



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

---

## KALAMAZOO COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

*September 8, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

The meeting of the Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commissions was called to order by Chair Whitener at 5:00 pm on September 8, 2021.

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

Chair Whitener led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ITEM 3                    ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Absent:** Mariah Phelps, Chair of Kalamazoo County Democratic Party

**Others Present:** Beth Byrd, Chief Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds, Sharda Chambers, Elections Coordinator

### **ITEM 4                    PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Public comment was given by:**

Maggie Adams

Shari Weber

Wendy Flora

Nicky Leigh

Cathy Phason

Sharlae Davis

Carolyn Pesheck

Karen McDonald

Chris Burns

Zachary Lassiter

Commissioner Jen Strebs

Christopher Terkos

Tobi Hanna-Davies  
Doreen Gardner  
Ashante Collins  
Emily Hemphill

**ITEM 5                    APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Secretary Place moved to add to the agenda a discussion item regarding future meeting schedule and it was duly seconded by Vice-Chairperson Getting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

Secretary Place moved approval of the agenda as amended and it was duly seconded by Vice-Chairperson Getting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

**ITEM 6                    APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice-Chairperson Getting moved approval of the September 1, 2021 minutes of the 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission as presented and it was duly seconded by Secretary Place.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

**ITEM 7                    COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairperson Whitener stated that he has received communications.

Secretary Place received communications from Will Hansen from Michigan Association of Counties, Anna Garcia, Elizabeth O'Dell, Charlae Davis, Rabbi Schicker, David Buskirk, a reporter from WoodTV, Rochelle Habeck, Melissa Zinn, John Ephland, and Tom Ludwig.

Commissioner McGraw stated that he received one communication from Maggie Adams and said he prefers that communications be forwarded to commissioners and included in the packets.

Discussion ensued.

**ITEM 8                    DISCUSSION RE: LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION**  
Chairperson Whitener stated that he has been in communication with the Kalamazoo County Administration regarding legal counsel for the Apportionment Commission. The responses he received were included in the board packet. He went on to say the Commission can use the County's Counsel, Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. without request; however, the privilege belongs to the County not the Commission.

Vice-Chairperson Getting stated that Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. is a fine counsel for the County, but he has concerns we would not have privilege. He advised we do not move forward with Cohl, Stoker and encouraged that the Chair to contact different firms to represent the County Apportionment Commission.

Discussion ensued.

Chair Whitener stated that he would reach out to other firms and get a cost estimate to bring before the Commission for discussion.

**ITEM 9                    DISCUSSION OF MAPS**  
**a. Guidelines for Map Submission**

Chair Whitener read allowed the guidelines for apportionment (MCL 46.404).

Secretary Place stated that the MCL governing this apportionment commission is viewable on the apportionment website, which is accessible on the main page of the county website ([www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com)).

She continued that there have been no maps submitted to this body at the time of the meeting.

She continued reading from the 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission's Rules of Procedure specifically, section 6.

Secretary Place stated that the commissioners all have access to the State's CCD tool and are able to submit proposed maps. She added that the public should be part of that conversation and asked that the Chair include maps in agenda packets and viewable by members of the public.

Discussion ensued.

Secretary Place moved that any proposed maps received by the Clerk's office be added to the agenda packet and posted to the Apportionment website as soon as practicable and it was duly seconded by Commissioner McGraw.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Place, Whitener, McGraw, Getting

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Phelps

The motion carried.

#### **ITEM 10 FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Secretary Place stated that when the original schedule was posted dates included up to today's date (9/8/2021) and the last meeting date was September 22, 2021.

She continued that the body decided not to meet on September 15<sup>th</sup>, but the commission has since learned that on September 22 at 5pm the Board of Commissioners will have their third conversation that week regarding the county budget.

Secretary Place encouraged the commission to reschedule the September 22 meeting and schedule additional future meetings.

Vice-Chairperson Getting said the Commission should discuss proposed maps at our next meeting. He said next week will be too soon and that the 22 is no longer available.

Vice-Chairperson Getting moved to reschedule the September 22, 2021 meeting to September 29, 2021 at 1PM and add a regular meeting for October 6, 2021 at 1PM and it was duly seconded by Chair McGraw.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Whitener, McGraw, Getting, Place

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Phelps

The motion carried.

#### **ITEM 11 ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

Vice-Chairperson Getting stated that he received several communications by email and phone as well as the public comment and wanted it on the record that he has received communication from various persons and is considering all the correspondence.

Secretary Place stated that with the changes to the meeting schedule she will be reposting the meetings per the Open Meetings Act as well as the statute that will include posting and sending information to MLIVE.

**ITEM 112            ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chairperson Getting moved to adjourn and was duly seconded by Secretary Place.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Whitener, McGraw, Getting, Place

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Phelps

The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm by Chair Whitener.

**APPROVED 9/29/2021**



---

Thomas Whitener, Chair, 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission



---

Meredith Place, Secretary, 2021 Kalamazoo County Apportionment Commission