

## Reapportionment Committee Minutes

May 4, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Daly, Raymond, Thompson, Wormuth, Rowland, Veitch, Collyer, Wright, Grattidge, Southworth, Sausville, Kinowski and Richardson; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Press.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Wood said the result of obtaining the new census is, we as the Board have to look at two specific issues: the weighted vote for the Board and the potential for increasing the population threshold that will generate a second Supervisor from specific towns. We have done quite a bit of research and we will reference some of this as we discuss the issues today. Looking back at how the county has handled this in the previous years and using past procedures as a guide to how we should go about dealing with the issue this time around.

Mr. Hellwig said, overall the population in Saratoga County has grown 9.46%, which is the greatest increase in the entire State. The Statewide average is slightly over 2%, so Saratoga County has enjoyed quite a bit more in terms of people moving into the area. Our standing is tied to the local economy, quality of life, and all of the things that the Board of Supervisors has accomplished over the years.

Mr. Wood said the changing of the weighted vote would be done by a Board Resolution. In 1968 the threshold for a second supervisor was 12,000, in 1981 it was increased to 15,000 and in 1991 it was raised to 20,000. There were scientific statistical analyses done in each of those years to determine the impact of those changes.

Mr. Dorsey said, the current 20,000 threshold was set by local law # 6 of 1991. Under the new census figures, the town of Halfmoon has crossed that threshold with 21,535 residents. The Board is now faced with either leaving the local law as is or amending the local law and increasing the 20,000 threshold to a higher number. If a higher number is chosen, anything above 21,535 would require an amendment to the local law, which must be noticed by a Public Hearing and then by a vote from the Board of Supervisors. Mathematical analyses have been done the last three times that the county has changed its threshold for the creation of a second Supervisor. This was a result of a 1967 Court of Appeals Lawsuit involving Saratoga County and Washington County in which the proposed weighted vote plan for both counties was invalidated and deemed unconstitutional for being in violation of the principles of one-man one-vote.

Mr. Dorsey said one of the key analyses is, does your weighted voting plan give smaller towns in the county the opportunity to be swing votes when voting on matters of

importance. Most votes are done unanimously, however, there are occasions that a separate vote is called for and small towns have been swing votes.

Mr. Dorsey said the current plan works and any plan that is adopted, which is a modification of the current plan, should likewise be deemed constitutional. He suggested, however, that it would be a good idea for the Board to consider having a mathematical analyses done. The last time in 1991 when it was done, two Skidmore Professors did it; one was a mathematics professor, and the other was a professor of statistics. By having a mathematical analyses done it shows that whatever you are proposing does not violate constitutional rights of one man, one vote.

Ms. Daly said she supports that movement forward, so that not so much one-man, one vote, but one-person, one-vote will prevail moving forward.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Ms. Daly to raise the threshold to 25,000 and have it reviewed by an appropriate mathematical statistical analyses firm to see if that number stays within the confines of the law. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Ms. Raymond the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom