

POLK COUNTY TEMPORARY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
MINUTES of PROCEEDING
December 13, 2021

The Polk County Temporary Redistricting Commission met in open session Monday, December 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Carmine Boal; Vice-Chair, Jill Altringer; Marc Beltrame; Chris Coleman; Greg Lewis.

STAFF PRESENT: Auditor, Jamie Fitzgerald; John Chiodo; Ken Agey; Jim Harken; Assistant County Attorney, Ralph Marasco, Jr.

Chairperson Boal called the meeting to order.

MOTION: Moved by Beltrame to approve the December 1, 2021 minutes.

Commission unanimously approved the December 1, 2021 minutes.

SECOND: Seconded by Altringer.

VOTE YEA: Beltrame, Altringer, Boal, Coleman and Lewis.

Discussion to determine unincorporated Polk County precincts and preliminarily select a preferred plan.

Note: Sets of maps were sent before the meeting to the Commission for review.

Chris Coleman asked for clarification about agreements with jurisdictions. John Chiodo explained the process with the Memorandum of Agreements with cities. Chiodo explained that after the Commission adopts a precinct plan and after the Board of Supervisors approves the plan, then the MOAs combining townships and city precincts will be executed. Marc Beltrame made a point of clarification stated he believed the Commission was confusing two different issues. 1) the precinct numbers and boundaries and 2) voting locations. Beltrame further stated, the Commission is not charged with determining the voting locations.

The Auditor's staff advised the TCRC to combine five (5) unincorporated townships (precincts) with city precincts. Specifically, the Auditor advised the TCRC to combine:

- 1) The City of Granger's Granger Precinct 1 (population 439) be combine with Jefferson Townships' Jefferson Precinct 1 (population 2,088); and
- 2) Madison Township's Madison Precinct 1 (population 152) be combined with (previously combined Union Township's (population 329) and City of Sheldahl's (population 143) Union-Sheldahl Precinct 1 (combined population 472); and
- 3) Delaware Township's Delaware Precinct 2 (population 172) be combined with the City of Des Moines Precinct (previously known as Precinct 26); and
- 4) Because Clay Township is now split by two (2) different House Districts (39 and 40) and is no longer geographically contiguous, Clay Township's Western Clay Precinct (population 268) be combined with the City of Pleasant Hill; and
- 5) Clay Township's Eastern Clay Precinct (population 646) be combined with the City of Altoona.

The Auditor's staff cited electoral efficiency and convenience of the voter as the basis for its proposal to combine township and city precincts.

MOTION: Moved by Coleman, to adopt the Auditor's advice and recommendations to combine the township and city precincts.

SECOND: Seconded by Lewis.

DISCUSSION: Beltrame objected to the Auditor's advice and recommendation of combining township with city precincts for the reasons he mentioned in the first meeting. Beltrame stated the combining of precincts takes away tools for the purpose of drawing contiguous, compact maps. Beltrame stated the Commissions job was to provide the map drawer with tools.

VOTE YEA: Lewis, Coleman.

VOTE NAY: Boal, Altringer, Beltrame.

MOTION FAILED.

MOTION:

Moved by Beltrame to not have any consolidations.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

The Polk County Temporary Redistricting Commission recessed at 12:20 p.m. for ten minutes.

Marc Beltrame asked if there is no consolidation, how many precincts would there be. Chiodo said they aren't sure at this point. Lewis listed the following as combinations: Delaware 2 with Des Moines, Eastern Clay with Altoona, Western Clay with Pleasant Hill, Granger 1/Jefferson 1 and Madison/Union/Sheldahl as one. Lewis stated part of the Commissions charge was to help the election office promote electoral efficiency. Chiodo stated each separate precinct required the election office to create a separate ballot "face." Chiodo stated that if the Commission did not combine Delaware 2 with City of Des Moines it would require four separate precincts.

MOTION: Moved by Lewis, to adopt the Auditor's advice and recommendation to combine Delaware 2 with City of Des Moines.

SECOND: Seconded by Coleman

DISCUSSION: Beltrame offered an amendment. The amendment was not allowed.

VOTE YEA: Lewis, Coleman

VOTE NAY: Altringer, Beltrame, Boal.

MOTION FAILED.

MOTION: Moved by Beltrame, to keep everything the same as is currently, with the exception of Delaware 2 with Des Moines.

SECOND: Seconded by Altringer.

DISCUSSION: Beltrame stated the rational for rejecting the Auditor's advice and recommendation was to provide the ultimate drawer of the map with the maximum number of tools to meet the constitutional and statutory requirements. Chiodo questioned the Commission as to what it meant by keeping the other precincts "as they currently are." The Commission clarified it was their intent to adopt all previous precincts with the single change of combining Delaware 2 with City of Des Moines. Chiodo asked the Commission about Jefferson Township and the City of Granger.

Altringer offered a Friendly Amendment to add Granger/Jefferson together to be made part of the motion.

Beltrame accepted the Friendly Amendment.

RESTATED ORIGINAL MOTION:

Moved by Beltrame, Seconded by Altringer to maintain the current arrangements in place today with the exception of Delaware 2 with Des Moines, Pleasant Hill and also Granger/Jefferson.

Coleman offered a Friendly Amendment to combine Madison Township with the Union/Sheldahl precinct.

Beltrame rejected the Friendly amendment.

VOTE ON RESTATED ORIGINAL MOTION:

VOTE YEA: Lewis, Beltrame, Altringer, Boal.

VOTE NAY: Coleman.

MOTION PASSED.

MOTION: Moved by Coleman, to accept Madison/Union/Sheldahl as part of the overall plan.

SECOND: Seconded by Lewis.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE YEA: Lewis, Coleman.

VOTE NAY: Altringer, Beltrame, Boal.

MOTION FAILED.

MOTION: Moved by Lewis, to set a public hearing for December 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. and authorize Auditor to publish notice of public hearing for comments and consideration of proposed precinct plan.

SECOND: Seconded by Coleman.

VOTE YEA: Lewis, Coleman, Altringer, Beltrame, Boal.

No further action was taken.

MOTION: Moved by Beltrame to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 1:00 p.m.
(audio on file in Auditor's Office)