

**MINUTES  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE  
JULY 27, 2021**

**ALL AGENDA ITEMS ASSUMED TO BE DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS**

**Committee Members Present:** Ted Cushing, Russ Fisher, Jack Sorensen, Jim Winkler.

**Absent:** Bob Mott

**Call to order:** Cushing called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. The meeting was properly posted and distributed in accordance with the Wisconsin open Meetings Law and the facility is handicap accessible.

**Approve agenda for today's meeting:**

**Motion/Second: Sorensen/Winkler** to approve today's agenda as presented. All "Aye", motion carried.

**Elect Vice-Chair:**

**Motion/Second: Cushing/Sorensen** to nominate Russ Fisher as Vice Chair of the Redistricting Committee. "All Aye", motion carried. Supervisor Fisher is designated as Vice-Chair.

**Redistricting Update – Andrew Faust NCWRPC:**

Andrew Faust of Regional Planning Commission presented the process for Redistricting in a Power Point presentation; a printed handout of the presentation was distributed and is held on file at the County Clerk's Office. Faust stated that reapportionment and Redistricting are different but done at the same time, after the Census is completed. Per Faust Redistricting refers to the establishment of political boundaries that State Legislatures, cities and counties use for equally represented districts under state statute. Faust stated that county Governments are required to redistrict following the Census, Redistricting is the process of revising the boundaries and making equal districts. Per Faust there are general rules of Redistricting, he went over the rules. Faust stated that Wisconsin Law requires that all cities villages and towns with a population of 1000 or more establish wards. Faust went over the process for setting up Wards. Faust discussed the steps for a County to complete the redistricting process: Step 1. Form a Committee, Step 2. Determine the number of districts, Step 3. Create a tentative plan (within 60 days of population data), Step 4. Public hearing on tentative plan to solicit suggestions from the public and municipalities, Step 5. Work with municipalities to make adjustments to the tentative plan, Step 6. Public hearing on final plan, Step 7. Adopt final district plan. Faust went over the proposed timeline.

**Establish time frame for Redistricting process:**

Faust discussed that the state may come up with the Census numbers by Sept 1, 2021 but this is a tentative date. Faust went over the software system used, he stated you can change districts and see what happens to other districts very quickly. Per Faust the municipalities will need to stay in the loop, there may be a lot of new municipal clerks that are not familiar with this process. Faust stated that letters will need to be generated to the municipal clerks with the timelines also as they have notices that will need to go out. Per Faust by November 23, 2021 the type A Notice needs to be done by the municipal clerks, the goal is to get the Redistricting completed before this date.

**Discussion:** Discussion of seasonal housing and the population shift with Covid; Census data was accumulated in April of 2020, this will not reflect any of the Covid changes that happened after April of 2020. Community member Jackie Cody asked if the Public Hearings could be held in the evenings instead of day so that there could be more participants. Discussion ensued regarding hearing times. Romportl asked if the general public would be able to access the software to see how the changes would affect districts. Faust stated that the software was not intended for that, it can only generate 200 proposed plans per County. Supervisor Schreier stated that we need to listen to the municipal clerks and also be transparent with the public. Schreier stated that there should be a contingency for the municipalities if the Redistricting is not completed within the timeline. Faust stated that the more engagement with the municipal clerks and the more educated we can make them, the process will be easier. Steven Schreier asked how a change in existing supervisors borders would be handled, discussion ensued. Cushing asked at what stage should the municipal clerks be involved. Faust stated that as soon as we have a tentative timeline we should make them aware. Discussion regarding planning the hearings and what dates would work. Romportl stated that the County budget hearing is to be held on November 9, 2021, so that date would be unavailable. Sorensen stated that we cannot set dates until we get the Census data. Cushing stated that after there is a tentative plan a public hearing should be set.

**Dates and items for future agenda/meetings:**

Next meeting date was set for September 7, 2021 at 4 p.m. in the County Board Room.

**Adjournment:**

Cushing adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

X

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Ted Cushing, Redistricting Committee Chair

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Heidi Nehls, Chief Deputy County Clerk

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