

**Commission on Reapportionment
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: January 13, 2021; 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 956 5023 7364
PRESIDING OFFICER: Andy Monk (Interim Chair)
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Commissioners Sarah DeStefano, Scott Minkoff and Travis
Rask
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Thomas Kadgen, UC League of Women Voters.

Commissioner Monk called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02.

Commissioners had a brief discussion to establish a protocol for press inquiries and agreed that the Chairperson for a meeting would field any questions regarding that meeting.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing candidates**
Motion By: Commissioner Rask
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner DeStefano
Discussion: None
Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Minkoff, Monk and Rask
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Commissioner entered Executive Session at approximately 6:05 PM.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to end executive session**
Motion By: Commissioner Minkoff
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Rask
Discussion: None
Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Minkoff, Monk and Rask
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Commissioner ended executive session at approximately 6:45.

Motion No. 3 Motion to appoint Regis Obijiski, Donna Lutz and Kathy Waithe to the Commission on Reapportionment

Motion By: Commissioner Minkoff

Motion Seconded By: Commissioner DeStefano

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Minkoff, Monk and Rask

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Regis Obijiski, Donna Lutz and Kathy Waithe Appointed

Commissioner directed the Clerk to contact the new Commissioners to inform them of the appointments; to notify the County Executive and the Legislature; notify the remaining pool of candidates and let them know we will keep their contact information in case we need to fill a vacancy.

Interim Chair Monk asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Commissioner Minkoff

Motion Seconded By: Commissioner DeStefano

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: January 28, 2021

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Fawn Tantillo

So, we just have... we're just waiting for Andy, who is our chairman tonight, to get logged in. You're just... so you know, Tom, they are rotating Chairman, as it was written in, the Charter. There is Andy. So, we can't we can't make a final determination for Chair until the committee is completely appointed. But we're trying the rotation method out.

Andy's here, Andy, we have Tom Cajun with us with the League of Women Voters, I was just introducing him. He's a good friend of the legislators and been very involved with the charter and redistricting and a lot of issues like that in the past. So I will turn the meeting over to you, Andy, you are our chairman tonight.

Andy Monk

Hi, everybody. So, I think the first step right on is to call the meeting to order.

Fawn Tantillo

That's it.

Andy Monk

Right. So, I'd like to call the meeting to order. Is there anything else parliamentary that I need to do?

Fawn Tantillo

Only if you're going to go back into Executive Session, then you could call for it, you know, but I don't know if you want to talk about anything before that. Like the, or if you wanted to talk now about how to handle the press?

Andy Monk

Oh, yeah, that's a good point.

Fawn Tantillo

I suspect as you go forward, you're not going to go into Executive Session often. So, the press can just listen to the meeting and write their stories. I didn't want to put anybody on the spot today. And I didn't think Patricia would, you know, call all four of you.

Andy Monk

Right.

Fawn Tantillo

But I, I, I do the I Am the press contact for the legislature. Right, a lot of press releases and involved with them a lot. But I certainly don't want to be the spokesman for the group. I would happy to pass along anything you want passed along. But I hope I didn't step on anybody's toes today. When I spoke to her, I just

Andy Monk

I want to say thank you for for doing this. I think that was absolutely the right thing to do. You know, I don't I don't think we really have any specific information that we need to convey just now. But I do like that you shared that we're you know, we made really good progress, whittling down the list. And I agree that we won't be going into Executive Session nearly as much. Once we've got that part resolved. I mean, I don't know, we'll see what happens. But it seems like that's a likely case.

Fawn Tantillo

And then I was also thinking whenever you might want to think about this, but whenever you do make your final choices, I think we should write a letter to the candidates you did not choose and thank them. And and point out that if any of you are unable to finish this term, that the Charter calls for any replacements to be appointed in the same manner. So you would still be using that list. So we could just say like we may call upon you in the future, if you know if need be,

Andy Monk

I agree that we should we should follow up with everybody regardless of whether or not they're selected.

Fawn Tantillo

You've got a pretty interesting group of candidates there.

Andy Monk

Surely doo. Do, do folks have any other thoughts about how to handle the press in this current moment? Or going forward?

Scott Minkoff

Without making your life difficult? Andy, I think one way to do it would be for fun to just be like comments to whoever was the chair of the meeting of the most recent meeting.

Andy Monk
That sounds good. Right?

Fawn Tantillo
I like that.

Sarah DeStefano
Yeah. Like I'm approval.

Scott Minkoff
If we change the way we do chair in the future, we can change that as well. But I like this situation. And as long as we're continuing with that, I think that's fine.

Travis Rusk
Agree. .

Fawn Tantillo
Very good. I like that.

Andy Monk
Um, is there any other business or any other comments that folks want to make? Now, I think after that, then I'll propose that we maybe go back into the executive session, but just to open the floor up for any comments before that.

Sarah DeStefano
My only comment would be to thank Fawn for doing the legwork today for us in the voter registration and also again, thank you for taking the press call on our behalf. That was much appreciated. So only thing I would want to put on the record.

Travis Rusk
Agree I'm okay, I'll make a motion to go into Executive Session.

Sarah DeStefano
I'll second it.

Travis Rusk
Thanks, Tom.

Fawn Tantillo
All in favor? All right, Tom, I'm going to have to log you off. And then give me one moment. And then I'm going to stop recording.

Andy Monk
Is there a motion to come out of executive session?

Fawn Tantillo

Okay. Scott, we need you to move it again.

Scott Minkoff

Moved.

Travis Rusk

Second.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay.

Andy Monk

Perfect. Well, welcome back, y'all. Right. And is there a motion to, to vote on our appointments?

Travis Rusk

Or Sarah, go ahead.

Sarah DeStefano

So moved.

Fawn Tantillo

For the record, you need to state their names.

Andy Monk

I thought we needed the motion first.

Unknown Speaker

So, okay, so I guess.

Travis Rusk

So I'm not pronouncing them someone else can do it.

Unknown Speaker

Okay, sure. I put forward a motion that we appoint Donna Lutz, Kathy Waithe and Regis Obijiski, is how I would guess, to serve on the Redistricting, or technically Reapportionment committee, Commission.

Fawn Tantillo

And is there a second?

Sarah DeStefano

I'll second? Okay.

Travis Rusk

Hi, all in favor.

Andy Monk

All in favor? Hi. Hi. Hi. Great. So it passes unanimously that will appoint those three, which is really exciting. It is.

Travis Rusk

Yeah. Thank you. Thank you both. And Sarah as well. I mean, this, I was nervous going into this. And this was this was very painless. So thank you guys. And hopefully, going forward, this is going to be the same, you know, we can we can work similarly together on these on these lines? Because if that's the case, I think we'll have a fun time.

Andy Monk

Yeah, well, I think I want to thank all you guys, because I think we are working so so well together. And I think it's great that we've already set this tone for our meeting so that when we welcome our new three members, they can just like, they can see how cordial and how agreeable everyone is. And they can participate in that similar way.

Sarah DeStefano

Completely agree. Thank you guys. It's been very enjoyable and interesting. So, so far, even though Thank you.

Scott Minkoff

You haven't spent much time with me.

Travis Rusk

You like maps, we like maps.

Fawn Tantillo

At the at the first meeting, whenever we get around to having that, I believe we should have Dennis Doyle talk. You'll get to meet each other. But then we'll have Dennis Doyle talk a little bit about how the census process how they collect the census numbers initially, how those numbers work. 10 years ago, they had a program where we could actually go in and manipulate census districts. They're really weird. I don't know if you've ever worked with census numbers before. But like the Watchtower farm when we initially get the numbers that are not going to have been corrected. The Watchtower farm had like 800 people in it, but they had put them in a census block that had one little house that two people living in it. So so we knew that was incorrect. And we were able to adjust for that as we as they did it, but you can literally pull one little census block here and another one there and, and kind of piece them together. But you folks will discuss what things you want to look at. I know the last committee looked at town lines, school districts, geographic impediments, like they didn't want to have part of a election district above the reservoir and a part below the reservoir, things like that. So you guys will work on it.

Scott Minkoff

2020 census data is not out yet. You know, this affects my own work, too. I assume that the last committee... I mean, it's not unusual for it to not be out yet. I did I did the last commission wait until after it's released to really get going or did they start looking at things ahead of time?

Fawn Tantillo

They had a different deadline, they actually had to get the districts drawn by like before we had clean numbers. Okay, so so that's one of the reasons that, you know, it's been pushed back to the year that ends in one and the year that ends in two and, you know, so that we could get clean numbers but they began their work by talking. It was a huge change the last time we were talking from

Scott Minkoff

At large

Fawn Tantillo

There was a whole big discussion about keeping the towns whole, which was impossible with single member districts. There's, there's only a couple of towns below, you know, the, the Boiceville, the, you know the Denning, you know, that whole area up there

Sarah DeStefano

The great wilderness, that is trees.

Fawn Tantillo

You had to put two or three towns together to get anywhere near the same number of people in a district, but the City of Kingston was divided into three districts. So you know, it was. So I just thought Dennis could briefly give you a idea of when he expects to get the numbers. And, and like how that how that process will work. So when you're all together, you can, you know, you can start to maybe think about how you want to how you want to approach it.

Sarah DeStefano

How is this something where there's like a standing like, bi weekly or monthly or weekly, like a meeting on a specific night? Or is it that we convene as convenient, I'm assuming it's the prior version, because I'm not sure in what frequency but seems like it would have to be sort of a standing meeting, every once in a while.

Fawn Tantillo

The I believe the last committee met initially on a on a monthly basis. But eventually they were meeting much closer together. Like, especially once you get numbers and you start working on the mapping. I know they met over several days, almost back to back working on maps, and they invited the public to go to the I did it myself, I know, the supervisor and in the town of Rochester now, Michael, I can't think of his last name.

Scott Minkoff

Can't think of it either, but I know who you are talking about.

Fawn Tantillo

But he was very, very involved. And we he was on the planning board, I think at the time. And and we would meet each other up there all the time and just play with the districts and see how we could draw them. The Commission at that particular time because we had 33 legislators we did

Michael Baden.

That's it, Michael. And they were cutting from 33 legislators to 23 legislators, and they didn't want it they didn't want to mark on the map. Like was just at one point? I think someone suggested they mark on the map where legislators lived, sitting legislators, and they were like, nope, we don't care where they live. You know, is this gonna fall away? It's with a fallout. I know, there's been some discussions that because we have single member districts, they might not leave need a lot of tweaking. But I also know, like Shawangunk was divided into three different districts. And the thought was that maybe we could, you know, not do that to them again. Although I don't know what's been a problem. So that might be something you want to talk to folks in Shawangunk about.

Sarah DeStefano

Yeah, it's something we can talk about.

Travis Rusk

We're not changing like the number of districts or anything like that. Like we're not determining if we're gonna have a 25 legislators, we're still keeping like 23, right?

Fawn Tantillo

Yes, you have no choice about that. And you cannot go to weighted voting.

Travis Rusk

Okay. All right. Thank you.

Sarah DeStefano

I guess I would say that maybe we start with inviting these three candidates and then see what days of the week work best for everyone for our just to figure out when our next meeting would be. And then I don't think it's such a bad thing to meet sooner. Having spoken to Ken about this, Ken Ronk, just as a part of having been nominated for this, it's his impression was that the data would be coming out in March. And I don't know if that's true or not.

Scott Minkoff

That's when it's supposed to come out.

Sarah DeStefano

Okay. So I, I don't have any issue with meeting again, in February, or even sooner, just so that we reconvene and talk as a group or discuss, like you said, fun when we should be expecting the data. But I think it may be the best way to proceed is to figure out what days would work for all seven of us

Travis Rusk
Agreed?

Fawn Tantillo
It might make sense, at least initially, to meet monthly. And if we pick a night that works for everybody, and just like lock in that night, so they don't schedule other things over top of us,

Sarah DeStefano
Right, like the third Thursday or Wednesday of the month or something to that extent, I'm not saying that that needs to be that but

Fawn Tantillo
So you can all bring your calendars.

Sarah DeStefano
Yes. Sounds good.

Fawn Tantillo
So I will formally notify the Executive of who all of the committee members are and then he by the charter calls the first meeting so

Sarah DeStefano
Great.

Fawn Tantillo
So that we can cancel tomorrow night's meeting, I'm guessing.

Andy Monk
I think so.

Travis Rusk
Yeah.

Sarah DeStefano
And then does the County Executive notify the people we've chosen as well. Once you notify them.

Fawn Tantillo
No, I'm going to notify them.

Sarah DeStefano
Okay, great.

Fawn Tantillo

And I will formally notify them and also I can send you all the letter. I'll also write a letter that will send to all the candidates you didn't choose. Because and like let them know they're not off the hook yet. And you know, that they may be called upon if anything should happen to the to the seven of you so

Sarah DeStefano

Much appreciated, Fawn. Thank you very much.

Fawn Tantillo

All right and if you need any information or want anything, feel free to call me or text me or email me and I will do my best to get it to you as quickly as possible.

Scott Minkoff

Thank you very much. I'll motion, a motion to adjourn. I'm not gonna be that person for the record. There was just enough silence that somebody had to do.

Sarah DeStefano

I'll second it. Okay.

Andy Monk

All in favor.

All

Aye.

Sarah DeStefano

Thanks, guys.

Fawn Tantillo

Thank you. Bye