

MONTCALM COUNTY REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

8:00 A.M.

The organizational meeting of the Montcalm County Reapportionment Commission was called to order by Kristen Millard, County Clerk, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Montcalm County Administration Building, Stanton, Michigan.

Present: Kristen Millard, County Clerk; Andrea Krause, Prosecuting Attorney; Mike Williams, Chairman of the Montcalm County Republicans; and Justin Johnson, Chairperson the Montcalm County Democratic Party. Present via Zoom: JoAnne Vukin, County Treasurer.

Others present: Angela Gonzalez and Helen Kennedy.

Ms. Millard stated the first order of business was the election of a Chairperson. She stated she would accept nominations. Mike Williams placed the name of Andrea Krause in nomination. There were no other nominations. Moved by Williams, supported by Millard that Andrea Krause be elected as Chairperson of the Reapportionment Commission. Motion carried.

Chairperson Krause appointed Kristen Millard as secretary of the Commission.

Discussion took place on a legal opinion the Michigan Association of County Clerk's obtained regarding the official release date of the 2020 Census. Ms. Millard informed the Commission that the State of Michigan is stating the official release date will be September 30, 2021, however the legal opinion states the release date is August 12, 2021, even though the data released on August 12<sup>th</sup> is considered "legacy" data. The Commission only has 60 days to complete their work on reapportioning commissioner districts and should the Commission go with the September 30<sup>th</sup> date, and it is later determined that the Commission should have used the August 12<sup>th</sup> date, the 60 day deadline will have been missed and maps from residents in the county will have to be accepted and one of them ultimately adopted.

Moved by Williams, supported by Millard to use the August 12, 2021, as the official release date of the census data, which will require completion of the reapportionment of county commissioner districts by October 11, 2021. Motion carried.

Chairperson Krause presented all of the members with the proposed Rules of Procedures. These are the same rules that were used by the Reapportionment Commission in 2001 and 2011. The Commission went through each of the rules and made amendments.

Moved by Millard, supported by Williams to adopt the Rules of Procedure as amended. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on whether to use the free County Commission District (CCD) Reapportionment Tool provided by the State or to use a different mapping program. A quote was obtained from the County's mapping company in the amount of \$5,000 which was requested in the 2021/2022 budget since the release date was supposed to be September 30th. It was the consensus of the Commission to use the free CCD Reapportionment Tool provided by the State.

Kristen Millard presented each member with an updated Powerpoint Presentation on the reapportionment process. She directed each member to the 11.9% allowable range of population divergence and gave examples of what the ranges of the districts should be for 5 – 13 districts with what she believes is the accurate population number, minus inmates. Ms. Millard informed everyone on the commission that they cannot use the prison population when dividing districts but she will have to verify that prison population once the CCD Tool is available.

Ms. Millard also stressed with the Commission that it is very important to try to reduce the number of "splits" when drawing district lines. Attention needs to be paid to township boundaries, voting precincts,

villages and school districts when drawing maps. Top priority is to try to keep townships and precincts whole.

It was the consensus of the Commission to give the County Clerk until September 7, 2021, to provide each member with access to the CCD Tool, which will include the legacy census data. Then each member has until noon on September 21, 2021, to submit their plans to the County Clerk. Each member may submit 2 plans. The Clerk then has until September 24<sup>th</sup> to verify the plans and if any amendments are needed each member has until September 29<sup>th</sup> to file those amendments. The final plan will be approved on October 1, 2021.

Future meeting dates and times were set as follows:

Tuesday, September 7, 2021	6 p.m.	Crystal Township Hall, Crystal
Wednesday, September 15, 2021	6 p.m.	Pierson Township Hall, Pierson
Tuesday, September 21, 2021	1 p.m.	Administration Building, Stanton
Friday, October 1, 2021	9 a.m.	Administration Building, Stanton

All meetings will be posted and placed on the County's website along with being provided to the Daily News.

Moved by Williams, supported by Johnson to amend the Rules of Procedure to reflect the date changes:

#### **2021 MONTCALM COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION**

#### **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

- 1) In accordance with the law, three or more members of the Commission represent a quorum of any meeting. A majority vote of the quorum present is required so that action can be taken.
- 2) The sum of all cities and townships in the county shall be used as the total County population figure in preparing a plan.
- 3) Only members of the Commission may submit plans except as otherwise provided by law.
- 4) No one commissioner shall submit more than two plans.
- 5) Each plan submitted shall contain the following information:
  - i) One Montcalm County map that clearly identifies each proposed commissioner district shall be made available in the Office of the County Clerk for inspection purposes.
  - ii) Seven copies of detailed census information that clearly indicates the population figures in each proposed district shall be made available. One copy shall be used for verification purposes. One copy shall be made available in the Office of the County Clerk for inspection purposes. The Clerk shall have one copy sent electronically to each of the five commissioners within 24 hours after receipt for their consideration.
  - iii) A word description of each district shall be made available for clarification purposes.
- 6) The County Clerk shall have delivered to each member all census information by September 7, 2021.
- 7) All plans shall be submitted to the Office of the County Clerk by noon on September 21, 2021. The County Clerk's Office shall time stamp, assign a number and indicate the author's name on each plan received.
- 8) The author of each plan may make amendments to his or her plans for the purpose of making adjustments to district lines and/or population figures. Amendments that basically represent a whole new plan shall not be permitted.
- 9) Errors found in the verification process of a plan shall be noted in writing. The Clerk shall have until September 24, 2021, to make six copies of the noted errors and shall have one copy made available in the Office of the County Clerk. One copy shall also be sent electronically within 24 hours to each of the five commissioners. If a plan is verified as being correct, the Clerk shall have each member notified in writing. Correction of errors shall be made by the author in the form of an amendment to the plan.

- 10) Amendments shall be delivered to the Office of the county Clerk by September 29, 2021.
- 11) Amendments to each plan shall contain the same information required in number 5i, 5ii and 5iii of these Rules of Procedure as well as author's name and the assigned plan number.
- 12) A final plan shall be verified and approved by the Commission by October 12, 2021.
- 13) Meetings of the Commission shall be set as follows:
  - i) Upon call of the Chair.
  - ii) Upon a signed, written request to the Chairman by three members.
  - iii) By majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
- 14) All meetings called shall conform to the open meetings provision of the law.
- 15) All notices of meetings and meeting minutes will be placed on the Montcalm County website.
- 16) Within 7 days after adopting an apportionment plan, the Commission will provide to the public a statement explaining how the approved plan complies with the guidelines listed in MCL 46.404, including the provision stating that, "Districts shall now be drawn to effect partisan political advantage." The Commission will post this statement on the Montcalm County Clerk's homepage or a County webpage at least as prominent.

Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

Moved by Johnson, supported by Williams to adjourn at 9:10 a.m. Motion carried.

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Kristen Millard, Secretary

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Andrea S. Krause, Chairperson