

**Commission on Reapportionment  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** August 11, 2021, 2021 – 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, County Office Building, Kingston, NY  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Commissioner Kathleen Waithe (Rotating Chair)  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Commissioners Sarah DeStefano, Donna Lutz, Andy Monk and Regis Obijiski  
**ABSENT:** Commissioners Travis Rask and Kenneth Panza  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Rob Leibowitz and Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Department of Planning, Ulster County Attorney Kristin Gumar, Dare Thompson

Chairman Travis Rask called the meeting to order at 6:00.

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**Motion No. 1:** To approve the minutes of July 14, 2021

**Motion By:** Commissioner DeStafano  
**Motion Seconded By:** Commissioner Monk

**Discussion:** None.

**Voting in Favor:** Commissioners Waithe, DeStafano, Lutz, Monk and Obijiski  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes Approved

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Mapping Contract

Mr. Leibowitz gave an update on the contract with Caliper for mapping services. It was approved by Ulster County Contract Management and was sent back to the vendor to be signed. Planning Director Doyle plans to have the program on the server and available to the committee before the September 8 meeting.

## Town Meetings

Commissioners Lutz and Rask attended the August 5th joint Town and Village of New Paltz meeting. They questioned how prison populations were counted and expressed concerns about subdivisions.

Commissioners Monk and DeStafano attended the August 10<sup>th</sup> Town of Olive Board meeting. They expressed concerns about keeping the town whole and the timeline for completing the redistricting plan.

Commissioners Lutz and Monk are scheduled to go to the Town of Lloyd on August 18.  
Commissioners Lutz, Rusk and Obijiski are going to Town of Rochester on August 26.

Committee has not scheduled Town of Esopus on September 2<sup>nd</sup> but no commissioners are available that day.

## Prison Populations

The Commission sent a letter drafted by Commissioner Obijiski to the Assemblyman Robert j. Rodriguez and Senator Michael Gianaris, Co-Chairs of the NYS Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment and is awaiting a reply.

Mr. Leibowitz reported a conversation with New York State Independent Redistricting Commission representative who indicated the adjustments would be posted on their website soon.

The committee had a brief discussion about the anticipated census figures and what the impact would be various programs including federal funding and regulation structures for the Kingston Urbanized Area (an area from Green County to Rosendale) if that population ever dips below 50,000; Issues around census response rates due to COVID; reporting primary vs. secondary homes; reporting by college students.

## Old Business

### The Role of Chairman

The committee discussed the question of Chair for the Commission. There was a general consensus that rotating the chair was a good way to get to know each other. Commissioners discussed potential advantages of choosing a permanent Chair and Vice Chair. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners decided to make it the first order of business at the August 8 meeting.

The Commissioners outlined that the first decision would be to decide if they want to continue to rotate the chair position or choose a permanent chair. If they decide to choose a permanent Chair and Vice Chair they will do it at that time. Commissioner Obijiski asked the clerk to send an email laying out those steps to all commissioners to be aware of this procedure.

## Open Meeting Law and videoconferencing

The committee discussed how to move forward now that the Executive Order has expired and how a commissioner could join a meeting remotely. There continues to be concern regarding social distancing and the spread of COVID. One key difference is that the Open Meetings Law requires all the commissioners must be in a public location that is published ahead of time in the meeting notice.

## Public Comment

The committee discussed the importance of public comment. They asked to add times for public comment to the agenda so it was clear to the public that there was an opportunity to speak.

Chair Waithe asked if there was any other business. Hearing none:

## **Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion Made By:** Commissioner Lutz  
**Motion Seconded By:** Commissioner Obijiski  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Time:** 6:48 PM  
**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo  
**Minutes Approved:** August 11, 2021