

**Minutes**  
**Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission**  
**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**  
**4:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** The Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission met in the Informal Board Room at the Jean Oxley Linn County Public Service Center on December 7, 2021. Commission Member Linda Langston called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Cindy Golding, Sarah Halbrook (via phone), Linda Langston, Ralph Russell, and Nate Willems.

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Brent Oleson, Deputy Director of Policy and Administration; Joel Miller, Auditor; Matt Warfield, Deputy Commissioner of Elections; Eric Loecher, Auditor's Office

**Commission Organization**

Commission Members and Linn County staff introduced themselves.

Motion from Golding, seconded by Willems, to elect Ralph Russell as Chair; the motion failed 2-3. Motion from Willems, seconded by Halbrook, to elect Linda Langston as Chair; the motion passed 3-2.

Motion by Langston, seconded by Willems, to elect Ralph Russell as Vice Chair; the motion passed unanimously.

Oleson informed the Commission that Iowa Code allows Commission members to receive a per diem and travel expenses. Motion by Willems, seconded by Golding, to waive any per diem and travel expenses; the motion passed unanimously.

**Commission Orientation**

Oleson recommended the Commission adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the Commission's rules of procedure. Motion by Golding, seconded by Russell, to adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the Commission's rules of procedure; the motion carried unanimously.

Oleson reviewed Iowa Open Meetings and Open Records laws with the Commission. He indicated to the members that he had included the relevant statutes in their meeting binders.

He also reviewed with the Commission members the redistricting/repincincting process. Included in the members' binders was information from the Secretary of State's office which gives step-by-step instructions for the process. The main focus of this group will be repincincting; actual redistricting will be completed by the Legislative Services Agency (LSA). That body will eventually present a plan for this Commission's approval or rejection.

There is a condensed time frame for the process – this Commission should have its repincincting plan completed by early January, and that plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State.

Eric Loecher reviewed the reprecincting requirements:

- 3500/per precinct
- Nested in one house legislative district
- Contiguous territory
- Follow Census blocks

Voter convenience and election efficiency should also be taken into account.

Cities are responsible for their own reprecincting, and most of them have completed the process. Cedar Rapids will be going from 44 to 51 precincts; the City hopes to adopt the plan on December 22 and submit to the Secretary of State by December 27. Hiawatha's precincts changed from 4 to 3, and the plan was adopted on December 1. Marion will be going from 14 to 18 precincts; they hope to adopt the plan on December 21 and submit to the Secretary of State on December 23 or December 27. Mount Vernon adopted its plan on December 20 (the number of precincts remained the same at two), and we don't yet know when it will be submitted.

City/County and City/Township agreements to combine election precincts will also need to come before this commission for approval and signature by the Chair before being submitted to the Secretary of State.

Discussion ensued regarding two unincorporated precinct plan proposals from the Linn County Auditor's office for the unincorporated areas of the County; the proposals had been included in the Commission members' binders. Approval will be on the next agenda, along with any city/county agreements.

### **Next Meeting**

Discussion was held regarding the next meeting date. It was determined the next meeting will be Thursday, December 16, at 3:00 p.m. in the Informal Board Room at the Linn County Public Service Center. There will need to be another meeting after the 16<sup>th</sup> but before the end of the year, then one more in January. At that point the Commission will wait for the LSA to complete its redistricting plan, at which point the Commission will meet again to either approve or reject the plan.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.