

McLean County Redistricting Board Proceedings
Tuesday, November 30, 2021

County Auditor Beth A. Knutson called the meeting of city representatives to order at 7:01 p.m. at the McLean County Courthouse Commission Room. Present were city representatives Donald Simon of Washburn, Richard Britton of Turtle Lake, Curt Olson of Garrison, Del Kolke of Riverdale, Township-At-Large Representative Nick Faulkner, County Auditor Beth A. Knutson, County Commissioner Barry Suydam, States Attorney Ladd Erickson, and Deputy Auditor Kayla Oberlander. Also present was Darwin Saari.

Knutson informed the group of the purpose of the meeting according to state law and then introduced them. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a representative for the cities other than the largest city (Garrison) to serve on the McLean County Redistricting Board. Knutson then explained the function of the Redistricting Board to those present. After discussing the possible meetings, the redistricting board may have to have, Knutson asked for a volunteer from the members present to serve. Richard Britton of Tuttle Lake agreed to serve on the Redistricting Board with the approval of all present. Knutson then adjourned that portion of the meeting.

Chairperson Barry Suydam then called to order the McLean County Redistricting Board at 7:06 p.m. Present were Commissioner Suydam, States Attorney Ladd Erickson, City Representative Richard Britton, Township-At-Large Representative Nick Faulkner, Garrison City Representative Curt Olson, Auditor Beth A. Knutson, and Deputy Auditor Kayla Oberlander. The chair declared a quorum with five of the five voting members present. Knutson serves on the board as a nonvoting member.

Suydam turned the meeting over to the county auditor. Knutson then handed out documents which included copies of North Dakota Century Code Chapter 11-07 detailing requirements for redistricting at the county level, the agenda, maps of the present county commission districts, and the 2020 census population breakdown of the present commission districts.

Knutson then reviewed the process used to derive the population figures including the maps used. The board then reviewed the census numbers for the county and the districts as follows: total county population is 9,771; average district size (9,771/3) is 3,257; maximum district size 5% over average is 3,420; and minimum district size 5% under average is 3,094. The 2020 census data for Commission District 1 was 2,959 (9.15% under average); Commission District 2 was 3,619 (11.11% over average); and Commission District 3 was 3,193 (1.96% under average). The figures are not within state guidelines which requires the McLean County Commission Redistricting Board to proceed with redistricting according to state guidelines.

Knutson presented a proposal for new commission district lines and the new populations that fall within the state guidelines as follows: Commission District 1 would be 3,162 (2.92% under average); Commission District 2 would be 3,403 (4.48% over average); and Commission District 3 would be 3,206 (1.57% under average).

Moved by Britton, seconded by Olson, to accept the proposed McLean County Commission District lines as presented as they meet state guidelines. All voted aye.

Suydam and Knutson then signed the recommended McLean County Commission Districts Legal Description Plan to forward to the County Auditor.

There being no further business to come before the board, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Barry Suydam, Chairperson

Kayla Oberlander, Deputy Auditor