



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

KALAMAZOO COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

September 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Apportionment Commission Virtual Meeting

Zoom Virtual Meeting ID:

865 6099 2928 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560992928>

*Board of Commissioners Chambers, 2nd Floor,
201 W Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007*

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

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Whitener called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

ITEM 2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Gwendolyn Hooker
Nicky Leigh
Carolyn Pesheck
Doreen Gardner
Tobi Hanna-Davies
Charlae Davis
Regan Hanley
Cathy Phason
Tamara Custard
Zachary Lassiter
Kelly Doyle
Josephine Woods
Emily Hazel
Jacob Pinney-Johnson
Ashante Collins
Stacey Ledbetter

Wendy Fields
Commissioner Jen Strebs
Chris Burns
Mattie Jordan-Woods

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Secretary Place moved that the agenda be accepted as presented and it was duly seconded by Commissioner McGraw.

The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairperson Getting moved that the minutes be approved as distributed and it was duly seconded by Commissioner McGraw.

The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL DETERMINATION OF NUMBER OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

Commissioner McGraw stated that he received communication from Emily Demorest, Dick Shilts, Chris Burns, Regina Nelson, Caroline Heinamen and Charlae Davis in favor of a 13 county commission seat map.

Commissioner Phelps moved to move forward to vote on 9 county commission districts and was duly seconded by Vice-Chair Getting.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Whitener called for a vote.

The roll call vote was as follows:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Ayes: | Whitener, Phelps, Getting, Place |
| Nays: | McGraw |
| Abstains: | None |
| Absent: | None |

The motion carried.

ITEM 8 DISCUSSION RE: LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Chair Whitener opened discussion on legal counsel for the apportionment commission.

Discussion ensued.

Secretary Place shared correspondence that she received from Administrator Henthorn stating that she got clarification from legal counsel and that the commission is not a separate entity and would need to obtain Board of Commission approval to hire legal counsel. She asked the Chair to reach out to Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. through the Administration to answer the outstanding questions.

ITEM 9 ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Secretary Place communicated that the state redistricting tool became available to everyone across the state of Michigan today and encouraged all the members of the commission to put together their logins and refer to the quick start user guide for support.

She continued that she appreciates the public comment and takes it into consideration and added that no maps have been submitted to this body for a vote or review.

Secretary Place reiterated the statutes for map drawing that guides the work of the Commission.

Vice-Chairperson Getting stated that he was able to see a demonstration of the tool and that they use census blocks instead of precincts.

He continued that we must be careful not to divide any precincts, which are different than census blocks.

Commissioner Phelps stated that she would like to see time for Commissioners to report on communications they have received and place it on the agenda.

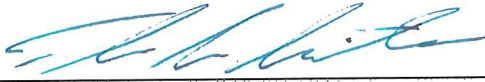
ITEM 10 ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairperson Getting moved to adjourn and it was duly seconded by Phelps.

The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM by Chair Whitener

APPROVED 9.8.2021



Thomas Whitener, Chair, 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission



Meredith Place, Secretary, 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission