

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011 MEETING

LOCATION: Taneytown Senior Center, 220 Roberts Mill Road, Taneytown, Dining Room (Commissioner District 1).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Burns, Jr.; Joseph Leeman; Frank Rammes; Richard Reese; Gail Riley; C. Scott Stone; and Francis Walsh.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Timothy Burke, County Attorney, and Scott Graf, of the Carroll County Department of Land Use, Planning, and Development Review were also in attendance. Gail Carter from the Board of Elections was in attendance. Approximately 5 members of the public attended.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 7:10 p.m., followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and observance of a moment of silence.

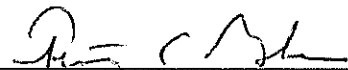
1. Review and finalization of agenda items – The agenda for this meeting was approved upon a Motion made by Dick Reese and seconded by Frank Rammes, Vote 7-0.
2. Review and approval of Minutes from October 6, 2011 meeting – The Minutes were approved as amended upon the Motion of Mr. Burns and seconded by Ms. Riley, Vote 7-0. One amendment made included a replacement of the appellation “Mrs.” To “Ms.” throughout all sets of the Committee' minutes, as made by Frank Rammes, seconded by C. Scott Stone. Additionally, a summary of the dialogue between several of the citizens present at the last meeting was included with those meetings' minutes.
3. Review of website performance and input suggestions – Mr. Burns noted that more information is being added to the website, and wished both Committee and public review and critique of its performance. Upon a suggestion by Mr. Stone it was agreed that all map titles currently labeled “Option” would be changed to “Map” to avoid any confusion with the 2005 Committee discussion and debate problems.
4. Review and consideration of any publically submitted correspondence – The Committee received an email from Mary Ellis with a map question concerning a Map 3 district boundary, and Mr. Stone confirmed that he had previously responded to her inquiry.

5. Review and discussion of submitted District maps – Mr. Burns commented that there are now only 3 maps under consideration, with Map 1 as the current map; and both Maps 2 and 3, which are similar to each other. As the deadline for all map submissions expired on October 6, these are the only three maps which the Committee has to consider for review. Scott Graf presented the maps for display to the public and confirmed where Map 1 does currently meet the legal population criteria for consideration. Review of Map 2, as submitted by citizen Mary Ellis, does not meet the legally outlined population criteria. Mr. Stone clarified that Ms. Ellis was unaware of the criteria when she submitted this map to the Committee for consideration. Subsequently, a Motion was made by Joseph Leeman, seconded by C. Scott Stone, to remove Map 2 from further consideration by the Committee, which was approved by a 7-0 vote. Gail Carter discussed Board of Election concerns with Map 3, particularly where Map 3 was not based on currently established existing precincts, which would need to be altered or created as necessary.
6. Citizen participation and general comments – Mr. Burns opened the meeting to the public for comments on both Map 1 and Map 3. Janet Jump inquired of Gail Carter whether any neighborhoods would be divided by any redistricting, and Ms. Carter confirmed that this would be the case. Jackie Jones asked about the criteria for establishing a brand new precinct, and Ms. Carter replied that it is done by roads, streets, streams, etc. Mr. Walsh questioned where when the County went from 3 to 5 Commissioners, whether any change was made to the ballot language which was used on the ballot question, and Ms. Carter replied that all changes to ballot question language are requested and approved by State Elections Board. Scott Strzelczyk of New Windsor made some observations where any redistricting changes will be confusing to the public because voters will not know who they are allowed to vote for. Amy Diehl commented that she feels strongly in favor of Map 3, and inquired as to which areas of the County are growing the fastest. Scott Graf replied that the Freedom and Manchester area are the fastest growing because they have additional water available for their public systems. Lowell Jones commented that Taneytown will be affected, and that he saw a general consensus in having District 1 pushed into District 3 so that Hampstead and Manchester would be in one district. Mr. Burns asked if either Ms. Riley or Mr. Reese had any comments they wished to make concerning either map discussion and they both said no.
7. Reports and preparations as needed for the Committee's final report – There was a discussion regarding Item IX of the agenda. The Committee's report is due on December 1, 2011, and a final draft and report items are needed. Mr. Stone stated that time would be better spent writing once a full Committee decision is made and that they would be well served to look at the prior Committee's reports. Although rejected for further consideration by the Committee, Map 2 will have to be included in the final report, but will be noted where it was not accepted due to the population criteria problems causing it to fall outside of legally accepted parameters required. Frank Walsh stated that the delegation needs to have a

Committee decision by December 1, 2011, and that the committee should be diligent in meeting that timeframe.

8. Old business items – None.
9. New business items – There was a discussion regarding House Bill 290 of the 2003 session as finally adopted into law, as to whether its intent was to have staggered terms still considered for review. Mr. Walsh moved to recommend for adoption of staggered terms for the County Commissioners, but Mr. Burns ruled the motion to be out of order. Mr. Stone stated that the law which was passed detailed where the committee should make a recommendation concerning the question of staggered terms. The Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances of Carroll County is remiss in omitting a provision concerning this item in House Bill 290. Mr. Burke stated that while he did not advise the 2005 Redistricting Committee, the prior committee had voted unanimously against staggered terms. Upon Mr. Burns' inquiry as to whether the issue could be legally addressed by this Committee, Mr. Burke confirmed where yes, this item would properly come under the Committee's discussion topics. Mr. Walsh made a motion that this Committee adopt provisions for staggered Commissioners' terms and provide provisions for the terms, and it was seconded by Mr. Rammes. Mr. Stone spoke against the motion, stating that the Committee hasn't thoroughly discussed what all the different details and provisions would be for consideration. The Committee then voted 6-1 in favor of Mr. Stone's amended motion, to include a statement in the final report either recommending for or against staggered terms, which was then seconded by Mr. Rammes and unanimously approved by the Committee. Mr. Burns agreed to include the staggered terms question as an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.
10. Review of any future meeting details and schedules of Committee members – None.
11. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:



Timothy C. Burke
County Attorney