

**Commission on Reapportionment
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 9, 2021 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 956 1062 6098
PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioner Kenneth Panza (Rotating Chair)
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Commissioners Sarah DeStefano, Donna Lutz, Andy
Monk, Regis Obijiski and Travis Rask.
ABSENT: Kathleen Waithe
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ulster County Kristin Gumear, Ulster County
Planning Dennis Doyle and Robert Leibowitz; Mike Baden, Supervisor, Town of
Rochester.

Chairman Kenneth Panza called the meeting to order at 6:02.

Motion No. 1: To approve the minutes of May 12, 2021

Motion By: Commissioner Obijiski
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Monk
Discussion: None.
Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Monk, Obijiski, Panza, and
Rask
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes approved.

Commissioner Obijiski reported on the meeting with the Town of Saugerties. He said they were interested in how the redistricting is done and liked that they were able to discuss the numbers for the Town of Saugerties in 2010 and why the town has 2.5 Legislative Districts. They also questioned the 10% deviation between districts. The commissioners explained it is 10% from the largest district to the smallest district in the county.

The subcommittee reviewing the mapping software reported on their findings and recommended the Caliper Maptitude program.

Motion No. 2: To contract with Claiper Maptitued for redistricting mapping software.
Motion Made By: Commissioner DeStafano
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Rask

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Monk, Obijiski, Panza, and Rask
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Motion Approved

Clerk Tantillo gave an update on the commission's website.

There was a brief discussion about meeting in person if and when the Governor's Emergency Order ends.

The committee discussed how the google spread sheet with the town meetings was organized and how information regarding the actual meeting dates and times will be confirmed.

Chairman Panza asked if there was any other comments or business. Hearing none:

Motion to Adjourn
Motion Made By: Commissioner Panza
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Lutz
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: June 14, 2021

**Commission on Reapportionment
Meeting Transcript**

DATE & TIME: June 9, 2021 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 956 1062 6098
PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioner Kenneth Panza (Rotating Chair)
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Commissioners Sarah DeStefano, Donna Lutz, Andy
Monk, Regis Obijiski and Travis Rask.
ABSENT: Kathleen Waithe
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ulster County Kristin Gumear, Ulster County Planning
Dennis Doyle and Robert Leibowitz
Fawn Tantillo
Okay, we're ready to go.

Kenneth Panza
Alright. Well, I'm Ken Panza the temporary Chair of the of the meeting for today. I'd like to
call the meeting to order. And ask the Secretary please call the roll.

Fawn Tantillo
Yes, sir. Kenneth Panza.

Kenneth Panza
Here.

Fawn Tantillo
Travis Rask. Not yet. Hang on. I'm Sarah DeStefano.

Sarah DeStefano
Here.

Fawn Tantillo
Donna is should be logging in as we speak. Hi, Donna. We're doing roll.

Donna Lutz
Good morning or afternoon.

Fawn Tantillo
Andy Monk

Andy Monk
Here.

Fawn Tantillo
And Regis Obijiski

Regis Obijiski
Here.

Fawn Tantillo
Okay. All right. So you have a quorum present.

Kenneth Panza
Quorum present. Kathleen Waithe asked to be excused from the meeting, and Travis was not here, is that correct?

Fawn Tantillo
That's... up. Here he comes.

Kenneth Panza
Okay.

Fawn Tantillo
And now. So now you have one, six members.

Kenneth Panza
All right, seeing a quorum, we'll call the meeting to order. The first order of business is approving the minutes from May 12, 2021. Everyone should have had a copy of that and had a chance to look at it. Can I have a motion to approve the minutes.

Robert Leibowitz
So moved.

Andy Monk
Second.

Kenneth Panza
Motion has been moved and seconded. All those in favor say aye.

Committee Members
Aye

Travis Rask
I will abstain, I wasn't, I wasn't there. Sorry about that.

Fawn Tantillo

And Travis, you may vote on minutes that you were not present for. You're just saying that those are okay to be the official minutes. But if you're not comfortable, that's alright, too.

Travis Rask

Oh, that's fine. Go ahead. Yep, I will. All in favor.

Fawn Tantillo

And that always comes up for legislators. And I see a caller ID 8453320974. Can we get your name?

Dennis Doyle

Hi, Fawn. is Dennis on my Internet's out. So I had to call in.

Fawn Tantillo

All right, Dennis.

Donna Lutz

I have no I have no speaker. I'll be back.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay.

Kenneth Panza

We hear you.

Travis Rask

Yeah, we can hear you.

Andy Monk

We can hear you.

Kenneth Panza

Funny. All right. The minutes have been approved. unanimously except for one person who's not here. The first order of business is a report of other town meetings at the town and village of Saugerties. I guess that's Regis and Kathy is not here. But Regis could report on that.

Regis Obijiski

Yes. The meaning of the town of Saugerties went very well, The point person, Her name is Terry Wood, was fabulous in terms of accommodating us. We were going to, we were going to attend in person. Then we changed our minds, When I say we - Kathy Kathy Waithe and I. And and we decided to visit the the meeting by via zoom. And it was turned out to be WebEx was just fine. The, the one of the things that that people were interested in is how

does this work? And so we were able to tell them how, how we've come how we came to an average number in the from the, in the in the county when we had 182,000 people and this is you know how it worked in 2010. And we had the numbers for the town of Saugerties. They'd like that ,that. You know, we had Saugerties numbers and we did the long division for them and say this is why you have 2.5 districts. And and this is how this is how it shaped, shakedown, shook out. And so that worked worked very well.

And we... The other thing was interesting, I thought was they were interested in the deviation, the 10%, 10% deviation, could we have a 10% D either either way, plus or minus? And of course the answer to that is "no." And we gave them the Brennan Center explanation of just how that works. You take the high and the low. So for example, in 2010, the town of Rochester had a plus five, right Mike, and the Town of Marlboro had a minus five and so those were they that was the highest and the highest and the lowest in the in the deviation and adding those two together. You get 10%. So it's really 10% for the county. But the way they figured out is they pick the highest and highest and lowest. So that's going to be a little bit tricky to get to that to get to that number, but it's not 10% for each, each municipality or each to each district.

And that was that was pretty much it went, went very well. And they were happy that we're in gear. And it work.

Fawn Tantillo

Good. And the next scheduled is with the village on June 21. And that's going to be Kathy and Andy. So

Kenneth Panza

Did they have any comments about their existing? Pro or con.

Regis Obijiski

I take Ken is talking to me?

Kenneth Panza

Yeah.

Regis Obijiski

No, there was, there was nothing about that at all. They just wanted to know how it worked, you know, and, and it's every 10 years. So it's not really at the top of everybody's hit parade.

Kenneth Panza

Yeah, I guess that's the whole process of going out there.

Regis Obijiski

It is. I think I think going on, it makes it worthwhile, Ken, Yes, I agree with you on that.

Kenneth Panza

So, we have upcoming on the 21st the Village of Saugerties with Kathy and Andy. So we can't report on that, because that's a future event. The next item on the agenda is the software vendor update. We had a subcommittee of three people whose names I don't recall. But,

Fawn Tantillo

It is Sarah, Andy, and was it Travis?

Kenneth Panza

Is the subcommittee prepared to give a report?

Travis Rask

Andy, want to take it away.

Andy Monk

Sure. Let's see here. Can you guys see my screen right now? Okay. Feel like zoom meetings are the modern day seance. It's like, Can you see it? Can you read it? anyway. So we do have a report. We met with three or four different software companies. They had a variety of different options. Their software is all based on a really similar principle. However, there was one that really stuck out as.... sorry, they're really stuck out as being something that fit the needs of the committee a lot better. And that is Caliper Maptitude for Redistricting. This is a screenshot of what the map...

Robert Leibowitz

I don't think you're sharing your screen.

Andy Monk

Am I not anymore?

Robert Leibowitz

I don't see it.

Travis Rask

Oh, he's sharing with I can see it.

Sarah DeStefano

I can also.

Okay, so it's in a browser.

Andy Monk

I'm going to try one more time.

How's that? Can you see it now? Rob?

Fawn Tantillo
We can see Rob.

Kenneth Panza
I can see it.

Robert Leibowitz
That's weird. Okay, I guess it's just me.

Andy Monk
So, um, Maptitude for redistricting. This is what it looks like. So there are a number of different tools for creating the maps, different information, Windows and things of that nature

So, there we go. So, there are sort of five main areas within that software. There is our map tools, which are things like zooming in and out, going back to the initial map scale panning around and getting more information about different mapping objects.

There is the layers and legends menu, which allows you to apply and remove various layers such as different informational layers that we've imported into the software as well as like topographical maps and things like that. And the legend that shows you how big or small it is.

The district box which displays a table of demographic information about the districts, and will display things like the percent deviation, the you know, different population makeup, the district,

The redistricting toolbox, which are the tools for modifying the districts in the plan, such as assigning individual districts and assigning individual census blocks to a district or moving census blocks from one district to another.

And then lastly, the changes box which displays the pending changes that you've made as you are modifying the map during your session so that you can keep track of what you have changed while you were, while you were editing the map, before you submit it.

It has some great analysis tools like the population and demographic data that I mentioned. In the screenshot on the right you can see that it will show you the deviation and districts four and eight is this sample, as well as on the actual map image itself. So you know that four and eight are deviating by about the same amount, but one is plus and one is minus. And so then it will give you some suggestions and the ability to reassign districts from eight to four, to even them out a little bit, as well as information like how many people live in individual census blocks, so that you can really understand what you're doing before you click the button.

This is a browser based software. It was chosen by the committee because it does provide all of the features that we were looking for, including the ability for the collaboration that some people felt was important.

I know that this will probably not be very exciting for Ken, because he was very clear in past meetings that he wanted a desktop solution. But this will run in a browser on your desktop.

Not only did it satisfy the features that we felt we were looking for, such as the ability for all committee members to have a license to use the software, and the ability for members of the public to create their own maps. But it was also way less expensive than even the next less expensive option. So, for those reasons, we felt Not only is it a great value for the money that we'd be spending on it, but it really checked all the boxes in a way that some of the other software actually didn't.

So, the total cost would be \$10,000 for the online redistricting software, which allows us to have unlimited users. So, people who are interested could sign up for their own account, and start making their own maps, which they would be able to submit based on preset criteria. So, they would have to meet a minimum number of districts, they will actually have to meet the number of districts that wouldn't be plus or minus. And then we would also be able to set the maximum deviation for their map so they'd be notified before submitting it if they were out of those boundaries.

Then there's a \$5,000 charge for the software to maintain the server where the software would sort of live, as well as an additional \$2,000 cost for Caliber to set up the host, which would be hosted by IS of Ulster County. So, we save significantly on the cost of needing to have them host it, which was a big chunk of money. So, the total amount we'd be paying to Caliper is about \$17,000. And there are some additional costs which are being finalized with IS.

Rob, do you have anything? I think that's, that's my last slides? Do you have anything to add?

Robert Leibowitz

I mean, you you pretty much got it. I'm like I told you not to worry, what we'll do is Dennis told me about this earlier.. Where we will find the, we will find the money, we won't go into contingency to find it. We will have,,, it's actually about \$30,000 is where it's gonna end up. So it's \$15,000 roll the software 2000 set it up. That's total \$17,000 plus another \$12 to \$13,000 to host it. Calibre would have charged another twelve grand to host it on thier site. So, that's the difference. We'll build in a little bit of wiggle room just for technical issues. That budget, we're not going to just go at that level. And you know, the software has all the features you need. The one desktop license that we have is just to manage the overall project. That hasn't doesn't really have any additional bells and whistles. All it does is manage the project.

Fawn Tantillo

I assume you've run this all this past our IS, right?

Robert Leibowitz

Oh, yes. Well, that's how I got. That's where I got.

Kenneth Panza

What's the additional 12,000 for? I didn't quite understand that.

Robert Leibowitz

That's for serving it. So, it has to we have to host it on a server. So, there's certain windows licenses and things like that that have to be... in order to host it. Caliper would are charge us double that, It charges \$24 thousand.

Andy Monk

And also is that \$12,000 is a number that represents the real cost of hosting but is not necessarily a number that we have to request for our budget. Is that right Rob?

Robert Leibowitz

I'm not asking you to request any money at this time. All you need to do right now is request the software right now. And then we will we'll try to we'll find money in the Planning budget to accommodate

Andy Monk

Cool.

Travis Rask

Well, yeah, the Caliper software definitely has my vote for sure. Based on what we what we reviewed together to committee. This one was was above and beyond what the others could offer and much much You know, very user friendly. That's where where my vote stands.

Kenneth Panza

Does the subcommittee have a motion for or to propose to accept the Caliper? Should we accept the software?

Travis Rask

I can make them I can make a motion to accept Caliper as our software to use for, for the, this commission.

Travis Rask

And second, that.

Kenneth Panza

Is there any further discussion? On the motion? All those in favor of accepting the Caliber software, Is that the name of it?

Travis Rask

Yes.

Kenneth Panza

Raise your hand. say aye.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Kenneth Panza

Opposed? Are there any abstaining? Well go ahead and get the software.

Robert Leibowitz

We'll get on it.

Donna Lutz

And thank you, the subcommittee. I appreciate all your help in doing this. And Andy, I understood better how you explained it, then. Sorry, Rob, the gentleman that gave a presentation that first time. I don't remember his name. The guy that didn't have a haircut.

Committee Members

[laughter]

Travis Rask

I like that name

Robert Leibowitz

That was a different software package entirely.

Committee Members

Yeah. Yeah.

Donna Lutz

Thank you.

Kenneth Panza

All right. Well, it's actually that was a terrific piece of work by the committee's on. You probably learned more about software than you're expecting to but we'll be looking to you for your expertise now. on helping us use this.

Travis Rask

You got it. You got it. And Andy is our "go to". I'm gonna, I'm gonna nominate him right away. [laughter]

Kenneth Panza

Alright. item on the agenda. So website updates. About

Fawn Tantillo

Hey, I, I got a most of the member information stuff, we'll get Travis's up in the next day or two. I did get them to change one heading to comments and frequent and FAQs. Apparently, at I apologize. There's an old saying you don't get what you expect. You get what you inspect. I had sent them. We wanted the FAQs, under the comments with the introduction that the committee wrote... about, you know, basically, you know, introducing yourself. So, that's all going to be under the comments. And then you already had some links for "useful links", we'll get those links in there. So it's starting to flesh out of course, your minutes and agendas are up already. And so the websites getting fleshed out nicely, I think.

Regis Obijiski

Great job, Fawn. Thanks for, thanks for negotiating this so well.

Donna Lutz

Thank you Fawn Yes,

Fawn Tantillo

I have to give Jay Mahler, in our office, the credit. She's the one who's been working with, you know, the folks that get all that posted for us. And

Kenneth Panza

She feels a lot of work for the county website. That's really nice website.

Fawn Tantillo

She sure does.

Kenneth Panza

Um, next item of business has New business Do we have any new business?

Might just ask what the the schedule is for in person meetings? And where would we meet in person.

Fawn Tantillo

All right, the legislature is meeting in person on the 15th. But they're not allowing in any of the public. So, we're still kind of trying to sort out how we're going to do in person legislative, you know, committee meetings if we have to do them next month. So, if we have to meet in person, it would be at the county building where the motor vehicles office is, on the sixth floor, in the library, or possibly in the chambers. If we need to get more you know, separation.

They're letting people into the county building. You if you have proof that you've had a vaccine, you don't have to wear a mask, but you can wear a mask if you want to. But if you don't have proof, you must wear a mask. Right now that's the rules for the building. I I...I will

let you know as i get more guidance from the clerk about how our meetings are going to be done. If the executive order from the governor continues, we will keep meeting with zoom. But as soon as that ends, we must meet in person. So, right now it's only extended... I think... through the 16th there's something, sometimes he renews it for two weeks at a time, sometimes just four or five days at a time. But the next meeting would have to be in person. If that executive order expires.

Kenneth Panza

Or we will know, because the legislative committees will have to start meeting in person first.

Fawn Tantillo

Right? We should, we'll probably get that all sorted out before your meeting. I just hope he gives us a little more warning that he gave the schools. He announced on a Friday afternoon at like five o'clock that they didn't have to wear masks on Monday. And by Monday, it changed and they needed to wear masks in school unless they were doing the school activity outside. It was it was quite confusing. So I hope he gives us a little more guidance.

Kenneth Panza

Is there any other new business someone wants to bring up?

Travis Rask

Um, there's no, there's no updates on census data or anything like that correct?

Fawn Tantillo

No.

Travis Rask

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo

Still looks like it's on track for September. But...

Kenneth Panza

If there's an update, it'll probably be a delay.

Travis Rask

Yeah, exactly.

Kenneth Panza

Is there any old business we want covered?

Regis Obijiski

Ken, I just like to say something about the meetings with the municipalities that, you know, I was looking at, at the spreadsheet, the Excel spreadsheet, which is pretty neat. That's that

fillable one with where we put our initials. And there are a lot of variables and so there are a lot of lonely initial initials out there. And, and meetings are not being I don't want to say they're not being held, but they're not being attended by, by us. I think that if, if each of us, you know, has a, an inclination to go to, you know, the Town of New Paltz, or Olive or any place, and you don't see people's initials there, I think we could feel free to call each other to see, you know, who may be willing to join a person on a specific date at a specific time, I think we can probably get these meetings on track a little faster. That way if we just take personal personal initiative to, to call and get a, you know, a buddy, a buddy system going. So I just make that make that as a recommendation. Because if we just fill in, which is really a wonderful thing. And we're all over, we're all over the map, we you know, we could we could have seven 8, 10 choices that we're we're posting and nobody's going to the meeting. So, you know,

Fawn Tantillo

I think some of the town's haven't gotten back to me yet, but I'm sure if we had two people willing to go on those particular nights, if we call them and we could sort of invite ourselves.

Regis Obijiski

Yeah. Okay. All right.

Kenneth Panza

Okay. I left the last meeting we had with the intention of really getting on that and, you know, then things come up and the Woodstock town board but they're not they're under... that they're having several problems with the affordable housing and building moratoriums and, and things like that. So it really wasn't a good time to, to present them. And then I just, you know, kind of got tied up and other things. But I think that's a good recommendation. We all really need to focus on that and pick a few of our favorite towns to go to.

Travis Rask

Regis, would you be willing to send out that spreadsheet one more time after?

Fawn Tantillo

I'll send it out again?

Travis Rask

Yeah, thank you very much. Yeah, I appreciate that.

Kenneth Panza

Alright, the best intentions after the last meeting after this one.

Andy Monk

Kathy already go to the Kingston town meeting. I see it's crossed out in the sheet.

Fawn Tantillo

Yes, you did. Okay. I believe if I've marked it, let me just hang on

Andy Monk
like struck through but it doesn't say

Fawn Tantillo
I thought I hit mark the ones that they were done. I'm

Andy Monk
like you guys have done all of them so far, Kathy and Regis, the Dream Team.

Fawn Tantillo
So the town of Ulster they went to that's why it struck through Town of Kingston,

Andy Monk
Kingston town and first Monday and 7 pm are all struck through with their initials, but

Fawn Tantillo
that's right there initially. I can't remember did we go to town of Kingston? Now? I can't remember. I'll have to look or maybe they just don't meet on the first Monday anymore. I

Andy Monk
Oh, that could be got it.

Fawn Tantillo
I can't recall

Kenneth Panza
The last time I had a report from the Town of Ulster. But that was all

Fawn Tantillo
rRght. Yeah. Okay.

Sarah DeStefano
Can I ask, what is what is the best practice for sort of following through with what you signed up on? Fawn, are you coordinating between the towns or maybe coordinating with the town the time to go once we sign up for it?

Fawn Tantillo
Once you sign up for it, I've been letting the town clerk, usually that is who clerks the or the meeting or the supervisor know which meeting we're going to come to. And and then I just start the communication between them and the people that are going.

Okay.

Sarah DeStefano

I haven't missed any by signing up for things.

Fawn Tantillo

I would hear if Okay, yeah, I would have let you know if you missed one

Sarah DeStefano

Great.

Fawn Tantillo

If one was pending. That's why I just thought if I could start putting them out on the agenda, hopefully, because some may come up before we hit meet again. But, you know, we'll, I'll try to track it. On your agendas.

Travis Rask

Thank you, that would be much appreciated.

Donna Lutz

Sorry. If you don't hear if you don't hear from anyone, and and we see the supervisor or a council and around, can we speak to them?

Fawn Tantillo

Absolutely.

Donna Lutz

Okay. I didn't know what are what we should do like that. supervisor the other day, and saw a councilman today. So, I should do that.

Kenneth Panza

All right. Are there any items of business? Does someone want to make a motion to adjourn? Or just stay on...

Fawn Tantillo

Donna, I see you raise your hand.

Donna Lutz

Yes.

Regis Obijiski

Second.

Fawn Tantillo

Regis,

Kenneth Panza
We have a second.

Fawn Tantillo
I think Regis just... just gave us a second.

Kenneth Panza
Alright. Maybe I should ask if our visitors have anything to say before I call for a question on adjourning.

There are several people that are listed on as attending the meeting. Just wondering if you have any contribution. Any questions, any comments that you wish to present to the commission before we adjourn?

In that case, I'll call the question for during the meeting. All those in favor say aye.

Committee Members
Aye.

Kenneth Panza
Any opposed? Any abstain. Thank you very much. Good night.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Commissioner Panza

Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Lutz

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: June 12, 2021

