RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN ROOM #318 PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Ellner & Gouldman

<u>Thursday</u>	6:00pm	January 19, 2023
-----------------	--------	------------------

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Castellano lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Ellner and Chairwoman Addonizio were present. Legislator Gouldman was absent. Chairwoman Addonizio stated Legislator Castellano would sit on the Committee in Legislator Gouldman's absence.

Item #3 – Discussion/ Reapportionment Proposals #1 & #2 from Putnam County Reapportionment Commission

Key:			
LD – Legislative District	ED – Election District	CB – Census Block	
CA – Carmel	KE – Kent	PA – Patterson	
PH – Philipstown	PV – Putnam Valley	SE – Southeast	

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo stated he last provided an update of the Reapportionment Commission in December. He stated at that time it was discovered that there were orphan districts; these were districts that were no longer within any specific LD after the Federal Government re-drew the CBs. He stated the Board of Elections and IT/GIS Department put a lot of time and effort into placing those orphan districts into their proper place. He stated once that work was done the Reapportionment Commission was able to start holding meetings; one was held in December and another in January. He stated as a result of that process, the Commission unanimously agreed upon two (2) proposals. He stated both proposals meet the 5% test, meaning the difference in population between the legislative districts with the highest and lowest population is not more than a total of 5%. He stated these two (2) proposals are not the only possibilities, they are being presented to the Committee at this time because they meet the requirements in the Charter that the resulting districts reflect a community of interest and to respect geographical barriers, historical development, and political subdivisions, particularly town and village lines. He stated the requirements of New York State law were also followed that resulting districts consist of contiguous territory, are compact as practicable, maintain cores of existing districts, and promote orderly and efficient elections, which the Board of Elections was very helpful with as they identified locations of polling places. He stated these guidelines were followed for each of the proposals, which he will now review.

The following referenced spreadsheets and maps are attached:

- Spreadsheets showing the information in numerical format
- Three types of maps:
 - A map for each proposal of what the resulting districts would look like
 - A map for each proposal comparing the current districts with the proposed districts shaded in to show the proposed shifts
 - Zoomed in maps showing full detail of the area being shifted including streets, shorelines, and CBs with population

Proposal #1

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated as shown on the attached sheet labeled "Proposals 1 & 2 – Comparison of All LDs; 5% Test Check" the table shows that Proposal #1 resulted in LD-1 having the highest population at 11,058 and LD-3 having the lowest at 10,550. The differentiation between these districts comes to 4.68% and therefore falls within the 5% requirement, meaning this proposal is a viable option.

On the map showing the shaded areas representing the proposed shifts, Legislative Counsel Firriolo drew the Committee's attention to the shaded area between LD-1 and LD-2. He stated this is a block of 20 residents that the Board of Elections and the IT Department identified were in the incorrect district. He stated in either scenario, these 20 residents would have to be moved and is not necessarily part of the proposals themselves, it was work done as part of fixing the districts.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo reviewed the following proposed changes in LD3, LD-4, & LD-5:

- 0 171 residents moving from EDs KE-3 and KE-5 in LD-5 into ED KE-6 in LD-3
- o 164 residents moving from ED PA-6 in LD-3 into ED PA-1 in LD-4

Legislative Counsel Firriolo reviewed the following proposed changes in LD-2, LD-5, LD-7, & LD-8:

- 286 residents moving from ED CA-9 in LD-2 into LD-8
- ED CA-15 was eliminated and split into ED CA-22 in LD-7 and LD-8
- o 625 residents moving from ED CA-15 in LD-5 into ED CA-22 in LD-7
- 473 residents moving from ED CA-5 in LD-8 into ED CA-8 in LD-5

Legislative Counsel Firriolo reviewed the following proposed changes in LD-6 & LD-7:

- LD-6 had the highest population; LD-7 was a little low
- 587 residents moving from ED SE-12 in LD-6 into LD-7
- ED SE-12 was eliminated and split into EDs SE-6 and SE-7
- The Village of Brewster was not interfered with.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo reviewed the net changes of Proposal #1, which are detailed on the attached summary sheet on the table labeled "Net Populations changes per LD by Proposal."

Proposal #2

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated Proposal #1 started with some of the changes from Proposal #1. LD-1 had the highest population. He reviewed the following proposed changes:

- 38 residents moving from ED PV-8 in LD-1 into ED PV-2 in LD-2, which helped balance other changes
- ED CA-9 was eliminated and split between ED CA-25 in LD-9 and CA-26 in LD-8
 - 232 residents moving from ED CA-9 in LD-2 into ED CA-25 in LD-9
 - 445 residents moving from ED CA-9 in LD-2 into ED CA-26 in LD-8
 - This change reunites Carmel EDs, leaving LD-2 with only Putnam Valley EDs. (ED PV-8 remains in LD-1)
- A total of 225 residents were moved into LD-5
 - 473 residents moving from CA-15 in LD-7 into CA-8 in LD-5
 - 249 residents moving from ED CA-6 in LD-9 into ED CA-20 in LD-5
- 171 residents moving from EDs KE-3 and KE-5 in LD-5 into ED KE-6 in LD-3
- 164 residents moving from ED PA-6 in LD-3 into ED PA-1 in LD-4

Legislator Nacerino questioned if the move of 164 residents from LD-3 into LD-4 keeps all Patterson EDs within LD-4.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the 164 residents being moved into LD-4 are from two (2) CBs within ED PA-6. He stated ED PA-6 is comprised of 986 residents, therefore the remaining 822 residents in ED PA-6 are still in LD-3. He stated the movement of the 164 residents from LD-3 into LD-4 allowed 497 residents in the Lake Carmel area to move from ED KE-6 in LD-5 into LD-3. He stated this is a net increase of 333 residents for LD-3.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated to summarize Proposal #2, to remove the portion of Carmel that was in LD-2, changes had to be made throughout the map to balance the population numbers to stay within the 5% rule. He stated the changes in LD-6 and LD-7 are the same in both Proposal #1 and #2.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo reviewed the net changes of Proposal #2, which are detailed on the attached summary sheet on the table labeled "Net Populations changes per LD by Proposal." He stated as shown on the attached sheet labeled "Proposals 1 & 2 – Comparison of All LDs; 5% Test Check" the table shows that Proposal #2 resulted in LD-1 having the highest population at 11,020 and LD-2 having the lowest at 10,611. The differentiation between these districts comes to 3.77% and therefore falls within the 5% requirement, meaning this proposal is a viable option. He stated when the Reapportionment Commission was working on these maps, the only thing they looked at were the population numbers within CBs and how contiguous the districts were as proposed changes were made. He stated no data was available related to numbers of voters, voter registration, or any demographics. He stated they were not allowed to change CBs; all they could do is request that the Board of Elections move CBs from one ED to another. He stated the Committee can choose one of the proposed plans to move forward to the Special Full Legislative Meeting, or it can choose to move both plans to be voted upon by the Full Legislature. He stated once the Full Legislature chooses one of the plans, a public hearing would be scheduled. He stated the second resolution before the Committee this evening requests the Board of Elections to make the necessary moves according to which plan is approved. He stated if the Legislature does not want to accept either of these plans the Reapportionment Commission would need to continue their work and come up with additional proposals. He stated if one of these plans is acceptable it can be moved onto the public hearing stage.

Legislator Jonke questioned if the Reapportionment Commission has a recommendation.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated the Reapportionment Commission does not have a recommendation, both proposals were unanimously agreed upon by the members.

Legislator Ellner stated he has no objection to either proposal; he would prefer Proposal #2.

Legislator Castellano agreed and stated he would like to move forward with Proposal #2.

Legislator Nacerino stated she also prefers Proposal #2 as it is more concentrated. She stated she likes that Proposal #2 reunites Carmel with LD-8 and LD-9, while LD-2 is comprised of only Putnam Valley EDs.

Legislator Montgomery thanked the Reapportionment Commission for their work on these proposals. She questioned if the resolution requesting the Board of Elections to make the necessary changes is passed before or after the public hearing.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated it should be approved before the public hearing. He stated the local law needs to be drafted to be presented at the public hearing, and it cannot be drafted until the EDs have been renumbered. He stated when the Legislature adopts the local law that chooses a proposal, it lists each ED with their population.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like to see the shape file, ideally before she votes on this.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated he requested the file from IT/GIS. He stated the same detail can be seen in the zoomed in maps provided.

Legislator Jonke stated he prefers Proposal #2 because it moves the Carmel EDs into LD-8 and LD-9, leaving LD-2 with only Putnam Valley EDs.

Legislator Crowley agreed with moving Proposal #2 forward. She stated keeping both LD-2 and LD-4 more cohesive makes sense.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the Legislator from LD-2 provided a comment since he is unable to be here this evening.

Legislator Jonke stated he spoke with Legislator Gouldman, who expressed his preference for Proposal #2.

Chairman Addonizio thanked the Reapportionment Commission for their work.

a. Approval/ Proposed Adoption of Reapportionment Plan

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution to move Proposal #2 to the Full Legislative Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor.

b. Approval/ Request to the Board of Elections/ Transfer Portions of Election Districts

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated since Proposal #2 was moved forward, the blank spaces in this resolution will be filled in with "Proposal #2". He stated this resolution asks the Board of Elections to make the changes to the EDs as approved in Proposal #2.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution, filling in the blank spaces with "Proposal #2"; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Item #4 – Discussion/ Approval/ Proposed Adoption of Local Law Providing a Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers

Legislator Jonke stated very late in 2022 the New York State Legislature passed legislation allowing for these exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. He stated County Executive Byrne was a member of the Assembly when this was passed. He stated because this was signed by the Governor so late in the year, there is not much time to implement this, as it needs to be in place by March 1st, the taxable status date. He stated he would like to see this move forward so the volunteers in Putnam County have this option available to them.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated this exemption opportunity is important as it may encourage more residents to become volunteers.

Legislator Montgomery thanked Legislator Jonke for introducing this item. She stated over the last decade there has been a 32% decline in volunteers and this exemption is a way to retain and recruit more individuals to the volunteer force. She stated being a volunteer EMT (emergency medical technician) was one of the most rewarding things she has ever done. She stated anyone willing to do this for their community should receive a benefit. She questioned if individuals claiming this exemption would still be eligible for their tax credit.

Legislator Jonke stated they would not be eligible for the credit.

Director of Real Property Lisa Johnson stated not the way the current law is written. She stated if there are two (2) eligible volunteers in a household, one can get the exemption and the other can get the credit. Legislator Jonke clarified that the individual would need to have five (5) years of service and after 20 years the volunteer becomes a lifetime member.

Legislator Montgomery stated she thought the minimum was two (2) years of service.

Legislator Jonke stated the State law says two (2) to five (5) years; Putnam County opted for five (5) years. He stated this is a limitless exemption of up to 10%; there is no cap on it.

Legislator Nacerino echoed the remarks made by her colleagues. She stated she sits on the Fire Advisory Board and she has a profound respect and appreciation for the work the volunteers in the County so and this is well deserved.

Legislator Montgomery thanked County Executive Byrne for co-sponsoring this bill in the State when he was still an Assemblyman.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo clarified that similarly to the reapportionment resolution, what is being approved this evening is the Legislature's proposal to adopt a local law implementing this. He stated under this particular local law a public hearing needs to be held by the Legislature prior to the law's adoption.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor. (Proposed Adoption of Local Law Providing Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters & Ambulance Workers)

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the local law has been submitted to the meeting as additional material.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Ellner. All in favor. (Local Law Amending Chapter 220 of the Code of Putnam County Entitled "Taxation")

Item #5 - Other Business - None

Item #6 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:50pm, Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Castellano. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Beth Robinson.