

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 25, 2011
MINUTES

LOCATION: Palmyra Village Hall

PRESENT: Board Members: Chairman Manar, Harding, Quarton, Quirk, Watson;
Guests: Jim Launer and Valerie Quarton

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

Chairman Manar called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and distributed five hand-outs: 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.

The Committee review State Statute that directs each county board in the State to redistrict every decade. Statute states that each district shall be equal in population, shall be contiguous and compact, may divide townships or municipalities only when necessary to conform to equal population and shall be created in a manner so that no precinct shall be divided between 2 or more districts.

Statute also states that prior to reapportionment, each county board shall first determine its size and make-up (i.e. single or multi-member districts). A reapportionment plan must be passed by the July meeting of the county board.

Chairman Manar reviewed the materials. The Committee discussed the results of the 2008 advisory referendum to reduce the size of the county board from 27 members to 18 members. Chairman Manar reminded the Committee that a binding referendum under State law is not possible for determining the size of county boards. Therefore, the Board chose to place an advisory referendum on the ballot.

Chairman Manar 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. Board Member Lee Lobue determined the correct population figures for each precinct in the County by utilizing software provided by the State Senate for public access in Springfield. The chart being used by the Committee shows both the "official" population figures by precinct from the Census Bureau which are incorrect and the "unofficial" population figures by precinct which are accurate. Manar said that he has spoken with County Clerk Pete Duncan regarding the error by the Census Bureau to get the problem fixed.

Board Member Quarton expressed interest in North Otter Township being included in County Board District 6. North Otter Township is currently part of County Board District 7.

Board Member Quirk expressed interest in District 3 gaining back a Shipman precinct that was drawn into District 6 in the 2000 redistricting.

Valerie Quarton told the committee that unlike the Southern portion of the county, it is very hard to communicate to voters in the northwestern area because there is only one newspaper and District 6 is so large and encompasses a good portion of the land area of Macoupin County.

The Committee discussed the possibility of instituting single member districts as opposed to the current three member districts that are in place today. Board Member Quirk said that if the Board chose a single member district plan with less members, the Board should consider having a Chairman elected county-wide just like all other county officials.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm.

Prepared by: Chairman Manar
Prepared on: May 1, 2011