

MINUTES
JACKSON COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION MEETING
April 20, 2011
5:30 p.m.
County Commission Chambers

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Zavislak called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** – Amanda Riska

Board members present: (5) Zavislak, Coffman, Riska, Choate, and Marquez.
Others present: Scott Ambs, Pattie Rayl, Katie Cotey, Sandra Marsh, Jon Williams, Brad Williams, Julia Stonestreet, Carl Rice, Jr., Dave Lutchka, Wendy Chamberlain, David K. Elwell, Janie Hildebrandt, James Videto, Lynn Fessel, Karen F. Dunigan, Holly Klaf, Steve Shotwell, Julie Alexander, Anna Alexander, Carriane VanDusseldorp, Chris Garety, Colleen Garety, Margie Teske, and Gail W. Mahoney.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Chairman Zavislak

4. **Public Comment**

Wendy Chamberlain, Parma Township Supervisor, feels that the proposed 9 district plan would be more beneficial for their community than the 12a district plan, because it would provide continuity with their county commissioner.

Jon Williams, County Commissioner, District 9, feels that the 12 member board is working well.

Dave Lutchka, County Commissioner, District 2, addressed the issue of governance. He feels the committee system that is used here works very well and adds to consistency. He believes that if the commission was reduced to 9 or less that efficiency would be lost.

5. **Approval of the April 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes** – Moved by Coffman, seconded by Choate to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

6. **Review of Comparable Counties Commission Size, Governance, Budget, and Fiscal Rating**

Chairman Zavislak described the three different forms of county governance in terms of administration: county executive; county administrator; and

administrator/controller. He also reviewed the commission size of six comparable counties with population above and below the size of Jackson County, and compared the number of full time employees from the years 1991, 2001, and today. He further explained commissioner stipends, per diems, and mileage.

Karen Coffman reviewed the county budgets, commissioner expenditures, and fiscal score of those counties.

7. Discussion of Potential Districts

Hank Choate explained the reason for his request of an 11a plan. He feels that reducing it further will limit the board to retirees only, due to the increased workload.

Karen Coffman stated that she is open to looking at the proposed 11a plan, but asked not to rule out the 9 plan, keeping in mind that it is about representation and keeping townships whole.

Ruben Marquez is leaning toward the 12 district plan because of the board's current workload. He feels that if there is a population increase within the next 10 years, it could make it more difficult to represent the constituents properly.

Chairman Zavislak's primary focus, in addition to the statutory guidelines, is governance. He believes that the three plans that have been presented meet the constitutional requirements, but he does have a concern about an even-numbered board. He knows that the current board works well together, but he would like to avoid a situation in the future where personalities become the dominate factor.

Hank Choate is also concerned about governance, but feels that his interpretation is about a board of commissioners that is willing to give the commitment, and that also has the knowledge and understanding of how they function as a group of individuals. He believes it's important to have a pool of knowledge that is diverse enough to cover all of their required responsibilities.

8. Public Comment

Steve Shotwell, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, District 7, commended the Apportionment Commission members for doing their homework and looking at the process clearly. He stated that when the board decreased from 15 to 12, they were able to realign the assignments to get them where they belong. He believes they can accomplish the same thing

this time, but still feels that keeping a larger number of commissioners will allow the citizens to be better served due to a more diverse knowledge base.

Jim Videto, County Commissioner, District 6, also appreciates the hard work that the Apportionment Commission has put into the process. He feels that all three of the proposed plans that have been drawn will probably work, but thinks that the current number allows for diversity and better overall representation.

Carl Rice, Jr., County Commissioner, District 3, appreciates the work that the Apportionment Commission is doing. He realizes this process is about the people that they are serving.

Jon Williams, County Commissioner, District 9, was part of the last reapportionment process and he appreciates how the process now allows the time to go back and review the population numbers. His thought is that it isn't so much about the number of districts, as it is about drawing the districts in a manner that breaks as few townships and villages as possible to keep them whole.

Margie Teske, Citizen, stated that she would ask the same out of this commission as she would ask of the State Legislature: with all of the cuts being made statewide, she would like to see the commission lead by example.

David Lutchka, County Commissioner, District 2, feels that an even-numbered board makes the commission work a little harder to make sure they all understand the issues.

9. **Other** - Chairman Zavislak reviewed the guidelines for apportionment and Hank Choate reviewed the requirements for the population deviation.

Chairman Zavislak stated that the 9, 11, and 12 district plans are still on the table. An 11a plan will be drafted by Scott Ambs on Monday with Hank Choate's help. Chairman Zavislak will observe the process so he can get a better understanding of how the maps are drawn.

10. **Adjournment** – Moved by Choate, seconded by Coffman to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.