

# **Minutes of Special Meeting**

## **ELECTION DISTRICT REVISION COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

The Election District Revision Committee conducted a special meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 in room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford CT, 06615, pursuant to notice duly posted.

I: Call to Order at 6:10 pm

Presiding: Council Member Paul Hoydick, Chair

Committee Members Present: Council Members Christian Barnaby, and Jason Santi. Registrar of Voters Louis DeCilio and Richard Marcone

Others in Attendance: Greg Reilly, Stratford Star, Gregory Cann, Paul Mathewson

II: Redistricting: Presentation of maps and proposed amendments

Mr. DeCilio and Mr. Marcone reviewed the need to realign Council district maps in pursuant to both the Town Charter and State statutes now that several Council districts were now out of population compliance based on U.S. Census block data collected in the 2010 Census. The ideal Council district would have 5,138 people. The Charter allows for a 5% variance, making the acceptable range for compliance between 4,881 and 5,395 people.

Mr. DeCilio presented Map "A" and Mr. Marcone presented Map "B" as proposed amendment maps. Both maps are compliant based on current Census Block data and per the specifications in the Stratford Town Charter. This was the first presentation of Map B to the committee.

Mr. Barnaby inquired why there was a new Map B and what happened to the two previousl maps Mr. Marcone presented at a previously scheduled meeting that was cancelled. Mr. Marcone explained that those maps were in fact out of compliance.

Mr. DeCilio explained that the goal of his map was to consolidate polling locations so the electorate does not have to vote at different polling locations for local and state and federal elections.

Mr. Hoydick noted the experience of confused and frustrated voters who had to manage voting at different polling locations every election and the new optical scan ballots did help reduce the wait time to minimize this concern.

Mr. Marcone noted a concern with Map A switching the number of Council Districts 2 and 3 may not necessarily change how people are represented and was based on political reasoning.

Mr. DeCilio explained that the switch was based on the Land Use (Planning, Zoning and Board of Zoning Appeals), because there are greater geographical, conservation and economic similarities.

Current Council Districts 1 and 3 share the Historic District and the Housatonic River corridor, and it would make more sense to have these districts unified in Land Use organization and representation. Mr. DeCilio also noted that party affiliations were not a factor in redistricting, and was population based, and three Land Use Boards are elected offices, and not appointed offices, and the candidates and not political parties serve in those seats.

After the discussion, A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. BARNABY, SECONDED BY MR. DECILIO TO MOVE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION MAP A, PRESENTED BY MR. DECILIO. THE MOTION PASSES FOUR (4) VOTES TO ONE (1) WITH MR. BARNABY, DECILIO, SANTI and HOYDICK VOTING YES and MR. MARCONE VOTING NO.

After the motion, Mr. Santi noted that this is the first step in the redistricting process and that there are still opportunities for debate.

III. Adjournment -- Hearing no further discussion in connection with the above agenda items or no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. BARNABY, SECONDED BY MR. SANTI TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:52 PM.

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David Fuller, Secretary