

BOARD MINUTES FOR 11/01/01

NOVEMBER 1, 2001

PURSUANT TO A RECESS FROM THE OCTOBER 25, 2001 MEETING, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY MET IN A WORKSHOP MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA AT 5:30 P.M. WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, COPE, ENFINGER, FINCH AND HALL PRESENT AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ANGIA MORRIS, DONALD MORRIS, GARY CLARK, PHILIP ROUNTREE AND FRANCIS HINSON PRESENT. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PETER HERBERT, ATTORNEY HOLLEY, CLERK LINDA COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED PROVIDING THREE MAPS FOR THE BOARD TO REVIEW WITH THEM MAKING A DECISION AS TO WHICH MAP THEY PREFER.

CHAIRMAN COPE ADDRESSED THE ONLY CHANGE MADE WAS TO MAP 1 WHICH IS NOW 1A; THIS CHANGE INCLUDED BRINGING DISTRICT III TO PINE LOG AND SPLITS WAUSAU.

GARY CLARK, SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE, ADDRESSED THE COMMITTEE TRYING TO MAKE ONE MAP THAT HAD A SYMETRICALLY DESIGN TO IT WHICH WAS CONSIDERED COMPLETELY IMPARTIAL, DID NOT CONSIDER WHERE ANYBODY LIVED, TRYING TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION POPULATION GROWTH AND STILL KEEP IT WITHIN THE REQUIRED PERCENTAGE; MAP 2 AND 3 DID A FAIR JOB OF DOING THIS. HOWEVER, MAP 1A WAS THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE'S CONSENSUS OVER THE OTHER TWO MAPS AS THE ONE BOTH BOARDS WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH.

PERSONALLY, CLARK ADDRESSED MAPS 2 AND 3 BEING MUCH BETTER MAPS IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHICALLY KEEPING GOOD, LOGICAL BOUNDARIES IN PLACE AND KEEPING THE DISTRICTS AS TIGHT AND CONFINED AS POSSIBLE.

CLARK ADDRESSED THE COMMITTEE TRYING TO KEEP IN MIND ONE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE: TO MAKE CERTAIN THE DISTRICTS WERE AS BALANCED AS POSSIBLE; MAP 1A IS THE MOST BALANCED MAP IN TERMS OF THE NUMBERS IN THE DISTRICT WITH THE LOWEST NUMBER BEING 3,947 AND THE HIGHEST BEING 4,244.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE COVERAGE AREA FOR DISTRICT ONE BEING VAST WITH CLARK ADDRESSING IT WOULD ALWAYS BE THE BIGGEST DISTRICT GEOGRAPHICALLY DUE TO IT BEING THE MOST SPARSELY POPULATED DISTRICT. BOARD MEMBER DONALD MORRIS ADDRESSED IN MAP 1A, DISTRICT I HAS FORFEITED CHIPLEY ABOVE INTERSTATE 10 AND THE SHELL LANDING AREA AND WAS GAINING AN AREA GOING TOWARD WAUSAU AND QUESTIONED IF THERE WAS ENOUGH RESIDENTS IN THE AREA HE GAINED TO MAKE UP FOR THE AREA THAT WAS FORFEITED; CLARK ADVISED HIM THERE WAS.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON WHETHER GROWTH FACTOR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN A REDISTRICTING MAP.

CLARK ADVISED BOTH BOARDS THE PRISON POPULATION WAS NOT COUNTED INTO THE COMMITTEE'S FIGURES; THERE ARE JUDICIAL LEGAL OPINIONS THAT INDICATE THEY SHOULD BE COUNTED BUT THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THEY SHOULDN'T BE COUNTED. CLARK ADVISED HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS THE PRISON POPULATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE COUNT.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER, WHO ALSO WAS ON THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE, ADDRESSED THE COMMITTEE HAD COUNTED EVERYTHING THAT WAS ON THE CENSUS MAP.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON THE PRISON POPULATION NOT BEING INCLUDED; ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THE ONLY OPINION AVAILABLE IS AN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION AND HE SAYS THEY ARE SUPPOSE TO BE COUNTED; NO OTHER COUNTY, TO CLARK'S KNOWLEDGE, HAS COUNTED THE PRISON POPLULATION.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD IF THE COUNTY WENT BACK TO COUNTY WIDE VOTING, IT WOULD AFFECT THE DECISION ON WHICH REDISTRICTING MAP SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WOULD CHOOSE.

CLARK ADDRESSED IF THE COUNTY DECIDED TO GO BACK TO COUNTY WIDE VOTING, THE SCHOOL BOARD WOULD HAVE THE OPTION NOT TO DO SO; HOWEVER, HE AND ATTORNEY HOLLEY FEELS THE SCHOOL BOARD SHOULD JOIN WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IF THEY PURSUE IT.

DISCUSSION WAS THEN HELD ON THE EXPERT WITNESS'S, RON WEBER, OPINION THE COUNTY MAY NOT WIN THE COUNTY WIDE VOTING ISSUE IN FEDERAL COURT BUT THEIR CHANCES WERE GOOD ON WINNING AN APPEAL.

FRANK CORSO ADDRESSED IF THE BOARD DOESN'T PURSUE COUNTY WIDE VOTING, THEY WOULD BE NEGLECTING THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AND REFERENCED THE 1992 BALLOT.

LENZY CORBIN, PREVIOUS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, ADVISED THE REASON THE COUNTY WIDE VOTING ISSUE WAS NOT PURSUED WHEN HE WAS ON THE BOARD WAS DUE TO THE EXPENSE OF ATTORNEY FEES IF THE COUNTY SHOULD LOSE THE CASE. HE RECOMMENDED, SHOULD THIS ISSUE COME UP AGAIN, THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE COUNTY SHARE IN THE EXPENSE AND PETITION THE COURT TO LIFT THE ORDER.

COMMISSIONER HALL REFERENCED THE 1992 VOTE BEING A STRAW BALLOT AND NOT A BINDING RESOLUTION; SINCE THAT TIME THE POPULATION HAS ALMOST DOUBLED AND THERE MAY BE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION TODAY. HE ADDRESSED IF THE COUNTY SHOULD GO BACK TO COUNTY WIDE VOTING, THERE WOULD BE FOUR DISTRICTS TOUCHING CHIPLEY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED IF THE COUNTY WENT BACK TO COUNTY WIDE VOTING, TEN YEARS FROM NOW WITH THE GROWTH AND POPULATION, SUNNY HILLS, EBRO AND VERNON WILL BE CONTROLLING WHAT GOES ON IN THE COUNTY AND QUESTIONED IF THAT IS WHAT THE BOARD WANTED.

FRANCIS HINSON, SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE, STATED HE COULD LIVE WITH ANY OF THE MAPS BUT CHALLENGED THE BOARDS, AS ELECTED OFFICIALS, TO THINK ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY AND NOT JUST THE PEOPLE IN THEIR DISTRICT.

ANGIA MORRIS, SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE, ADDRESSED IN DISTRICT 3 ANY MAPS THAT WOULD EXCLUDE HER FROM HER DISTRICT WOULD ONLY EXCLUDE HER ABOUT THREE MILES FROM HER HOUSE; SHE HAD BUILT A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE AFTER RUNNING AS MANY TIMES AS SHE HAS AND FEELS AN OBLIGATION TO DO WHAT SHE CAN TO REMAIN IN THAT DISTRICT.

FRANK CORSO QUESTIONED IF THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WAUSAU'S REQUEST TO LEAVE ALL OF WAUSAU IN THE SAME DISTRICT; CLARK ADVISED IT WAS CONSIDERED BUT HE GAVE UP IN TRYING TO BALANCE OUT THE DISTRICTS WHEN USING MAP 1A.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED THE BOARD'S MISSION FOR THIS MEETING; COMMISSIONER ENFINGER AND COPE ADVISED THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS FOR BOTH BOARDS TO TRY TO COME TO A CONSENSUS ON ONE MAP.

GARY CLARK REITERATED THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION WAS TO SEND THESE THREE MAPS TO BOTH BOARDS FOR APPROVAL OF ONE MAP; HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE COULD NOT EVEN AGREE UNANIMOUSLY TO ANY OF THESE MAPS.

A ROLL CALL WAS DONE TO SEE WHAT MAP EACH OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WOULD VOTE ON IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE DIRECTION TO PROCEED WITH:

PHILIP ROUNTREE--ADDRESSED THE MAPS PRESENTED MEET THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND REFLECT A CAREFUL STUDY; HE HAS NO PROBLEM WITH GOING BACK TO COUNTY WIDE VOTING; HE WOULD GO WITH AMENDED 1 MAP.

LARRY ENFINGER--AMENDMENT 1 MAP

DONALD MORRIS--HE DOESN'T LIKE EITHER OF THE MAPS BUT IF HE HAD TO SELECT ONE HE WOULD GO WITH AMENDED 1 MAP

CHARLES BROCK--AMENDMENT 1 MAP, HE DOESN'T LIKE ANY OF THE MAPS

ANGIA MORRIS--AMENDMENT 1 MAP

RONNIE FINCH--AMENDMENT 1 MAP

GARY CLARK--PREFERENCE IS MAP 3 BUT WOULD HAVE NO QUALM WITH THE MAJORITY RULE

FRANCIS HINSON--AMENDMENT 1 MAP BUT DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH EITHER MAP.

JOHN HALL--AMENDMENT 1 MAP BUT DOESN'T LIKE ANY OF THE MAPS

LYNN COPE--AMENDMENT 1 MAP

DONALD MORRIS QUESTIONED WHEN THE SCHOOL BOARD VOTED ON THIS ISSUE, WOULD THEY BE ASKED TO VOTE ON JUST THE AMENDMENT 1 MAP OR WILL THEY BE ABLE TO MODIFY IT. MR. ROUNTREE ADDRESSED WHEN THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS BEGAN, THE SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTED GARY CLARK TO REPRESENT THEM ON THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE; THE

COMMITTEE WOULD EXPLORE AND CONSIDER THE BEST POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THE ONE THING THEY WERE INSISTENT ON WAS THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS AND THE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS COINCIDE; AFTER THE COMMITTEE MADE THEIR RECOMMENDATION, EACH BOARD WOULD MAKE A CHOICE FROM THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. COPE, CHAIRMAN FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ADDRESSED HE APPOINTED A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF A COMMISSIONER, THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, THE 911 COORDINATOR AND AN OUTSIDER AND THOUGHT THE COMMITTEE HAD DONE A LOT OF HARD WORK AND DID A GOOD JOB; HE FELT LIKE A WORKSHOP BETWEEN THE TWO BOARDS WAS NEEDED TO TRY AND IRON OUT ANY DIFFERENCES BEFORE VOTING ON A MAP AND WOULD LIKE FOR BOTH BOARDS TO BE IN AGREEMENT.

GARY CLARK ADDRESSED HIM HAVING GONE TO THE SCHOOL BOARD WITH MAPS REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE AND ASKED THEM FOR INPUT AND DECISION; HE AND MS. MORRIS HAD AN INDEPTH DISCUSSION AND HE CAME BACK TO THE COMMITTEE WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES; THE CHANGES SHE REQUESTED WERE INDEED INCLUDED AND REFLECTED. THIS IS THE PROCESS THEY HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH; IF ANYONE HAD ANY CONCERNS THEY WERE TO LET THE COMMITTEE KNOW. HE ADDRESSED ISSUES FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER:

1. THEY HAVE UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST TO FINALIZE THE PROCESS OF REDISTRICTING
2. IF THE COMMITTEE IS TO GO BACK, MODIFY AND CHANGE ANY BOUNDARIES, THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARIES AND THIS POSSIBLY BEING PUT OFF UNTIL DECEMBER; IF BOTH BOARDS DON'T COME TO AN AGREEMENT THEN, THIS SITUATION IS OVERWITH THIS YEAR AND BOTH BOARDS WILL HAVE NEGLECTED THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

DONALD MORRIS ADDRESSED HIS CONCERNS WITH THE CHANGES MADE IN DISTRICT ONE; HE DOESN'T SEE ANY RATIONAL IN TAKING AWAY AREAS FROM HIS DISTRICT AND CHANGING THE GEOGRAPHICAL LAYOUT TO CHANGE THE NUMBERS. HE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE NUMBERS TO SEE HOW MANY HE HAS LOST NORTH OF THE INTERSTATE AND IN EBRO.

ANGIA MORRIS REQUESTED TO LOOK AT THE ORIGINAL 1 MAP BEFORE IT WAS AMENDED. DISCUSSION CONTINUED.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER STATED IF AMENDMENT 1 MAP IS APPROVED BY A 3 TO 2 VOTE IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION VOTE, HE HAD PREFERRED PERSON- NALLY TO GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL 1 MAP SO WAUSAU WOULD BE IN ONE DISTRICT.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED WITH BOTH BOARDS TO VOTE ON THE REDISTRICT- ING MAP AT THEIR REGULAR BOARD MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:_____

CLERK

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:_____

DEPUTY CLERK

END OF MINUTES FOR 11/01/01