

LAKE COUNTY SPECIAL CALL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

Friday, December 7, 2001

The Lake County Board met in a Special Call Meeting held on Friday, December 7, 2001, at the Division of Transportation Conference Room in Libertyville, Illinois. Chairman Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and asked for a moment of silent prayer. The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag. County Clerk Willard Helander called the roll. Members present were: Beattie, Buhai, Calabresa, Carter, Cole, Leafblad, Marks, Martini, Mc Carley, Mountsier, Newton, Nixon, O'Kelly, Paxton, Sabonjian, Schmidt, Schulien, Spielman, Talbett and Westerman. Members Kyle, Shorts and Stolman were absent.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALL

The Clerk read into the record the Presentation of the Call of the Special Meeting and Certificate of Mailing Notice of the Special Call Meeting. Member Mountsier moved, seconded by Member Beattie to accept the presentation of the Special Call Meeting. The Chair called for a Voice Vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Schmidt asked the audience if there was anyone wishing to speak to the Board at this time. No public comment was requested.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration and possible adoption of an Ordinance setting forth an apportionment plan for the Lake County Board.

Chair Schmidt commented on the hours and sleepless nights worked that had gone into this remapping. The maps were approved in April and we were confident that we had done everything that could be done — a 55% and 53% district. Every County Board member was brought in to work on their map and there was no preferential treatment to any board member. This is redistricting and maps change. The Chair commended Member O'Kelly on the great job she had done, as well as Dick Hilton and his staff and Meg Marcouiller and Dan Fields of the State's Attorney's office. Copies of the new maps were distributed.

Meg Marcouiller noted that the maps were the same as the ones seen in executive session and which were taken to the settlement. The Judge was asked to vacate the old map so we could vote on the new map today. Regarding the two sets of plaintiffs — the new maps would satisfy MALDEF and as of Wednesday, the Vazquez plaintiffs still had objections on the basis of compactness, however, today they told the judge that they would not object to the maps. There was also the question of petition filing dates and the judge asked that the Board establish its position on petition filing dates — should they remain as they are or do we extend the date. The

judge has not made up his mind on that issue and would like feedback from the County Board. Member O’Kelly moved, seconded by Member Carter to accept the new revised maps dated 12/7. Ms. Marcouiller noted that the maps should also be added to the ordinance. Member Schulien noted that maps were approved two months ahead of time and the request of MALDEF was denied and we should remember this 10 years from now when the next redistricting committee meets. Member Schulien complimented Member O’Kelly on putting the new map together. Member Schulien stated that he just wanted to make note of the fact that we had the opportunity to defer for a month and had we done so we could have saved ourselves a lot of litigation. Member O’Kelly noted that she would be making a better file for the next reapportionment committee.

Member Nixon expressed her concern about Angelo Kyle’s district and felt since they are the only two minorities on the County Board there was a need for concern. Member O’Kelly noted that Member Kyle has a higher percentage now. Member Sabonjian stated that he would probably be voting no on this item and spoke about his conversation with “Vision News” and how he felt that minorities could win by learning the rules and playing by the rules. Member Marks noted that this is being done as a result of something done in the 60’s and it shows that there has been great progress in this county for the African American. Member Nixon stated that she felt she must question when she felt the strength of the African-American community was being diluted.

The Chair called for a Roll Call vote to approve the revised maps and add them to the apportionment ordinance. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes 19, Nays 1.

Meg Marcouiller noted that the board also needed to vote on whether to leave filing dates as they are right now or move to another date in the future. Chair Schmidt expressed concern on whether notarized signatures would be considered “stale.” Ms. Marcouiller stated that as long as the signature was from someone in the new district it should be fine. Ms. Marcouiller read a statement regarding signatures and noted that they expected this language to be passed down by the judge.

The Chair recognized Mr. Ed Soto, a member of the audience and a resident of Hainesville who spoke to the board about his concerns with redistricting. Members of the County Board responded to Mr. Soto’s concerns and Member O’Kelly noted that the reason the maps were revised was because of fracturing and that is what the changes were all about.

Member Mountsier moved, seconded by Member Cole to approve the Resolution stating that filing dates for the Lake County Board should not be changed. Member Cole noted that there were no district numbers on the petition. Member Spielman felt that instructions should be included noting that County Board District numbers should be put on the petitions. Member Cole noted that if the judge decided that prior signatures count, then she would be comfortable with this, or even extending the filing date. Ms. Marcouiller asked if members wanted to clarify the resolution. Member Newton noted that the deadline wasn’t until December 17 and she was not in favor of extending.

The Chair called for a Roll Call vote to approve the Resolution. Motion carried with the following vote: Ayes 19, Nays 0. Ms. Marcouiller stated that they expected a ruling from the judge this afternoon on petition filing dates.

Member Buhai noted that today was the commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day. Member Spielman noted that a public notice should be sent out about filing dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Sabonjian moved, seconded by Member Talbett to adjourn the Special Call Meeting. The Chair called for a Voice Vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Willard R. Helander
Lake County Clerk

Minutes approved:
