

MAY 10, 2011
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC HEARING

2011 TENTATIVE WALWORTH COUNTY RE-DISTRICTING PLAN

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing was called to order by Chair Russell at 5:04 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Walworth County Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Richard Brandl, Jerry A. Grant, Randy Hawkins, Kathy Ingersoll, Vice-Chair Daniel G. Kilkenny, Carl Redenius, Joe Schaefer, Russ Wardle, David A. Weber, and Chair Nancy Russell. Rick Stacey was absent and excused. A quorum was established.

County Clerk Kim Bushey stated that the meeting would begin with a presentation from representatives from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), Elizabeth Larsen, Business Manager, Kenneth Yunker, Executive Director, and John McDougall, Geographic Information Systems Manager. SEWRPC was requested by Walworth County to prepare the 2011 Redistricting Plan under specific contract.

Elizabeth Larsen summarized a few of the key criteria used in preparing the Tentative Redistricting Plan. They are as follows: Supervisory districts would be substantially equal in population with the deviation rate of plus or minus 3%; each would be comprised of four census blocks which would not cut across existing ward boundaries. The staff was instructed to try to not split municipalities into multiple districts and try to follow the current districts as best possible; however, given population change and growth, that could not be exactly achieved. And finally, the residence of any existing Walworth County Supervisor was not to be taken into consideration.

Larsen said that on March 21, 2011 the census data became available and thus the County Board was to adopt a Tentative Plan by May 21, 2011. The SEWRPC staff utilized Geographic Information Systems mapping software to prepare the Plan. After several iterations, the Tentative Walworth County Redistricting Plan was prepared. The plan follows the criteria as closely as possible, and most importantly 7 of the 11 supervisory districts are within 1% of the target population for each district. All 11 districts are within 3% of the population. If the Tentative Plan is approved, the Plan can then be provided to the municipalities who will reference tentative supervisory district boundaries in preparing their municipal ward plans. Municipalities are to have their ward plans completed by July 21, 2011. Municipalities may propose changes with respect to annexations and the Tentative Plan may be modified by the commission's staff to accommodate these annexations. The City of Delavan has already provided SEWRPC with their annexations. The County Board will hold a public hearing on the final plan and the County Board Chairperson will file a copy of the Final Supervisory District Plan with the Secretary of State.

Larsen said that the four boards displayed in the County Board Room at this meeting, included the 14 items of criteria. The maps were: the current plan, the proposed plan, a map with the ward

boundaries, and a map with the school district boundaries. There were no questions from the Supervisors at this time.

Chair Russell opened the meeting for public comment. Clerk Bushey said she had received no public comment cards but had received correspondence from the City of Delavan regarding annexation RC-296 encompassing about 72 acres of uninhabited property effective April 15, 2011. This correspondence was attached to the agenda for this evening's meeting and mailed to all the Supervisors. Another copy of that communication was placed on Supervisors' desks. Bushey said that the City of Delavan is asking for the inclusion of this property into the proposed Supervisory District 8 so as not to create an additional single parcel voting ward. There was no public comment offered.

On motion by Supervisor Schaefer, seconded by Supervisor Grant, the public hearing was closed.

Discussion ensued. Supervisor Weber stated that SEWRPC's intent was great, but thought there were specific criteria the Board didn't declare or identify that was possibly missed. Supervisor Weber stated there seemed to be some flaws and a large change in the landscape with there being only a 10% population change. He said Article 13 states where possible the core or existing districts shall be maintained. There is a large impact on District's 5, 9, and 7 and it looks like District 2 has some significant changes in that area as well. He said he would be interested in seeing some of the other versions of the Plan that Mr. Yunker (SEWRPC) spoke about at the last meeting to see if any other versions lessen the amount of change or impact. Supervisor Weber said his particular concern is with the Village of Williams Bay and how the school district changes. Also, he is concerned about the development that is coming up Theatre Road and CTH 67 on the west side, which would then be split by two Supervisors representing the community of Williams Bay and its populace. The proposed change will eliminate two Supervisors and add two new Supervisors. He said the populace has the right to elect those who run and through the elective process choose those people. He said he is concerned that we will be diluting the amount of experience and talent that is vested in the Board now. He said our constituents have not been informed and he hasn't seen anything in the newspaper. He said that this kind of a change in District 7, changes the dynamics of the representation. Supervisor Weber recommended tabling the Plan for further review and taking the opportunity to see some of the other alternative plans that were at least considered if not proposed.

Supervisor Grant stated that the City of Whitewater has had two Supervisors representing one area for years. He said if the redistricting was done by school districts because they have everything in common, Whitewater School District covers enough area that there would be next to nothing for District 3 because it is a big school district geographically. He said as far as new Supervisors, this plan would bring in two new ones. With the last election there were three new Supervisors; and when we redistricted because of downsizing, we ended up having Supervisors against each other and some vacant areas. Supervisor Grant said he believes SEWRPC did a good job, kept the population very close, and he is content with the Plan.

Supervisor Kilkenny stated that he shared Supervisor Weber's concerns. He said he would like to see the other Plans if they are consistent with our criteria and meet the other considerations. Mr. Yunker, SEWRPC, came forward to comment on Supervisor Kilkenny's concerns. Yunker said with regard to the relatively modest population change, although that may have been true

across the County, there was a substantial difference in certain areas of the County. He said that was one of the reasons why you see changes in some districts and not much change in others. If the population growth in that district was at about the same rate as the overall County growth, that district stayed the same; but if there was substantially more population growth in that one area, then that area had to be made smaller. If another area didn't grow as fast as the rest of the County, then that area had to be expanded. He said that they do appreciate the comments, and they tried to faithfully follow the criteria they were provided. He then referred to the maps regarding possible changes to boundary lines. Supervisor Weber suggested that if you took the Williams Bay school district, which goes up Hwy 67 and Theatre Road, it would be less than a 1% deviation and you'd be picking up the population of the Village balancing the deviation factor.

Supervisor Redenius stated that he would like the opportunity to see all the maps. Supervisor Russell stated that SEWRPC was only asked to bring the one map but that doesn't mean we can't change that now. Supervisor Grant asked when the deadline was for the maps to go to the municipalities. Mr. Bretl stated that the deadline is May 21, 2011. Bretl thanked SEWRPC for doing the work and following the criteria that they received. He said if the Board doesn't want to approve this or recommend approval at this meeting, in all fairness to SEWRPC, you would need to send them back with something very specific tonight with what you want drawn and what you want to see so when you meet again you can move on this.

Supervisor Kilkenny stated he thought the date for approval was September 21. Mr. Bretl said the deadline is May 21, 2011 to get this Tentative Plan to the municipalities, it is a statutory requirement. Supervisor Kilkenny stated that by looking at the criteria again, we are not making any criticisms of SEWRPC and that a map could look different and still meet all these criteria. He said this timeline is a little bit disheartening because the constituents don't get to comment and we are supposed to vote on it. Mr. Bretl stated that he that it is a relatively short turn around but it's not unique. All 72 counties have the same timeline. Supervisor Grant stated that this is a Tentative Plan and when it goes to the municipalities, because of the census, they may have to redraw their aldermanic district lines. He asked if the Board waited until we got it back from the municipalities, could the boundary lines then be changed. Mr. Yunker stated that then the Board would be potentially changing their wards again and the municipalities would have to approve it again. Supervisor Grant asked, if when we get it back from the municipalities, is it set in stone? Mr. Yunker stated yes, it is pretty close to that. Supervisor Russell stated that we would need to have specific criteria and the objective is to have the three supervisors who are in the one district be in their former districts. That would be a lot easier for them to handle versus trying to use school district lines, which makes the job more difficult. Mr. Yunker discussed potential boundary line changes. Supervisor Wardle stated his concerns about moving boundaries for specific addresses and said he thought keeping towns together sounded like a better plan. Supervisor Hawkins stated he felt that we have a criteria established, and that's what we should follow. He said there have been changes to his district as well, now and with the past redistricting; that is part of progress and change and we have to deal with where the boundaries lie. Supervisor Weber stated changes that he felt would be possible in District #9.

A motion was made by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Kilkenny to modify the tentative plan as follows: modify the area in the Town of Darien in Supervisory District 5, north of I-43, divided by CTH X and add it to District 8; delete an area of land that is currently in District 5, relocate it to District 8, the area is north of I-43 and west of CTH O; delete an area

from District 5 and add to District 7 in the area north of the Village of Williams Bay, east of CTH F, south of STH 50 and west of STH 67; include the request by the City of Delavan, to add the annexation of 72 acres of uninhabited property; republish this for a public hearing to distribute the maps to the various municipal clerks; and, create a petition to set a separate meeting before May 21, 2011. A roll call vote was held. Total vote: 11; Ayes: 5 – Joe Schaefer, Carl Redenius, Kathy Ingersoll, David Weber, Dan Kilkenny; Noes: 5 – Russ Wardle, Jerry Grant, Richard Brandl, Randy Hawkins, Nancy Russell; Absent: 1 – Rick Stacey. Motion failed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hawkins, seconded by Supervisor Grant, to recommend the tentative plan proposed by SEWRPC, including the City of Delavan annexation. A roll call vote was held. Total vote: 11; Ayes: 6 – Joe Schaefer, Russ Wardle, Jerry Grant, Richard Brandl, Randy Hawkins, Nancy Russell; Noes: 4 – Carl Redenius, Kathy Ingersoll, David Weber, Dan Kilkenny; Absent: 1 – Rick Stacey. The 2011 Tentative Walworth County Redistricting Plan was approved as amended to include the annexation of the City of Delavan.

On motion by Supervisor Hawkins, seconded by Supervisor Grant, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
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COUNTY OF WALWORTH)

I, Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors for the May 10, 2011 public hearing.