



*Sedgwick County...*  
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District 2 CAB  
Library

Haysville Community

October 12, 2021

Meeting Minutes

**Board Members in Attendance:** Martha Pint, Dr. John Burke, Ashlie Brockleman, Manual Lopez, Dr. William Hammers, Tabitha Lehman, Dr. Susan Norton, Nikki Helms, Spencer Dean

**1. Call to Order:**

- a. Nikki Helms called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

**2. Roll Call Vote:**

- a. Spencer Dean, Susan Norton, Nikki Helms, Martha Pint, Tabitha Lehman, Bill Hammers, John Burke, Ashlie Brockleman, Manual Lopez

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Tabitha Lehman moved to approve the August and September meeting minutes. Martha pint seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. Public Agenda:**

- a. No public comment

**5. New Business:**

**a. Redistricting Presentation—Michael Fessinger, Assistant County Counselor**

- i. The staff goal was to assist the Board of County Commissioners in a way that was beyond reproach
- ii. The restricting process is conducted every 10 years
  - 1. In concert with United States Census
- iii. There are two primary factors
  - 1. Population equity**
    - a. The goal is +/- 1% difference between districts
  - 2. Compactness**
    - a. This means territorial integrity
- iv. Population equity is legally more important than compactness**
  - 1. District 3 is geographically very large
    - a. But, it's population is equitable in relation to the other, more compact districts
  - v. Another key factor, voting precincts cannot be split
  - vi. In 2010 Sedgwick County staff presented 8 to 10 proposed redistricting plans to the Board of County Commissioners
    - 1. They picked a plan and passed a resolution establishing the new districts
  - vii. The Board of County Commissioners is looking to have an evening public meeting to ensure that all residents can address the redistricting issue
  - viii. Population growth was surprising
    - 1. Districts 1,3, and 5 all grew at roughly the same amount
    - 2. District 2 grew more slowly

3. District 4 grew very rapidly
- ix. Population growth (rate)
  1. Districts 1,3, and 5 grew approximately 5%
  2. District 4 grew over 9%
  3. District 2 grew approximately 2%
- x. Population
  1. District 1 (105,567)
  2. District 2 (99,804)
  3. District 3 (104,504)
  4. District 4 (109,341)
  5. District 5 (104,908)
- xi. It appears likely that District 2 will expand into District 4
  1. Approximately 4,800 residents will shift districts
  2. This would ensure population equity in the five commissioner districts
- xii. Cities within Sedgwick County can be split between districts
  1. Some CAB members felt that splitting cities would not be ideal
- xiii. Redistricting can be a polarizing issue
  1. Sedgwick County staff worked to ensure that the process occurred in a “sterile environment” (free from political influence)
- xiv. Some of the plans would create radically different maps
  1. No commissioners would find themselves outside of their district with these plans
- xv. There will be a public hearing and eventually, sometime before the end of the year, the Board of County Commissioners will pass a resolution approving a redistricting plan
- xvi. A CAB member asked Michael Fessinger about his preference for the process of passing the resolution
  1. Fessinger answered that he would like to have eight resolutions prepared, one for each Redistricting Plan, and have the Board of County Commissioners pick a Redistricting Plan and vote on that resolution.

**b. Redistricting Discussion amongst CAB member-Commissioner Lopez**

- i. Commissioner Lopez wanted to find out the CAB’s view on the various plans
- ii. Plan 06 seemed to have the most support
- iii. Susan Norton asked if future growth was considered
  1. Tabitha answered that it was a factor
- iv. A discussion on each Plan was held
  1. Plan 01 (not viable)
  2. Plan 02 (viable)
  3. Plan 03 (viable)
  4. Plan 04 (viable)
  5. Plan 05 (not viable)
  6. Plan 06 (viable)
  7. Plan 07 (viable)
  8. Plan 08 (viable)

**c. Discussion of BOCC Staff Meeting-Commissioner Lopez**

- i. Commissioner Lopez mentioned that the BOCC is considering issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to explore the possibility of converting the elected row offices to appointed positions
  1. Row Offices include:
    - a. County Clerk
    - b. County Treasurer
    - c. Register of Deeds
- ii. There are a number of duplicated roles between these three offices
  1. There is the possibility of streamlining operations and improving efficiency within the County by making these appointed positions
- iii. Johnson County has already made this change through its Charter Commission
  1. Increased efficiencies
  2. Reduction in redundancy
- iv. Sedgwick County is experiencing difficulty in several departments
  1. Sedgwick County Health Department
  2. COMCARE
- v. Increases in efficiency in the row offices could help these vital departments
- vi. The Board of County Commissioners has the authority to conduct this audit of the row offices
- vii. Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners has the legal authority to make these changes
  1. The changes must be on the ballot during a gubernatorial election
    - a. The next Kansas gubernatorial election is in 2022
  2. This is a statutory requirement from the State of Kansas
- viii. The County Treasurer, the Deputy County Clerk, and the Register of Deeds all presented to the Board of County Commissioners and stated their preference for a one-year long delay
  1. This would enable to conduct internal reviews of duplication
  2. Additionally, several of the row office holders pointed out that they were in the process of planning to move office space
- ix. Several CAB members noted that a one-year delay would effectively be a five-year delay due to the requirement that the change take place during a gubernatorial election
- x. Dr. William Hammers supported the RFP to explore inefficiencies and duplications in these offices
  1. He noted that many voters are unaware of the roles performed by these elected officials
  2. Transitioning these roles to an appointed position would ensure that only well-qualified people would be employed in these vital roles

**6. Other**

- a. N/A

**7. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21