Provenzano joined the committee by conference phone. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Adam Lehmann, Assistant to the County Administrator; Nicole Gattuso and Brittney Venetucci, GIS; Dr. Michael Fortner, and the press.

James Heisler, Chairman	
John Jung, Jr.	Pete Merkel
Marc Munaretto	Nick Provenzano
Kathleen Bergan Schmidt	Ersel Schuster

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes from April 14, 2011. Ms. Schuster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jung to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Redistricting: Mr. Jung made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schuster recommending approval of the above Resolution as presented. Ms. Schmidt made a motion to amend to the last line in the Resolution to be presented to the County Board at the May 17th meeting for consideration instead of May 3rd. She stated that she does not believe there has been sufficient time to hear from the constituents on this issue. She stated this issue has not been asked of the constituents and she feels they should be given ample time to provide their opinion on this issue. She stated a press release could be sent out requesting opinions from the public. Committee members were informed that the timeline was reviewed by all of the County Board members at the Committee of the Whole meeting and was agreed on. The motion to amend failed for a lack of a second. The original motion carried with the majority of members present voting aye on a voice vote (Jung, Merkel, Munaretto, Schuster, Provenzano, Heisler) Schmidt (nay)

Dr. Michael Fortner from Rebecca C. Hall Consultants, joined committee members to provide expertise to the redistricting process. The guidelines have been established and Dr. Fortner will review the final elements that may need to be considered for the map design. Dr. Fortner stated that the Resolution sets the basic parameters for the new map. There will be a number of other criteria that could come into play as any decision made will change the shape of the map. This committee has a timeline that has been set so now the committee members need to work their way through the fundamentals, then prioritize the goals and look at each criteria to determine what is valued most. Committee members questioned if the County should pay a consultant for this process or use staff and the software purchased for this purpose. They stated we have the mechanical tools and staff to create the maps so they questioned why pay for dual processes. It was stated that Dr. Fortner would guide the committee through the criteria to make sure they stay within the law. Dr. Fortner is an expert with the software package. Population numbers were reviewed for each District. District 5 needs the most change with 17,000 to be dropped from the District.

The County has already benefitted with the information that has been provided to the County by Dr. Fortner. It was noted that there is already a list of criteria that must be followed. This Committee agreed it would be better to follow the precinct lines as the Districts are already cut up. This would allow for the formation of a basic map.

LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 28, 2011

Page 2

Committee members suggested that District 6 remain as "rural" as possible so that it doesn't get run over by other interests in the County. Dr. Fortner stated that this would become a "priority criteria". Some committee members voiced concern that District 6 was still so large geographically. Besides the population, you get into different cultures. This puts one district into half of the county geographically. It was stated that District 5 is the district with the most over population so that is where the consideration for change should start. It was stated that if this is true, District 4 could remain as is as well. It was stated that one of the most important issues would be to try to preserve the precinct lines. They stated they also do not want to divide communities if it could be helped. Trying to preserve the precinct lines makes sense as these lines are already set. Dr. Fortner noted that as part of the process there will be some precincts changed. It was stated that one of the reasons Dr. Fortner is here is to make sure we are building a legal map. It was suggested that the committee stay away from the maps until the criteria has been set and the questions answered. Each criteria priority will change the way the map looks. Keeping District 6 is a core value but will not freeze District 6 in its current position. Committee members stated that they feel the importance would be to prioritize Municipalities over Townships or Townships over Municipalities. In some districts a township may carry more importance for others a municipality will be more important. It will be up to the committee to review the maps to see what makes more sense. If townships become a lead factor, this will tend to rotate the map clockwise, which would move 8 or 9 precincts. They would then need to decide if it is more important to keep Dorr Township or Grafton Township intact. They could decide to put Grafton Township back together as well. Crystal Lake is in four townships and is in largely 3 county board districts. Dr. Fortner stated that when they are drawing the maps they try to keep each municipality in no more than two (2) county board districts. Committee members questioned if they could take into account projected future growth. They could try not to pack high growth areas within the same district.

Committee members agreed that the first criterion should be precinct lines. They would like to see maps to see what the maps would show if municipal lines were the second priority and township lines third and another map that would show township lines second and municipal lines third. They may want to avoid putting a township in three districts and to try to keep townships as in tact as possible. In some parts of the county the priorities may have to flip. Even though Crystal Lake is in four townships, they may be able to put them into just two county board districts instead of three. There will be some major changes in the South Eastern portion of the county resulting in alternations to all of the districts.

Committee members stated they would like to see three maps to review at the next committee meeting on May 12th. This would allow the committee to get some maps in front of them in order to make an informed decision. They would like to see a map that keeps Districts 4 and 6 largely intact. They requested that maps be created based on precinct lines being the first priority with municipal lines second and township lines third and then precinct lines, township lines, municipal lines. They would also like to see a map to see the rural areas as is with Grafton all in one district, which would require that some of Richmond to be moved into District 6, which still follows the rural request.

Committee members asked if they could receive electronic copies of the maps prior to the next committee meeting for review. It was stated that Dr. Fortner will provide direction with staff on the maps and bring them back to the next committee meeting for discussion.

Mr. Provenzano left committee at 10:16 a.m.

Mr. Austin reminded committee members that Dr. Fortner is also a State Representative from the 95th District. He questioned if there has been consideration by the State of the consolidation of "governments" within the State? Dr. Fortner noted that the issue with the most traction is to create a commission to study the issue. He stated that if we do away with local governments, who would be required to pick up the costs of the other government. When costs are shifted, it is possible that the overall costs for the services could increase. There may be some types of services that can be joined, that is what this proposed commission would determine. In the 1960's the State encouraged the formation of districts. Each district (fire, park, library etc) peeled off into a different district. This may have been good in the past, but now it is becoming more expensive to run. This can't just be "undone". Most of these districts have been created by referendums. The legislators look at referendums very seriously as they are the voice of the people.

An additional question was if Dr. Fortner saw any changes being brought forward on CMAP. Mr. Austin stated that it is important that the Counties protect what they have. Dr. Fortin stated the Counties are more in danger of losing funding or not getting their share of any increase.

Approved 05 12 11

LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 28, 2011

Page 3

Committee members questioned if there had been any word regarding the Local Government Distributive Formula (LGDF). More information will be available to report on Tuesday.

Committee members were provided an update on the State Legislation. Updates are provided in yellow.

Mr. Austin informed committee members that a letter is being drafted to send to the State in support of Probation funding. He stated he just wanted to inform committee members that this letter was being sent.

Mr. Merkel informed committee members that they had a discussion at the Conservation Board (MCCD) meeting last week regarding OSLAD funds (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development). They were informed if these funds were not used in a timely manner, some of the projects may be in trouble. He stated that the MCCD had grant approval for some of the funds but did not use these funds immediately. The MCCD have been informed that they will not be receiving these funds. He stated he is unaware of who else this has affected.

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Schuster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jung to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Redistricting

:ksf