



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE STEPHENSON COUNTY CENSUS SUB-COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 4th, 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 - **Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2021**
- 4.0 - **Public Comments**
- 5.0 - **Old Business**
- 6.0 - **New Business**
 - 6.1 Discussion on map options for County Board districts / precincts located outside the City of Freeport.
 - 6.2 Approval of map for County Board districts / precincts located outside the City of Freeport.
 - 6.3 Discussion on process for determining County Board districts / precincts located within the City of Freeport.
- 7.0 - **Comments from Committee Members**
- 8.0 - **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
Tuesday, May 4, 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 Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 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, Administrative Assistant Michelle Countryman and Kirstin Hinds, Director of Community & Economic Development for the City of Freeport, and the Assistant to the City Manager.

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 Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2021

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

Schroeder	Aye
Hilton	Aye
Hadley	Aye

4.0 Public Comments

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and no one from Zoom requested to speak.

5.0 Old Business

No Old Business.

6.0 New Business

No New Business.

6.1 Discussion on map options for County Board districts/precincts located outside the City of Freeport

Mr. Schroeder relayed that Mr. Munda had provided two mapping options. Mr. Munda advised that for clarification purposes it is for outside the Freeport Township. Mr. Hadley inquired that the West Point area is in Lena and wanted to know if Mr. Munda had checked with the Assessor's Office concerning the growth in this area. Mr. Munda relayed that he had not, that the information used was from the 2010 census. Mr. Hadley advised that he had a question concerning Option 1 involving Rock Grove, Rock Run and Ridott and whether Oneco could go into that branch. Mr. Munda stated that he could draw it up and make any changes that the committee would like. Mr. Hadley then suggested Dakota going into Option 1 or Oneco, to see if the numbers can balance out some. Mr. Munda advised that he is trying to stick to the political townships as he feels it will be the most expedient; otherwise, they would have to split up the political townships. Mr. Munda added that they have done that in previous re-districting, and it was not efficient. Mr. Hadley relayed that he does not want to split up townships as it would make things more difficult for Ms. Otte's office. Ms. Otte relayed that it would be more confusing for the voters. Mr. Munda verified that he would provide maps that would include Dakota as an option and Oneco as another option. Mr. Schroeder advised that he preferred Option 1 over Option 2 due to the geographical area. Mr. Munda advised that he could have the additional maps tomorrow morning. Mr. Schroeder advised that he would like to avoid splitting up the townships. Mr. Hadley advised that he is concerned with West Point and the numbers. Mr. Schroeder advised that tracking is not done for communities under 5,000 and Lena is under that amount, so the data is limited. Mr. Hilton concurred with the previous statements concerning splitting up the townships and preferring Option 1.

6.2 Approval of map for County Board districts/precincts located outside the City of Freeport

Mr. Hadley made a motion to lay over the approval of a map for County Board districts/precincts located outside the Freeport Township until the next meeting of this committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hilton. A roll call vote was taken:

Schroeder	Aye
Hilton	Aye
Hadley	Aye

4.0 Public Comment

Mr. Schroeder advised that he had been informed that at the initial public comment inquiry, Mr. Karl Bronn was muted and unable to speak due to technology. Therefore, Mr. Schroeder allowed Mr. Bronn to make his public comment at this time. Mr. Bronn advised that he is troubled with the pace of the re-apportionment. Mr. Bronn questioned how Stephenson County can reapportion be fairly accomplished without access to 2020 census data. Mr. Bronn added that he has been looking at the County Code for the State of Illinois, 55 ILCS 5/ 2-3004, if the County Board fails to complete the reapportionment of the County by July 1st or by the day

after the County Board's regular scheduled meeting, the County Clerk shall convene the County Apportionment Commission. Mr. Bronn is concerned what apportioned districts can be accomplished by June 17th. Timing of the task is less important than ensuring the citizens of the County are assured a proper re-apportionment. Mr. Bronn encouraged the use of the 2020 Census data when it is available. Mr. Schroeder advised that he normally does not respond to public comment but explained to Mr. Bronn that at the first meeting the discussion held concerning the census data. The Counties have been advised by UCCI to proceed with the reapportionment process as it will be out until August or September before the 2020 census data is available.

6.3 Discussion on process for determining County Board districts/precincts located with the City of Freeport

Mr. Schroeder advised that this is Ms. Otte's 3rd reapportionment process and she feels that it is a better process to have the City of Freeport participate in the process. Ms. Hinds is present on behalf of the City of Freeport. Mr. Schroeder asked Ms. Hinds if she has any feedback for the committee on the reapportionment. Ms. Hinds advised that she would have additional information at the next meeting. Mr. Schroeder advised Ms. Hinds that the County Board will be downsizing and going from 6 districts down to 4. Mr. Schroeder reiterated the information from UCCI and the urgency necessary to move forward with the redistricting as the 2022 election cycle is still on the same statutory calendar which mean that in September, candidates for the 2022 primary election will be circulating petitions. Mr. Schroeder gave Ms. Hinds a summary of the details from the last meeting. Mr. Schroeder advised that the City of Freeport will maintain 7 Wards while the precincts will drop down from 18 to 16. Mr. Schroeder asked Ms. Otte if they would want to draw the district lines first then do the precinct lines or vice versa. Ms. Otte stated that she believes that the precinct lines would come first then the districts. Discussion was held concerning this matter and development areas. Mr. Hadley requested data from the City of Freeport concerning how many residents that the East side of Freeport has lost. Ms. Hinds advised that she would be able to provide an estimate. Mr. Munda requested to know how much residential demolition has happened and Ms. Hinds stated she would give that information to Mr. Munda directly. Mr. Munda was requested to produce 4 options at the next meeting with 16 precincts in Freeport Township. Mr. Hadley advised that a minority district is required by Federal Law. Mr. Munda advised that he is going to try to be as consistent as possible with the existing City of Freeport Wards. Ms. Hinds advised that she does not see them changing the Wards. Ms. Hinds advised Mr. Schroeder that the City of Freeport has not yet started this process. A brief discussion was held concerning the previous 2 times that reapportionment occurred. Mr. Schroeder relayed that the ideal scenario would be for the Wards to match up to the County Board districts somehow. Mr. Munda advised that it would be impossible with 7 wards and 16 precincts, but he will try and maintain that. Mr. Munda confirmed that he will be doing 4 township district maps and 4 township precinct maps for the next meeting.

7.0 Comments from Committee Members

Mr. Hadley expressed his gratitude to Ms. Otte and Mr. Munda for the work they are doing. Mr. Schroeder expressed his thanks to Ms. Hinds for attending the meeting and advised that he appreciates the City of Freeport's input as it is important.

8.0 Adjournment

Mr. Hilton made a motion to adjourn at 4:05 PM. Mr. Hadley seconded the motion. Motion carried with a voice vote of 3-0.

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 3:30 PM
Stewart Centre 7th Floor Conference Room