

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 12, 2011

MINUTES

LOCATION: Macoupin County Board Room - Carlinville

PRESENT: Board Members: Thomas, Bacon, Goodman, Pomatto, Quirk, Kiel, Reiher, Long;
Guests: Jim Alderson, Sandra Stoecker, Terri Koyne, Daniel Winningham reporter for
Enquirer-Democrat; and Jeanette Baker.

AGENDA:

1. Background on County Board Redistricting Process in State Statute
2. Review Population Statistics from the 2010 Census provided by the U.S. Census Bureau
3. Review results of public referendum from the November 2008 General Election
4. Public Comment

Executive Committee Chairman Thomas called the public hearing to order at 6 p.m. to allow for public input and discussion regarding the census figures and the process that the county board has to go through every ten years regarding reapportionment. Hand-outs were distributed to be used during the meeting: a) Timeline for Board Reduction Proposal, b) chart outlining population change by precinct, c) chart outlining population change by county board district, and d) a map of current County Board districts.

Thomas stated that every ten years, the County Board is required after the census data is released to examine the data and look at any population shifts. The Board, by statute, then needs to consider making changes to the Board districts so that the population in each district is approximately equal. Due to a 2008 advisory referendum (non-binding) passed by voters in the County, the Board will also be considering its size and makeup in terms of how many members will serve on the board – this could impact whether a new Board map would consist of single or multi-member districts. The reapportionment plan must be passed no later than the July meeting of the County Board.

One of the handouts provided to Board members showed the results of the November 4, 2008 advisory referendum, breaking down by precinct the voters' positions on the advisory question of whether or not to reduce the size of the County Board.

Based on new census numbers, the population in the county has declined from 49,019 to 47,765. Currently districts 1, 2, and 5 have more than the ideal target population for each district which would be 5,307 and districts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 have less than that target population figure. Thomas stated that he didn't think we would want to break any precinct lines in order to come up with an exact number in district, but otherwise the Board would want to get as close to the target number (5,307) as possible. Thomas went over the current County Board map and the precinct breakdown of the 2008 referendum.

Board member Quirk stated that this came up at one of the other meetings that the census data was incorrect. Thomas explained that the "official" census results are not accurate for population figures in the County because the Census Bureau did not use current precinct boundaries to determine population. Thomas stated that Board Member Lee Lobue did some work to correct that problem utilizing software he has available to him as part of his job with the Illinois Senate.

Sandra Stoecker commented that she came to the meeting because she was interested in the redrawing of the Board districts, but she could not comment further if there was no proposed map. Thomas stated that a proposed map will be taken up by executive committee, and those meetings will be to the public.

Questions were asked when that meeting will be held. Thomas stated that the meeting has not been set but they can call the board office or check the Macoupin County website for updates.

Jim Alderson asked if the Board is planning to reduce the size of the board, per the 2008 advisory referendum, before or after the reapportionment of the districts. Thomas stated that will have to be part of the discussion as it is relative to proposing a new map under either single member or multi-member districts.

Terri Koyne asked if the Executive Committee meetings are open to the public and if the public is permitted to address the committee at such meeting. Thomas stated that an agenda has not been set, so he could not answer that question. Board member Quirk stated that any member of the public would have to call the Board office and request to be put on the agenda for any such meeting.

Veryl Reiher said that the County was not against the Board having 27 members, but was against the amount of money that was being paid per meeting and overall cost to taxpayers. Reiher asked if there is a state law that sets the per diem for each meeting for Board members or how the per diem amount can it changed. Thomas stated that it can be changed at this time during the redistricting process as it is the appropriate time to discuss it and make any changes that Board feels are necessary.

Thomas asked if there were any further questions, being none, Motion was made by Pomatto and seconded by Goodman to adjourn at 6:22 P.M.

Prepared by: Jeanette Baker
Prepared on: May 16, 2011