



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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## KALAMAZOO COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 2021

*August 18, 2021*

*Board of Commissioners Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
201 W Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007*

*1:00 PM*

Meeting was live streamed on Public Media Network - <https://www.publicmedianet.org/>

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### **ITEM 1            CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission was called to order by acting Chairperson Place at 1:08pm on August 18, 2021.

### **ITEM 2            PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Acting Chairperson Place led the Pledge

### **ITEM 3            ROLL CALL**

Commissioners: Jeff Getting, Prosecuting Attorney; Meredith Place, Clerk/Register of Deeds; Thomas Whitener, Treasurer; Mariah Phelps, Chair of Kalamazoo County Democratic Party; Scott McGraw, Chair of Kalamazoo County Republican Party.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Beth Byrd, Chief Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds

### **ITEM 4            PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **ITEM 5            INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS**

### **ITEM 6            DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS BY ACTING CHAIRPERSON**

### **ITEM 7            ELECTION OF PERMANENT COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Commissioner Phelps nominated Commissioner Whitener as the permanent Commission Chairperson and it was duly seconded by Commissioner Place.

Commissioner Getting moved that nominations be closed and Commissioner Whitener be elected permanent Commission Chairperson by unanimous vote and it was duly seconded by Commissioner Place.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Place nominated Commissioner Getting as Commission Vice-Chairperson and was duly seconded by Commissioner Phelps.

Commissioner Place moved that nominations be closed and Commissioner Getting be elected Commission Vice-Chairperson by unanimous vote was duly seconded by Commissioner Phelps.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Phelps nominated Commissioner Place as the Commission Secretary and was duly seconded by Chair Whitener.

Chair Whitener moved that nominations be closed and Commissioner Place be elected Commission Secretary by unanimous vote was duly seconded by Phelps.

The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM 8                    ADPOT RULES AND PROCEDURES**

Secretary Place provided a draft of rules and procedures based on the 2010 Kalamazoo Apportionment Commission and rules from other counties across Michigan.

Discussion ensued.

Secretary Place moved the Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission accept and adopt the rules and procedures distributed to the board and it was duly seconded by Commissioner Phelps.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Whitener, Phelps, Getting, Place, McGraw

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**ITEM 9                    DISCUSS PER DIEM FOR MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Secretary Place shared she placed this discussion item on the agenda upon review of other counties' organizational agendas.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Phelps moved to request the Board of Commissioners pass a resolution approving per diem of \$50/half day, \$100/day for meeting attendance of Apportionment Commission and it was duly seconded Secretary Place.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Whitener, Phelps, Getting, Place

Nays: McGraw

Abstains: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**ITEM 10 DISCUSS BUDGET FOR COMMISSION**

Chair Whitener opened discussion for a budget.

Discussion ensued.

Vice-Chairperson Getting moved to request the Board of Commissioners pass a budget for the 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission of \$10,000.00 and it was duly seconded by Commissioner Phelps.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Phelps, Getting, Place, Whitener

Nays: McGraw

Abstains: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**ITEM 11 SCHEUDLE FUTURE MEETINGS**

Chair Whitener opened discussion for the scheduling of future meetings.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Phelps moved to set a regular meeting schedule of Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm including August 25, September 1, September 8, and September 22 and it was duly seconded by Commissioner McGraw.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Whitener, Phelps, Getting, Place, McGraw

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: None

The motion carried unanimously

**ITEM 12                    ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

Secretary Place shared communication she received by a member of the Board of Commissioners requesting the Apportionment Commission allow both in-person and virtual participation at future Apportionment Commission meetings. She continued relaying she explored the tech capabilities in the Board Chambers and Administration said that the technology does not currently exist to support both in-person and virtual participation.

Secretary Place moved to the Office of the County Clerk post future meetings as a virtual, Zoom, meetings for August and communicate with County IT the will of the Board to set up a separate public call-in phone line for the Apportionment Commission and it was duly seconded by Commissioner Phelps.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Whitener, Phelps, Getting, Place, McGraw

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Secretary Place asked if it would be appropriate to discuss future agenda items.

Chair Whitener mentioned that software should be discussed and encouraged Secretary Place to send out information she has on those items.

He continued that the format of the meetings, virtual vs in-person, should continue to be discussed.

Commissioner Phelps stated that she would like to continue to discuss budget and requested discussion on the number of commission districts.

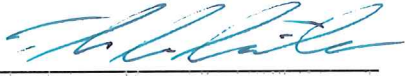
**ITEM 13                    ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Phelps made a motion to adjourn and it was duly seconded by Secretary Place

Chair Whitener called voice vote and the motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM by Chairperson Whitener

APPROVED 8.25.2021



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Thomas Whitener, Chairperson



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Meredith Place, Secretary