

SPECIAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

June 23, 2011

6:00 PM

The Clerk called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: D. Wihby, W. Gardner, W. Cashin, R. Rivard

Messrs.: K. Sheppard, L. LaFreniere

Chairman Wihby addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Discussion regarding draft redistricting proposals.
(Note: Draft ward maps reflecting possible realignment are attached and have been posted on the City's website at www.manchesternh.gov/redistricting.)

Chairman Wihby stated basically what is in front of us is a map for each of the different wards. Everyone should have 12. We got the packet over the weekend and I think we have all looked at it. Kevin, can you give us a brief explanation of what was done? I know Planning, Highway and the Clerk have worked on this.

Mr. Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, stated real quickly, at the Committee's last meeting they asked us to go back and take a look at the ward maps. To my left is Leon LaFreniere and to my right Dave Beauchesne and the City Clerk Matt Normand all went back to those maps and took a look at it based on those guidelines. What we have provided to you is a summary sheet that shows you the various wards, the 2010 population before the redistricting, the population after the redistricting and the increase and decrease per ward. Based on that information, we were able to get the wards within plus or minus 1.5% based on the average ward population of 9,130. I'll turn it over to Leon. You have the maps in front of you, so I'm not too sure there is a need to display them up front.

Mr. Leon LaFreniere, Planning and Community Development Director, stated based on the direction of the Committee at the last meeting, we made an attempt to look at the maps and make changes in as logical a fashion as possible while recognizing the locations of existing polling places and natural features of the City with regards to where these lines made sense to draw. We spent some time as you

can see on the maps before you in trying to develop some rational adjustments that could achieve the organization to the best that we were able. Hopefully, the maps, as provided and developed by David Beauchesne, from my office, serve to communicate that well, but we are here to answer any questions you may have. We are prepared to go over, individually, the changes you'd like or speak in general to them, whatever the Committee would find helpful.

Chairman Wihby asked what is the smallest and the biggest now? It is 1.5%?

Mr. Sheppard replied if you look at the second to the left column, on the spreadsheet that was provided, Ward 1, the change in the average population is minus 11. That is within 0.1%. One of the biggest changes is Ward 11. There is a population change of minus 139 and that is within 1.5% deviation from the average population.

Chairman Wihby stated those are good numbers, actually. It is a lot closer than the last redistricting that we ended up with.

Mr. Sheppard stated I'm sure you can understand that Dave went through quite a few revolutions to get these to this state with following natural streets for borders of wards.

Chairman Wihby stated I think it is an excellent job done by all three departments. Thank you, David, for doing all that hard work and Leon, Kevin and Matt. I guess the next thing would be, if we are happy with these, to pass this on to the full Board. It will be on the agenda on July 5th and they would set a public hearing. At the public hearing they would get input and then meet after that and decide whether to change it or to leave it alone and pass it. I guess it gets on the ballot in November?

City Clerk Matthew Normand replied that's correct.

Chairman Wihby stated it will take effect in April. Bill, it will go on the ballot in November and then as far you know it takes effect in April?

Mr. William Gardner replied in the past that is how it worked.

Chairman Wihby asked is it up to the Aldermen to decide when it takes effect? Once they accept it they decide when it takes effect. In the past I guess it was in April, so for the elections in 2012 you would have different ward lines.

On motion of Mr. Cashin, duly seconded by Mr. Rivard, it was voted to accept the maps and changes as amended and refer them to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

City Clerk Normand stated in accepting these proposals they will be referred to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Cashin, duly seconded by Mr. Rivard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee