

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2021

Committee Chair Mike Kirkton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.. Pursuant to Public Act 101-0640 and the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation related to COVID 19, participation in this meeting was offered in person, through Zoom and by teleconference.

Present: Kirkton, Barickman, Welch, Vietti, Vitzthum
Present via Zoom: Manker

Absent: Mennenga

Also Present: County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast (via zoom), County Board Members Linda Ambrose, Mark Runyon, and Jim Blackard, Executive Director Alina Hartley, Network & Computer Systems Administrator Jon Sear.

Kirkton called for any additions or corrections to the agenda with none requested. *Motion by Welch, second by Vietti to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.* Ayes: Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Welch, Vietti, and Vitzthum. Nays: None. Absent: Mennenga.

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting. *Motion by Vitzthum, second by Barickman to approve the minutes as submitted. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.* Ayes: Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Welch, Vietti, and Vitzthum. Nays: None. Absent: Mennenga.

Review of Reapportionment Process – Jack Vietti provided a brief history of the makeup of the board noting that the board had once had 30 board members (representing one from each district). Vietti stated that when he came on the board there were 28 members. Vietti noted that the reduction to 24 members took place in 2001. Vietti stated that there was a resolution to recommend the board be reduced to 18 (during the next reapportionment) a couple years back, but the measure narrowly failed.

Hartley reported that the reapportionment is the process by which the county board will ensure that each board member represents the same number of inhabitants. Hartley reported that the reapportionment process happens every ten years following the census and must be completed by July 1st or the regularly scheduled July board meeting. Hartley stated that the board must first determine the appropriate number of board members and then how they should be elected, whether at large or by district. Hartley stated that if the board chooses to divide the county into districts they must be substantially equal in population, contiguous and as compact as practical. Hartley noted that other items that can be included in the place is how the chairman is to be elected (whether elected by the board or at large) and by what method and how much board members should be compensated. Hartley noted that all board members will then be up for election in 2022 and will be seated on December 5, 2022. Hartley stated that the newly elected board members will draw (at the December 5th meeting) to determine whether they will have a two year term or a four year term.

Discussion took place regarding comparative sizes of boards throughout the state. Kirkton noted that whatever decision was made, he wanted it to be supported by facts. The Committee will continue this discussion at their next meeting.

Review of Standing Rules – Kirkton stated that he would like the Committee to take the time to review the Standing Rules of the Board. Kirkton stated that he has divided the rules into section and assigned each Committee member a section. Kirkton asked that each member review their section and report back to him their recommended changes. Kirkton stated that each member will have an opportunity to weigh in as the Committee discusses possible changes. The Committee will continue the review at their next meeting.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Motion by Barickman, second by Vietti to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** Ayes: Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Welch, Vietti, and Vitzthum. Nays: None. Absent: Mennenga. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m..

Alina M. Hartley
Executive Director