



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE STEPHENSON COUNTY CENSUS SUB-COMMITTEE

Friday, April 23rd, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Stewart Centre Conference Room

7th Floor

50 W. Douglas Street, Freeport, IL

- 1.0 - **Call to order**
- 2.0 - **Approval of Agenda**
- 3.0 - **Public Comments**
- 4.0 - **Introductions and opening comments from Committee Members**
- 5.0 - **Discussion on timeline of reapportionment process**
 - 5.1 Set potential dates and times for future meetings
- 6.0 - **Discussion on County Board districts with size reduction approved 1-16-20**
 - 6.1 Discuss options for reduction of County Board Districts within the City of Freeport from 6 districts to 4 districts.
 - 6.2 Discuss options for reduction of County Board Districts within areas outside of the City of Freeport from 5 districts to 4 districts.
- 7.0 - **Discussion on goals for the next meeting**
 - 7.1 Assignments for Committee Members (including Ex-Officio)
- 8.0 - **Comments from Committee Members**
- 9.0 - **Adjournment**

***** There is a Zoom Meeting Option for Participation:**

Meeting ID: 966 5828 2323

Phone: 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-436-2866

Zoom Link can be found on the County Board Website under County Board and then County Board-Zoom Meeting or you can use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96658282323>



**MINUTES OF THE CENSUS
SUB-COMMITTEE
Friday, April 23, 2021**

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting of the Census Sub-Committee was held in the 7th floor conference room at the Stewart Centre on Friday, April 23, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 3:36 pm by Committee Chairman Mr. Andrew Schroeder. Committee members present were Charles Hilton, County Board Chairman William Hadley, County Clerk Vici Otte, Ex-Officio, Mike Munda, Ex-Officio and Administrative Assistant Michelle Countryman.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Chairman Hadley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Schroeder	Aye
Hadley	Aye
Hilton	Aye

Vote carried 3-0

3.0 Public Comments

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and due to technical difficulties, ZOOM was not in operation at this moment.

4.0 Introductions and opening comments from Committee Members

Mr. Schroeder advised that he had some opening comments and as far as introductions everyone knows one another and therefore he will be starting with opening comments. Mr. Schroeder advised that he would like to start with why everyone is present. Mr. Schroeder stated that the re-apportionment process is outlined in the Illinois State Statute, 55 ILCS 5/2-3003. That process by State Statute, starts with the size of the board, that part of the process has already been completed. On January 16, 2020, the Stephenson County Board passed ordinance number 29-1 and 29-2 by a 13 to 9 vote; that ordinance reduced the size of the County Board from 22 members down to 16 members, the number of representative districts of 11 districts to 8 districts; with 2 members from each district. That ordinance also does state that the districts will be enumerated as Districts B thru I. In reviewing 55 ILCS 5/2-3003, Mr. Schroeder advised that he found and hi-lighted some key things that he feels the committee needs to focus on while going thru this process. Mr. Schroeder advised that the Districts shall be substantially equal in population to each other districts, shall be comprised of contiguous territory as nearly compact as practicable and may divide townships or municipalities as necessary to conform to the population requirement(s) in paragraph A; and shall be created in such a manner so that no precinct shall be divided between 2 or more districts and so far, as is practicable. Mr. Schroeder advised that he would like to note for the record that UCCI has sent

out several memorandums concerning re-apportionment, the latest one being on April 16, 2021, which is not included in member's packet(s). Mr. Schroeder relayed that he wished to read a small section of the last memorandum that was sent out stating: "additional considerations from UCCI, all districts must be equal in population as possible, a maximum of 10% deviation is permissible. Any plan that contains a deviation of more than 10% of population between district will be problematic and at risk of being deemed discriminatory. The rights of minority population(s), cannot be deluded or concentrated." Mr. Schroeder relayed that under ordinary circumstances the things would be clear, we would be using census data to comply with what it says in the State Statute and our guidelines from UCCI and with the help of GIS, they would be able to come up with different scenarios in a relatively easy process to start the decision-making process; this is not an ordinary situation. Unfortunately, it appears that we are not going to have the census data for quite some time; it should have already been out, but it is not. All indicators point to the census information not being out until late August early September, this is coming from UCCI. Mr. Schroeder believes the only path forward due to the fact we are bound by State Statute, is to have the re-apportionment completed by the July board meeting. Mr. Schroeder believes that we can utilize the limited data we currently have to move forward. Ms. Otte inquired as to if there was any chance that at the last minute, we could be instructed by the State of Illinois that we have to wait until we have the accurate information? Mr. Schroeder advised that he talked to our State Senator and it does not appear that there is anything currently in the works for the information to be released quicker or that any deadlines would be changing. Mr. Munda inquired if someone at the State level would be able to provide the ACS (American Community Survey), data to us as he has looked on the census.gov website and the latest information he could locate was from 2018 and it was tract level information. Discussion was held concerning who would have this information and Mr. Munda advised that he believes that this would be the most accurate information to work with. Mr. Schroeder confirmed with Mr. Munda that he was looking for the ACS Block data from 2019. Mr. Munda inquired that if the number of county board seats are being reduced then are the number of precincts in Freeport Township being reduced also? Ms. Otte advised that it would only make sense. Mr. Hadley confirmed that we would go from 18 precincts down to 16 precincts and draw new precinct lines. Discussion was held on the effects of the downsizing would have on the City of Freeport and bringing them into the process of the re-apportionment as soon as possible. Mr. Munda advised that the city's IT personnel handle the GIS, Curt Suttman and Eric Stromburg. Mr. Schroeder advised that he would ensure to invite them to the next meeting to begin participating going forward. Mr. Munda advised that he believed it was only a 3% deviation in 2010 so staying under 10% deviation should be no problem. Mr. Schroeder asked Mr. Munda that if they were unable to get the ACS block data for 2019 what would the next step be. Mr. Munda advised that it would be to get the most up to date data possible. Mr. Munda advised that the rural districts will be easier as there is more leeway. Mr. Schroeder asked if there would be any logic to it all if they just tried to redraw the districts with the new numbers but just using the 2010-census data and adjusting it if necessary? Mr. Munda advised that he could try to do it at the block level, the tract level or the group level and that he could come up with some alternatives. Ms. Otte asked if we could start with the rural districts and Mr. Hadley stated that we would be going from 5 rural districts to 4. Mr. Munda advised that he could have that completed quickly. Mr. Schroeder advised that based on his knowledge of the City of Freeport, that the population is down in precinct 1, the far east side of Freeport, a little population loss in precinct 3 due to demolition of housing, some population increase in district 9 and in 18 due to senior housing.

5.0 Discussion on timeline of reapportionment process

Mr. Schroeder advised that the re-apportionment needs to be passed at the July 2021 County Board Meeting which means it needs to be completed by the June 2021 meeting so that there is a 30 day lay over for public inspection.

5.1 Set potential dates and times for future meetings

Mr. Schroeder asked if Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 3:30 PM would be agreeable for the next meeting and requested Mr. Munda have the County map(s) available, using the 2010 census data. Mr. Schroeder added that he will invite the City to this meeting.

Mr. Schroeder advised that the next meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 3:30 PM.

6.0 Discussion on County Board districts with size reduction approved 01-16-2020

Mr. Schroeder asked if anyone else had anything additional to add to what was previously discussed concerning this matter, no reply.

6.1 Discuss options for reductions of County Board Districts within the City of Freeport from 6 districts to 4 districts

See previous discussion minutes.

6.2 Discussion on options for reduction of County Board Districts within areas outside of the City of Freeport from 5 districts to 4 districts

See previous discussion minutes.

7.0 Discussion on goals for the next meeting

Mr. Schroeder reiterated that at the next meeting, Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 3:30 PM, and they will be looking at a proposed map for the County, Mr. Munda to do provide multiple different versions/options. The City of Freeport will also be involved at the next meeting.

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 3:30 PM they will be looking at how they are going to proceed with the City of Freeport.

8.0 Comments from Committee Members

A brief discussion was held concerning there being 23 County precincts and reducing it down to 20 precincts which would be 5 precincts per district and only 4 districts. Mr. Munda asked if they were requesting draft precincts drawn up for the next meeting and this was confirmed. Mr. Hilton requested a small version of the map(s), that were presented at the meeting. Mr. Munda advised that he would be able to provide PDF maps to the committee members and for the packet.

10.0 Adjournment

Mr. Hilton made a motion to adjourn at 4:14 PM. Mr. Hadley seconded the motion. Motion carried with a voice vote of 3-0.

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 3:30 PM
Stewart Centre 7th Floor Conference Room