

Ingham County Apportionment Commission
MINUTES
May 23, 2011

The Ingham County Apportionment Commission met on Monday, May 23, 2011. The meeting was held on the Third Floor, Board of Commissioner Room, in the Veteran's Memorial Courthouse. The meeting was called to order by Clerk Bryanton at 12:06 p.m. and introductions were made.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Bryanton, Ingham County Clerk
Stuart J. Dunning, III, Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney
Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer
Linda Lee Tarver, Ingham County Republican Party
Sandy Zerkle, Ingham County Democratic Party

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Janie Lee, Ingham County Chief Deputy Clerk
John Schlinker, Ingham County Chief Deputy Treasurer
Dave Stoker, Ingham County Corporation Counsel
Scott Hughes, Ingham County Prosecutors office
Doug Stover, Ingham County Equalization Department
Alan Fox, Chair, County Board of Canvassers
Vince Dragonetti, County Commissioner
Kris Zawisza, Women's League of Voters
Kevin Garsha, Lansing State Journal
Rachel Thomas, News 10

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made by Treasurer Schertzing, seconded by Prosecutor Dunning, III, to adopt the May 09, 2011, minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Correspondence and Communications

Items under Correspondence and Communications were reviewed by committee. Motion made by Sandy Zerkle, seconded by Linda Lee Tarver, to adopt the Correspondence and place on file. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment

Commissioner Dragonetti addressed the Commission stating he didn't feel the Commission nor the public had enough time to review the maps since they weren't available until Friday, May 20, 2011.

Old Business

Linda Lee Tarver addressed the Commission stating she would like to have the Dougan Plan referred to as the Tarver Plan because she is the one who submitted the plan to the Commission.

Motion was made by Linda Lee Tarver, seconded by Treasurer Schertzing, to change the names of the maps. Map 1 will now be referred to as Map A, the Tarver Map will now be referred to as Map B, and the Dunnings Map will now be referred to as Map C.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Doug Stover discussed the maps along with the precinct splits, jurisdictional splits and non-contiguous splits. Enlarged District maps were distributed to the Commission.

Map A – 6 Jurisdictional, 8 non-contiguous, and 2 precinct splits
Map B – 2 Jurisdictional, 9 non-contiguous, and 3 precinct splits
Map C – 2 Jurisdictional, 8 non-contiguous, and 0 precinct splits

Population variance

Map A – 7.8%

Map B – 8.7%

Map C – 7.3%

Discussion took place regarding the 3 maps being considered for approval. Linda Lee Tarver states that Map B cuts Meridian into 2 districts, East Lansing into 2 and a fraction, reduces districts from 16 to 14 through attrition, doesn't split up any urban or rural areas, and only cuts cites when there is a need.

Prosecutor Dunnings, III, read the following remarks to the Commission.

When we began the apportionment process, it was my belief that we should take into account a few basic ideas.

First, in keeping with the spirit of belt-tightening and fiscal conservatism that has informed decision making at the county, as well as in the homes of our constituents, I believe that we need to make do with less. All of my colleagues on this body have supported the general principle that we should, in accordance with the times, reduce the number of Commissioners.

I have heard the concerns expressed about reducing the number of Commissioners. I believe the concerns about diversity are valid. However, on balance I support 14 as the ideal number of Commissioners for this apportionment.

Of the three plans before us today, I believe that Plan A, produced by Mr. Stover, was an excellent starting point. I want to thank Mr. Stover and the entire staff of the Equalization Department for their work in producing two maps from scratch,

and also working up the two additional maps that were submitted by members of this body.

The plan that I have authored takes the Stover plan and makes several changes, which have the purpose of reducing jurisdiction splits, eliminating precinct splits, and equalizing the population amongst the 14 districts.

For example, the high to low population deviation under Plan 1 was 1,635 residents, or 7.8%. Plan C reduces this deviation to 7.3%. The third plan increases the deviation to 8.7%, and in so doing significantly underrepresents the City of Lansing, in my opinion.

Plan C minimizes the number of jurisdiction splits, so that Meridian Township is now wholly contained in two districts, rather than having parts in four districts.

Likewise, Delhi Township is contained in two districts in Plan C, rather than three in Plan A.

Plan C is the only one with no precinct splits.

Plan C keeps jurisdiction splits to an absolute minimum. I have an additional split that does not exist in the Tarver plan {South Lansing/Delhi}, but that is for the purpose of equalizing population.

While the number of Commissioners has fluctuated, what has not changed is the commitment to the concept of a citizen legislature – drawn from, and representing, the people of Ingham County.

Motion made by Treasurer Schertzing, seconded by Sandy Zerkle, to adopt Map C as submitted to the Commission. Discussion followed. MOTION PASSED with Linda Lee Tarver voting no and all others voting yes.

Dave Stoker discussed the steps following the meeting to submit the Apportionment plan to the State.

Motion made by Treasurer Schertzing, seconded by Sandy Zerkle, to adopt the Apportionment Plan Resolution to be submitted to the Secretary of State. Motion passed on a roll call vote with Bryanton, Schertzing, Dunnings, III, and Zerkle voting yes and Tarver voting no. MOTION PASSED

New Business

None.

Public Comment

Kris Zawisza, Women's League of Voters, stated in the last meeting minutes reflected she was there to represent the citizens. She was actually there as a representative

from the Women's League of Voters. She also said she there to observe the process, transparency, keeping citizens together, and as a citizen of the City of Lansing. She also added that she thought the Commission did a wonder job.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Prosecutor Dunnings, III, seconded by Linda Lee Tarver that there being no further business the Apportionment Commission to be dissolved unless the Commission needs to meet if an appeal is filed. This meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.