

Lake County Illinois

Meeting Location:
18 N. County Street (10th FL)
Waukegan, IL 60085



Meeting Minutes - Final

Friday, May 7, 2021

1:30 PM

Meeting held by video conference. Register to virtually attend the
meeting at <https://bit.ly/3aQw4BB>

Reapportionment Committee

Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and the Written Determination of the Lake County Board Chair, this meeting will be held by audio and video conference.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: The public wishing to attend remotely / virtually may: (1) register at the link on the front page of this agenda to attend by audio or video conference or (2) attend remotely on the 10th Floor of the Administrative Tower, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois (limited to the number of persons in keeping with social distancing requirements, currently 10 people).

PUBLIC VIEWING: This meeting will be recorded and live-streamed at <http://lakecounty.tv/> and on Comcast Channel 18 or 30 and AT&T Channel 99.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The public will be afforded time to comment on matters related to the business of the County Board. Individuals attending remotely / virtually may present their Public Comment during the meeting. Individuals not in attendance may provide written Public Comment that must be received by 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting (emailed to PublicComment@Lakecountyil.gov or delivered to the County Board Office 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois (10th floor)). Public Comment on items not on the agenda will be presented at the beginning of the meeting under "Public Comment." Comments on agenda items may be presented during consideration of that item. A total of 30 minutes will be permitted for Public Comment and no more than three minutes per Comment.

Public Comment will proceed in the following order: (1) Public Comment by individuals in attendance (on the 10th Floor and then those via the registration link) then (2) written comments in the order they are received. To view County Board Rules, click here: <https://bit.ly/3idRdrV> .

Individuals providing Public Comment will be recorded and will provide the following information:

- * Meeting: Reapportionment Committee (Subject line for written Public Comment)
- * Name (REQUIRED)
- * Topic or Agenda Item # (REQUIRED)
- * Street Address, City, State (Optional)
- * Phone Number (Optional)
- * Organization/Agency/etc. Represented (If representing yourself, put

"Self")

0 [21-0069](#)

Chair's determination of need to meet by audio or video conference.

Attachments: [Determination - Chair Hart 12.30.20](#)

1. Call to Order

Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call of Members

Present 7 - Member Clark, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Danforth, Chair Hart, Member Kyle, Member Pedersen and Member Vealitzek

Others present:

Cassandra Torstenson, County Administrator's Office

Gary Gibson, County Administrator's Office

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

James Hawkins, County Administrator's Office

Keith Caldwell, Chief County Assessment Office

Arin Thrower, Communications

Jeff Carlstone, Communications

Karen Fox, State's Attorney's Office

Carl Kirar, Facilities and Construction Services

Brooke Lenneman, Elrod Friedman LLP

James Friedman, Elrod Friedman LLP

Gina Roberts, County Board

Kristy Cechini, County Board Office

Abby Scalf, County Board Office

Mary Mathews, League of Women Voters

Rosemary Heilemann, League of Women Voters

Kristal Larson, Avon Township

Celeste Flores, Mano a Mano

Megan McKenna, Mano a Mano

Clyde McLemore, Black Lives Matter

Kristen LaManna, resident

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There no additions or amendments to the agenda.

5. Public Comment (Items not on the agenda)

Clyde McLemore, Black Lives Matter, provided a public comment, encouraging the development of fair maps allowing black and brown representation and there be no

reduction of County Board seats.

Celeste Flores, Mano a Mano, urged the Committee not to rush deciding the number of County Board seats until after public listening sessions and to push state leadership to give more time that allows the Committee to use the 2020 U.S. Census data. She also requested if press releases will be provided in Spanish to promote the listening sessions.

Cassandra Torstenson, Assistant County Administrator, read a public comment submitted by Michael Leone, Lake Villa Township, requesting that Lake Villa and Lindenhurst whole in the redistricting process.

6. Chair's Remarks

Chair Hart had no remarks to give.

7. Unfinished Business

8. New Business

CONSENT AGENDA (Item 8.1)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8.1 [21-0762](#)

Minutes for February 18, 2021.

Attachments: [Reapportionment 2.18.21 Minutes.pdf](#)

Celeste Flores, resident, provided a public comment about hearing from community members directly. It is important to push leadership to use 2020 census data. Language access for community members whose language is not English.

Chair Hart go out to community and hear from community on number of districts and how Chair is determined. Discussion on advantages and disadvantages. Public can listen and agree to advantages we lay out. Listening sessions week of May 19-20 to ensure individuals known about them available in English and Spanish, available with interpreter.

A motion was made by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member Kyle, that Consent Agenda item 8.1 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Member Clark, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Danforth, Chair Hart, Member Kyle, Member Pedersen and Member Vealitzek

REGULAR AGENDA

8.2 [21-0763](#)

Discussion.

Chair Hart began the discussion, stating there was initial discussion that the Committee decide the number of districts and bring this to the communities to have them give feedback on their decision. The public is stating it would be better to hear from the community first, which is why the Committee is holding a discussion on advantages and

disadvantages. The public can listen to this discussion, as the meeting is recorded, prior to the public listening sessions that are planned for the four geographic quadrants May 19 and May 20.

Chair Hart then began the discussion on determining the number of County Board districts and number of County Board Members, explaining over 10 years ago there were 23 districts and moved to 21 districts in 2012 elections. There are two reports, one done in 2000 and one in 1990 suggesting 12 or 15 Board Members.

Significant discussion ensued about the number of County Board districts, including feedback by Members to keep the number of districts between 19 and 21. Members voiced concerns of less representation, the challenges to maintain relationships with villages and constituents and to represent a larger district made up of different communities. Members also voiced concern to move to multi-member districts. A suggestion was made to provide the studies on the County's reapportionment webpage so the public can view the information.

Karen Fox, State's Attorney's Office, said the Board is given until its July Board meeting to formulate and approve a map. After that time frame, if a map is not developed, State statute allows a commission to be appointed made of various elected countywide officials and heads of Democratic and Republican Committee parties to draw the map and would be given until October 1 to do so. State statute doesn't allow, under either situation, for adjustments to be made later. The only scenario to make an adjustment would be if a lawsuit is brought forward and to settle lawsuit by redrawing the map and using more recent data.

Discussion ensued as to selecting County Board Chair, as many Members voiced support as to keeping the procedures as they are done. There was interest to know the differences if the Chair's abilities would be different if the position is elected or appointed.

Chair Hart then then addressed method of compensation, explaining the Chair is the only position allowed to receive additional compensation. The County Board Members receive a set salary. The Members then discussed the options of annual salary, providing compensation per diem or a combination of both methods.

This matter was discussed

8.3 [21-0764](#)

Discussion.

Cassandra Torstenson, Assistant County Administrator, addressed the reapportionment timeline. If no extension is granted by the state legislature, the Committee will need to finish the mapping process by the July County Board Meeting. The Committee would come to a decision on the four issues previously discussed to then be brought before a Special Call Board Meeting. The Committee also will require a number of meetings to

develop the final map, which will be brought before a second Special Call Board Meeting. If the Board misses the July deadline, the process would go to a special commission. If the State legislature gives an extension, this timeline may change.

Chair Hart and Vice Chair Cunningham conducted stakeholder meetings with NAACP, the League of Women Voters and Mano A Mano. Among the topics provided were concerns to use the 2020 U.S. Census data to ensure the Latino population is accurately counted, hosting listening sessions, ensuring minority populations are grouped together to give them a voice where they live, and concerns over the reduction of County Board districts.

Ms. Torstenson said there will be four public input sessions, addressing the northeast and southeast quadrants on May 19 and northwest and southwest quadrants on May 20. A Spanish translator will be present at all meetings. There is an opportunity when individuals register to submit a question. The sessions have been publicized through multiple avenues, including social media, board member newsletters and a press release.

This matter was discussed

9. County Administrator's Report

Gary Gibson, County Administrator, said the Committee will need to plan its next meeting, which will include planning a resolution to be presented at a Special Call County Board meeting and discussed potential dates for those meetings.

10. Executive Session

11. Members' Remarks

Chair Hart urges those who are in communication with state legislators to implore them to give the County more time to honor the work done during the 2020 U.S. Census and use the data collected.

12. Adjournment

Chair Hart called the meeting to be adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Next Meeting: To Be Determined

Minutes prepared by Abby Scalf.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair