

(27-11/12)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS;
PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING, MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing was held on Monday, May 16, 2011 in the Administrative Center, Room B190. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 26 supervisors were present when Chair Steven Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and those otherwise present, excused or absent are noted in the roll call detail:

District Name	Attendance
1 Richmond, Andrea	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Feehan, Bill	Absent
4 Johnson, Jai	Excused
5 Konkel, Bradley	Absent
6 Billings, Jill	Present
7 Plesha, Roger	Present
8 Freedland, Maureen	Present
9 Hampson, Sharon	Present
10 Wood, Margaret	Present
11 Kader, Audrey	Present
12 Flood, Bridget	Present
13 Brockmiller, Bill	Present
14 Medinger, John	Present
15 Mach, Beverly	Excused
16 Sebranek, Gerald	Present
17 Meyer, Donald	Present
18 Johnson, Tara	Excused
19 Keil, Robert	Present
20 Bina, Donald	Absent
21 Manthei, Dennis	Present
22 Ebert, Ray	Present
23 Gamroth, Tammy	Excused
24 Pfaff, Leon	Absent
25 Schroeder, Jeffrey	Present
26 Burke, Vicki	Present
27 Pedretti, Marilyn	Present
28 Doyle, Steve	Present
29 Kruse, Monica	Present
30 Spiker, Charles	Present
31 Ferries, Dan	Present
32 Benrud, Arlene	Present
33 Berns, Jim	Present
34 Wehrs, Tina	Absent
35 Bilskemper, Joe	Present

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PRESENTATION ON REDISTRICTING:

Zoning, Planning & Land Information Director Jeff Bluske gave a presentation on the redistricting process. The principles to follow are; equal population, contiguous, compact, preservation of community interest (traditional, ethnic, racial or common characteristics), preservation of political subdivisions, school district boundaries, and protection of incumbents. The impact of ward populations; municipalities under a population of 30,000 and above 10,000 have to create wards, municipalities under a population of 30,000 do not need wards as reporting units. Draft plans of 27, 29, and 31 supervisory districts were created and it was narrowed down to the 29-01 plan. Tonight is the public hearing on the tentative plan and a final public hearing will be held in August or September. The county has the first 60 days to draw supervisory district lines. The second 60 days is the municipalities to draw their ward lines and the last 60 days is back at the county to finalize. The county has been working on this plan for approximately 4 weeks and some revisions have been done. Packing, fracturing, and gerrymandering are all prohibited when drawing lines. Other considerations; ward size restrictions, city aldermanic districts, unincorporated villages, prisons, what lines are you following, school districts, and ballot styles (ballot styles add to poll worker confusion, errors, and additional costs for elections.)

Chairman Doyle reminded everyone that this is a public hearing and not a debate.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Rich Becker – Chairman for the City of La Crosse reapportionment committee. Encountered confusion at the start of the county's redistricting process. After a presentation to the City Council members by Chairman Doyle, the city council members were polled as to how many members they would like on the city council. The results are as follows: 8 recommended leaving as is; 5 recommended a reduction, (2 said 11-15 districts, 2 said to reduce but did not specify a number, 1 recommended 15 districts); 1 said if reducing it should be by a small number; 1 had mixed feelings; 1 had no opinion; and 1 seat was vacant. The proposed county plan could cause 3-5 wards and would cause confusion for the voters at the polling places. The city proposed plan would have 27 wards in the City Districts.

Doug Happel – City of La Crosse Council member. The thought that if you have a smaller county board or smaller city council, you will be more efficient, efficiency is not a factor of numbers, it is of a system. Asked that the committees to not get too hung up on the necessity of reducing positions. Ultimately, what is best for the city, village, town, or wherever you live.

Douglas Farmer – City of La Crosse Council member. Introduced the proposed plan recommended by the City Council. Whatever plan that is adopted should be user friendly, but user friendly should be more than one day for voters. Democracy works when everyone has someone to go to. As wards get bigger, the chance to reach every voter will get less. The larger the body, the better the debate will be. If the city goes to 13, the debate will be gone.

Rich Becker responded to questions from the board.

Janice Hoeshler – Asked if there was a way to combine the City of La Crosse and the County into an overall plan called the coulee region district. This would be a more efficient way of getting things done and make it a better place for everyone. The big picture is to make it better for everyone.

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Sebranek/B. Brockmiller to adjourn at 6:49 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 5 absent – D. Bina, B. Feehan, B. Konkel, L. Pfaff, and T. Wehrs, 4 excused – J. Johnson, T. Johnson, B. Mach, and T. Gamroth.

(29-11/12)

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

COUNTY OF LA CROSSE)

I, Ginny Dankmeyer , La Crosse County Clerk, in and for the County of La Crosse, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors at the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing held Monday, May 16, 2011 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 18 OF MAY 2011.