

**OFFICE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF GROUP: Commission On Reapportionment

DATE: May 23, 2011

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: UCOB, Legislative Library Conference Room, 6th Floor

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vernon Benjamin, Paul Benkert, Michael Catalinotto, Cynthia Lowe, Richard Messina, Dare Thompson, Bill West

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

OTHERS ATTENDING: Beatrice Havranek, Ulster County Attorney; Lee Cane, LWV; Victoria Fabella, Deputy Clerk, Legislature

- The meeting was called to order by Facilitator Benjamin at 5:02 PM.

Vernon began the meeting by confirming with Bea Havranek that the County Executive's public hearing on the Local Law will be held on May 31, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.

Michael Catalinotto suggested including a group photo of the Commission in the final report. The Commissioners agreed.

- Final Report

Facilitator Benjamin went around the table, giving each Commissioner an opportunity to voice recommended edits.

The Commission went page by page, agreeing to and making the changes to the narrative recommended by Michael Catalinotto. Next, the Commission did the same with Dare Thompson's recommendations. Facilitator Benjamin suspended the Rules to allow Lee Cane (LWV) to question word usage which resulted in the Commission replacing "Hispanic origin" with "ethnicity."

All changes will be documented by Vicky Fabella and then the edited report will be e-mailed to the Commissioners.

The Commission then moved on to the Recommendations section of its report. After deliberations, the following items were changed/ added:

- Recommendation added: The Board of Elections should be encouraged to make the Commission aware of any issues relating to election districts as early as possible.
- Recommendation #5, "The process for adoption of the Commission's final plan should be clarified in the language of the Charter," should be moved up and become Recommendation #3.
- Time frame changed/ statement in () added: The timeframe for the redistricting process should be expanded.
 - A. Commissioners should be appointed by **January 1st of the year ending in 2 (two)** following the census.
 - B. The Commission should submit its redistricting plan by **December 31st of the year ending in 2 (two)** following the census data release. **(This will allow for maximum input from the communities.)**

- Recommendation #4 changed to read: "Political affiliation should be minimized in selecting Commissioners. Members of a political party committee or their chairs and officers should not be appointed to the Commission."
- Recommendation #7, "Commissioners should be reimbursed for any expenses incurred," was removed from the list.
- Recommendation added: More attention should be given to the selection of the computer software or any other product available to assist the Commission in the conduct of its responsibilities with a view toward selecting computer software or other product which a layperson can comfortably use after appropriate training and documentation.

Commissioner West made a motion to have the Commission's website remain active until at least the first of the year, 2012. Seconded by Cynthia Lowe, with all in favor. Carried.

- Next Meeting

The Commission decided to meet next on Wednesday, June 15 at 4:00 PM to finalize its report.

- Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Michael Catalinotto, Seconded by Dare Thompson, with all in favor. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria Fabella, Deputy Clerk, Ulster County Legislature