

MINUTES

BE IT remembered that on the 28th day of February, 2011, at 6:00 P.M., the Board of Supervisors of Hinds County met in the Chancery Court Building, Board of Supervisors' Room, Jackson, Mississippi; pursuant to the provisions of Mississippi Code 1972, Annotated, Section 19-3-19 and resolution heretofore adopted by the Board. This being a special meeting of said Board, when the following were present:

GEORGE SMITH- PRESIDENT

DOUGLAS ANDERSON – VICE PRESIDENT

ROBERT GRAHAM- MEMBER

PEGGY HOBSON CALHOUN- MEMBER

PHIL FISHER – MEMBER – VIA TELECONFERENCE

Also present and attending upon said Supervisors' Court were Chancery Clerk and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Eddie Jean Carr; Deputy Chancery Clerk, Greta Lovell; Deputy Recording Clerk, Brina Miller Hayes; Deputy Sheriff Sgt. Malcolm May; County Administrator, Carmen Davis and Board Attorney, Crystal Martin when the following business was had and done, to-wit:

AGENDA

ATTACHED TO and incorporated herein is the Agenda for today's meeting. A notice was posted pursuant to statute.

INVOCATION

PRESIDENT GRAHAM called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. Judge Frank Sutton, Hinds County Justice Court, offered the invocation.

REDISTRICTING 2011

Redistricting 2011- Adoption of Redistricting Plan

Crystal Martin stated that Phil Fisher's conference calls would be dropped periodically through out the meeting and he would be calling back in.

Mr. Derek Johnson, D L Johnson Consulting LLC addressed the board regarding his four proposals for redistricting. Mr. Johnson went into detail about the criteria used in determining lines to drawn for proposals presented. He stated that the baseline for the drawing of these plans were to create no more than a ten percent difference in each district. The census data showed a county wide deviation of 14.44 percent which caused for the districts to be redrawn. Mr. Johnson stated the total number of voters and the black voting age population percentages for each proposal for each district.

Phil Fisher questioned how many proposals were presented and which proposals were included on the Hinds County website. Mr. Smith stated that there were three

proposals posted on the Hinds County website and the fourth proposal, proposal number one was not included because there was an error with the census data that was used to create this proposal and had to be corrected. Proposal number one was available for viewing at the meeting and was emailed to him directly. There was also a fifth proposal presented by Pete Perry, Hinds County Republican Party Chairperson.

Mr. Smith opened the floor to comments from the public.

Judge Ivory Britton addressed the Board and stated that he was in favor of Proposal number two.

Ryan Tracey addressed the Board with concern about the influence of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the Black voting age population percentages in the drawing of the redistricting maps. Derrick Johnson response was that in Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act states that minorities could not be placed into a worse voting position than before the redistricting was done.

Pete Perry addressed the Board and stated in districts 1, 3, and 5 were already within the deviation and only about 2,000 people needed to be moved between districts 2 and 4. Mr. Perry also stated that he was a resident of District one (1) and questioned Mr. Graham as to which proposal did he like. Mr. Graham response was that he was looking at proposals 1, 2, and 3 but had not made a decision yet. Mr. Perry went into further detail about his opinions of all four proposals and presented his proposal (proposal 5) for the Boards consideration. Proposal five (5) made few changes to the already drawn lines. Mr. Perry also questioned why would the Board redraw or remap the lines when the compactness of the boundaries and historical lines could stay the same. Mr. Graham response was that redistricting was going to have to be done and the changes made would not cause people to change where they vote but who they voted for in an election. Mr. Perry again expressed his desire not to split precincts and to make as few changes as possible.

Mr. Smith stated that there was a three (3) minute time limit for each speaker.

Lydia Rodgers addressed the Board and stated she felt that the public was given short notice of the presentation of the proposals and felt that if the Board had already made up their minds then what was the point of the public opinion.

Michael Bograd, a Clinton resident, addressed the Board and stated that he wanted Clinton to stay in a compact form, that the House/Senate plan had already placed havoc with integrity of the community, and he did not want to precincts to be split.

Scott Hodges, a Clinton resident, stated that proposals one and two conflict with the national political boundaries for Clinton. He also stated that he mirrored Mr. Bograd statement.

Gerald Kucia, a Clinton resident, addressed the Board and questioned the time line for the drawing of the redistricting maps. He wanted to know when were the maps developed, how much attorney time was taken, and whose input? Mr. Smith response was that they worked day and night and all weekend long to have the plans drawn up. There was a error discovered with Proposal one due to incorrect census data and had to be corrected so it was not available for public viewing all with the other proposals.

Phil Fisher asked if the Board were within the law to only give the public such a short time frame to view the proposals. Mr. Smith stated there was no time limit. Mr. Fisher also asked if Proposal 5 would be considered. Mr. Smith stated yes it would be considered.

Brad Reeves addressed the Board concerning Derrick Johnson's contract. Mr. Smith's response was that issue was not the topic for our discussion tonight.

John Dennery addressed the Board and stated that he wanted the Board to show a sense of fairness to the communities by not disturbing the historical boundaries. He wants the lines to be changed as little as possible. Mr. Smith stated that there have been several changes to the districts throughout the years because of redistricting. One fact being that many districts only have city areas now where there use to be some unincorporated areas within each district.

Laura Van Overselidch, a North Jackson resident, addressed the Board and stated that she has an issue with breaking up districts that are traditionally together and wanted to know the exact language used in the 1965 Voting Rights Act on how districts are drawn. She also questioned how was the Board able to pay so much for redistricting and had county employees on furlough. Mr. Smith reiterated that was not on tonight's agenda for discussion.

Roger Davis, a resident of District one (1), addressed the Board and stated that is was a former candidate for District 1 and loss the election by less than 1 percent. Mr. Davis stated that he there was no hard copies of the proposals presented to the public. He asked Mr. Graham if he felt that based on the plans presented would a candidate from his party have a chance to defeat him. Mr. Graham responded he did not plan on losing. Mr. Davis time was up and asked to leave the podium.

Margaret Morris, a resident of North East Heights subdivision, stated that she received an email saying that her neighborhood was being singled out from her neighboring subdivisions for redistricting. She felt like her area should be represented well.

John Lewis, District 4 Constable, addressed the Board concerning Proposal 4. He Connie Cochran, and Jimmy Morton were given 48 hours to help draw up the plans for this proposal. He felt that there had not been enough time for the public to view these plan and asked the Board to consider the selection process be delayed.

Rosemary Altman, City of Clinton Mayor, addressed the board and stated that the notification for the public hearing should be posted in the most widely distributed newspaper in the area. Few people knew of the public hearing held last week. At the public hearing on Feb.22, 2011 there were no maps, handouts or any information for the public to view. This meeting didn't meet the generally accepted rules for public hearings. Because of the lack of information, the public was informed through the Clarion Ledger this morning (Feb. 28, 2011) that maps would be available at 9:00 a.m. here and at the Raymond Courthouse. There were no maps at the Raymond Courthouse until early afternoon. Proposals 2, 3, and 4 were displayed on the County web site today but now we get to the public hearing tonight and find out there's a Proposal 1 which hasn't been

made available to the public at all. According to the Board agenda you will vote on one of these proposals tonight without any consideration for the public comment. This is highly irregular and goes against the nature and intent of a public hearing.

Greg Gearhart, a Clinton resident, addressed the board and stated that redistricting is to craft voting districts for each candidate and challenges the group to make decisions that will be beneficial to all voters. He also believes that it is a fact that the public will vote based on performance.

Addie Green, a Bolton resident, addressed the Board and stated that she wanted to have a copy of the proposals presented.

Mr. Fisher asked if all the supervisors had areas outside of the city limits and are Clinton, Raymond, and Byram split under all plans or just plans 1, 2, and 3. Derek Johnson responded to the questions by stating that all the proposals had a split on some level. Mr. Fisher posed the same question to Mr. Perry concerning his proposal. Mr. Perry response was that there was not a split in Raymond or Clinton. Mr. Fisher then stated that he would not like for any of the cities or subdivision in his to district to be split. He also requested that the Board take into consideration proposal 4 and 5.

Connie Cochran, Election Commissioner District 4, addressed the Board concerning the splitting of precincts. She expressed that there would be major problems for the voters with split precincts and new voting locations would have to be created. Ms. Cochran also stated that the Board should consider the voters as well as the poll workers.

Jimmy Morton, Justice Court Judge District 4, stated that he did appreciate that Mr. Johnson did include him in the redistricting process and had a question about what actually is the definition of Minority Voting? Mr. Johnson response to the question was that the 1965 Voting Rights Act was initially introduced due to poll taxing and racial episodes that prevented blacks from voting. Section two of the Voting Rights Act addressed vote dilution and section five addressed the direct intention to prevent blacks from voting. Department of Justice was then given the authority to enforce this law within certain communities that displayed some form of discrimination based on race. Malicious acts and the disfranchise of African Americans and other minorities gave way to minority voting.

Nick Tremonte, Mayor of Byram, addressed the Board and stated that as elected officials we are asked to walk a fine line to represent our communities with integrity. Every vote will represent what you stand for and every thing you do will represent Hinds County. He also stated that he has confidence that the Board will do the right thing.

Jermal Clark, Election Commissioner District 3, addressed the Board and questioned how would someone black win an election with the traditional district lines of Clinton, Byram, and Raymond. Mr. Johnson response was that race was not the primary factor for the drawing of the lines.

RECESS

UPON A motion of Robert Graham and a second by George Smith, Phil Fisher voting aye, Douglas Anderson voting aye, Peggy Hobson Calhoun voting aye, it was

RESOLVED to recess this meeting for 15 minutes at 7:26 p.m.

RECONVENE

President Smith reconvened the meeting at approximately 7:46 p.m.

Mr. Smith opened the floor for any motions that the Board would like to entertain.

Mr. Graham expressed his gratitude for everyone coming to this meeting. He then stated that it was in his interest to keep communities together and there would not be any “leftovers”. A decision has to made or this issue could cost the county much more money. He then reiterated that his decision was not made based on color or race. Mr. Graham asked Mr. Johnson which proposal would be least invasive as far as precinct changes. Mr. Johnson gave precinct change for his four proposals.

Mrs. Calhoun stated that the county has a lot of work to do and to move forward with other issues such as economic development and an increased tax base. She wants to adopt a plan that would represent a compromise with proposal 4, which she thinks should be Proposal one.

UPON A motion of Peggy Hobson Calhoun and a second by Robert Graham, Douglas Anderson voting aye, Phil Fisher voting nay, George Smith voting aye, it was

RESOLVED to approve to adopt the Redistricting Proposal number 1 for Hinds County. Document affixed hereto and incorporated herein.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON A motion of Robert Graham and a second by Douglas Anderson, Phil Fisher voting aye, Peggy Hobson Calhoun voting aye, George Smith voting aye, it was

RESOLVED to adjourn until March 7, 2011, Board of Supervisors’ Room, Chancery Court Building, Jackson, MS. Whereupon the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 P.M. Notice is hereby given that the meeting to be held on March 7, 2011, is a regular meeting of the Board.

HINDS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

George Smith, Board President

*Attest:
Eddie Jean Carr, Chancery Clerk*

By: _____ D.C.