

MINUTES OF THE 2011 KALAMAZOO COUNTY

APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

MARCH 29, 2011 @ 8:00 AM

KALAMAZOO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ROOM 207-A

PRESENT: Mary Balkema – County Treasurer
Thom Canny – Kalamazoo County Corporate Counsel
Jeff Fink – Kalamazoo County Prosecutor
David Pawloski – Kalamazoo County Democratic Party
Tim Snow – Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register

Members Absent: Al Heilman – Kalamazoo County Republican Party

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Chairman Jeff Fink. Roll call was taken. There were also members of the public present.

Item 3 – Approval of March 15, 2011 Minutes

The acceptance of the March 15, 2011 minutes was moved and was seconded.

There being no discussion, the motion carried by a voice vote.

Item 4 – Public Comment

A member of the public provided information to the commission about free software that is available on the web called Dave's Redistricting. The software is very user friendly and can be found using a Google Search of Dave's Redistricting.

There was no further public comment.

Item 5 – Discussion – Webpage

Minutes of the meeting will be added. Tim Snow will assist in placing additional information on the webpage if desired by the Apportionment Commission.

Item 6 – Discussion – Computer Program

Vice Chairman Tim Snow was at a County Clerk's meeting in Hastings where they discussed reapportionment software. The majority of that group is using the ESRI-ArcGIS software. This software is already being used in-house and it is free. This software is installed, and ready to go right now. Due to licensing restrictions this software can only be kept on one computer and is currently installed on a computer in the Department of Planning & Community Development office. Dave's Redistricting could be used by commissioners at home. Jason has the latest precinct data and offered to work with any of the commission members that want to try their own plans. It was made clear that Jason would be under obligation to not share anyone's plan ideas

until final. Jason will be at the next meeting. Vice Chairman Tim Snow stated that the 60 day time period starts when we receive data, which we have not received yet. An official notification will be sent out and Vice Chairman Tim Snow will provide it to the Commissioners.

Chairman Jeff Fink suggested using ESRI-ArcGIS. There being no objections, the motion carried by a voice vote.

Item 7 – Meeting Dates

It was agreed that the next meeting would be April 26, 2011 a.m. at 8 a.m. at which time the Commission would begin mapping.

Item 8 - Additional Business –

Ms. Jarnefelt will check to make sure Dave's Redistricting is up to date.

Item 9 - Public Comment –

Questions were raised regarding how to approach creating a minority district. The commission will look at the numbers and see how the districts come out.

Questions were raised regarding how the commission will determine the number of districts. Chairman Jeff Fink stated that the commission will look at public comment (which has been unanimous to reduce) and will find a balance for a fair number per district. A member of the public stated that commissioners represent their district but also the whole county. It was suggested that the commission take a balanced approach and not force the issue of a particular number.

Vice Chairman Tim Snow added that after his County Clerk's meeting in Hastings, it was clear that every county is reducing or maintaining their numbers.

There was no further public comment.

Item 10 - Adjourn

With no further business, it was moved and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The Commission adjourned at 8: 30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shellie Stapert, Secretary
To Apportionment Commission