



Sullivan County County Legislature Meeting Minutes - Final

Chairman Robert Doherty
Vice Chairman Michael Brooks
Legislator Nadia Rajsz
Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr.
Legislator George Conklin
Legislator Luis Alvarez
Legislator Joseph Perrello
Legislator Ira Steingart
Legislator Alan J. Sorensen

Thursday, August 11, 2022

11:00 AM

Government Center

Redistricting Public Hearing

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Doherty called the Public Hearing on Redistricting at 11:36AM.

Roll Call of Legislators

Present: District 1 Legislator - Chairman Robert Doherty
District 3 Legislator - Vice Chairman Michael Brooks
District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajsz
District 4 Legislator Nicholas Salomone Jr.
District 5 Legislator George Conklin
District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez
District 7 Legislator Joseph Perrello
District 8 Legislator Ira Steingart

Absent: District 9 Legislator Alan J. Sorensen

Reading of Public Hearing Notice

Luis Alvarez in at 11:30am

Redistricting Public Hearing Notice

[ID-4832](#)

Attachments: [redistrictphnotice](#)

County Manager's Power Point Presentation

Note

Joshua Potosek and Chris Knapp gave a presentation regarding the redistricting maps.

Public Comment

1. Barbara Van made a public comment
2. Pamela Zaitchick made a public comment
3. Ken Walter made a public comment.
4. Martha Scoppa made a public comment
5. Town of Liberty Supervisor Frank DeMayo made a public comment
6. Catherine Scott made a public comment
7. Lilly Stettner made a public comment
8. Star Hesse made a public comment
9. Josie Omar made a public comment
10. Chris Lesser made a public comment

Joseph Perrello asked if the vendor could come up with three additional options and have an extended public hearing. Nadia Rajsiz mentioned that in July she did ask for this map maker to come by zoom or however, for a "Q" and "A" session and she was told that he couldn't.

Chairman Doherty indicated that it is not in his RFP.. Just to clarify for the fine folks in Liberty. Some folks are saying that the town is being split. It currently has three legislative representatives, Mr. Conklin, Mr. Alvarez and Mr. Brooks.. All of these three maps, it will still has three legislative representatives. Fallsburg currently has three legislative representatives. and goes to two representatives, Thompson still has two representatives, Inn different scenarios, some districts will have three or four representatives.

George Conklin stated as a lady did speak before, he didn't mean it doesn't matter who your legislator is. What he did mean was we all represent the county as a whole. He talks to people who don't live in District 5 all the time. We could go around on this until the next census comes out. Out of nine of us, he guarantees that someone is not going to be happy. We could do three more maps and then three more maps after that, and somebody is not going to be happy. We all agreed to three maps without any input from the legislature. To his knowledge only the County Manager and the Director of Real Property Tax Services were the only ones that gave input into these three maps. Joseph Perrello stated if you look at these maps, they are very similar if you look at the patterns. District 5 is like all the same, District 3 looks the same, District 2 has a little variable there, it is not really different. Maybe they need to go East to West instead of North to South. To him, these are three options but very similar options. These are three different scenarios not three different options.

Chairman Doherty stated isn't that input which we said we weren't going to do? That is exactly what we said we weren't going to do!

Ira Steingart stated a couple of meetings ago, he asked a question if David, the consultant, had any contact with anyone besides the County Manager and the Director of Real Property Services aft the RFP was awarded and he still hasn't received an answer.

Chairman Doherty stated that David Heller was instructed by all of us that if any member of the Legislature tries to contact him, he needs to contact the County Manager and he has not contact the County Manager.

Ira Steingart stated from the time he was awarded the RFP, he wants to know if anyone has contacted

him besides the two. He wants to know if he had any contact with any legislator after he had been awarded the contract and prior to us meeting or during the whole time. Chairman Doherty stated once he got the contract on that Friday, Mr. Heller called him and he gave him the County Manager's information and that was the extent of their conversation. Ira Steingart indicated why can't Mr. Heller respond with an answer to that question. He would like an answer in writing to that. This is a difficult project that will not get all all nine legislators to be happy with. His only concern is that he wants confirmation that there was no outside influence to create the maps, that is all he wants to know.

Luis Alvarez stated he is not known for spelling but know for dealing with numbers. Give me my Town of Liberty. Nadia Rajszt stated she agrees with Luis Alvarez. Chairman Doherty stated that Luis Alvarez specifically asked not to have Swan Lake in that meeting. Luis Alvarez stated he didn't ask for that. Chairman Doherty stated yes you did. Nadia Rajszt stated if Luis Alvarez looked at Map #3, District 2 is part of the Town of Thompson. What does Thompson have to do with the river towns? Luis Alvarez stated everyone knows who he is and it doesn't matter where you put him.

A motion was made by District 3 Legislator - Vice C Michael Brooks, seconded by District 5 Legislator George Conklin, that this be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Doherty, Brooks, Rajszt, Salomone, Conklin, Alvarez, and Steingart
Nay: Perrello
Absent: Sorensen

Public Comment

A motion was made by District 3 Legislator - Vice C Michael Brooks, seconded by District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajszt, that this be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Doherty, Brooks, Rajszt, Salomone, Conklin, Alvarez, Perrello, and Steingart
Absent: Sorensen

Redistricting Written Comments

[ID-4960](#)

Attachments: [written redistrict public comments](#)

Closing of Public Hearing

Ira Steingart suggested keeping the public hearing open till next week to hear and receive more public comment. Chairman Doherty stated he doesn't have a problem with that. Nadia Rajsz stated she doesn't agree with having a vote next week and we should extend it for another 30 days at the request of some of the residents.

Luis Alvarez stated all I hear is email, email and email. Can't people mail comments in. Chairman Doherty stated they can and they have.

RECESS

Chairman Doherty moved to recess to Thursday, August 18th at 8:30AM, seconded by Nadia Rajsz agreed and carried.

The Redistricting Public Hearing was recessed at 12:38PM.