

## REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011 MEETING

**LOCATION:** Room 003, County Office Building

**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, was present representing the Carroll County Attorney's Office and Mr. Scott Graf, of the Carroll County Department of Planning was also in attendance. Approximately seven members of the public attended.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT:** 7:00 p.m.

1. Review and approval of Minutes – Mr. Leeman suggested a correction to the Minutes of August 31, 2011, increasing the number of votes from four to five for C. Scott Stone as Vice-Chair because Joseph Burns, Jr.'s vote had not been included in the count. Mr. Rammes mentioned that for future meetings, he would like to receive the Agenda earlier than two to three days prior to the meeting date. The Minutes were approved as corrected, upon Motion of Mr. Rammes and seconded by Mr. Leeman. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Review Committee Mission Statement – The Committee Mission Statement was read by Chairman Burns, after which Mr. Leeman suggested the Committee also adopt the guidelines composed by the 2005 Commissioner Redistricting Committee, and then made a motion for adoption by the Committee. All in favor, with the exception of one opposition vote from Mr. Walsh.

3. Fiscal Items Report from the Board of Elections – Ms. Gail Carter, from the Board of Elections, gave a summary of cost figures. The cost for each card is 8 cents and the cost to mail each card is 44 cents. Mr. Burns asked if there were any additions, notifications, or mailings to which Ms. Carter said the Board sends out a specimen ballot. The State redistricting will begin next year. Mr. Stone stated that it is very hard to separate the Board of Elections in 2014 from current precincts and legislative districts. Ms. Carter said that congressional changes need to be ready for the primary in April and in January the Board will start with the legislative changes which should be ready by June.

4. District Map discussion/deadline October 6, 2011 – Mr. Stone stated that he is working on the map and will be ready to discuss it at the next meeting. In considering the current map, Mr. Leeman distributed a handout (copy attached) to each member of the Committee. Mr. Stone questioned the first item regarding calculating the variance. Mr. Burns noted that five districts meet the requirements of law and it is the duty of the Committee not to confuse the public with issues that have already been resolved. Mr. Rammes asked if the current

map is perfect, to which Mr. Stone replied that the issue is whether the five districts meet the criteria. Scott Graf, of the Planning Department, stated that the map will be put on the website. He said that this map represents the current districts and that the census tracts and subdivisions are shown on this map. Mr. Burns questioned whether there is enough of a change to warrant amendments to the map and whether the numbers are accurate enough to warrant a “tweaking” or if major changes are needed. Mr. Leeman stated that the population count is 167,134, with adjustment for the prison population, making the count 166,901, divided by 5, equals 33,380 per district.

5. Input from legal counsel details/items – Timothy Burke, County Attorney, will email the Green Report to the Committee and will make it available to the public.

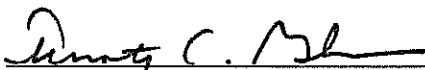
6. Discuss schedule of future meetings – The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, at the South Carroll Senior Center.

7. Additional housekeeping/committee items – There was a short discussion as to whether it might be beneficial to allow attending citizens to make comments prior to the business meeting of the Committee.

8. Opening of meeting for public input and comments – Mr. James Reter stated that he is against having meetings in each district of the county. Since the County Office Building is in a central location of the County, he believes all of the meetings should be held here. In addition, he is in favor of the current plan since it meets the criteria of the law and has only been in effect for two years. Ms. Jackie Jones commented that she is pleased with, and is in favor of, the five Commissioner system of government. Mr. Larry Helminiak spoke in opposition to splitting districts which are supposed to be “together”, while at the same time other districts like Sykesville and Eldersburg which are “together”, would then subsequently have to be split, citing that the changes would be at extra costs to taxpayers and would be for political purposes only with no benefit to the County at large.

9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:



Timothy C. Burke  
County Attorney