

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

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio and Legislators Nacerino & Sayegh

**Tuesday May 17, 2022
(Immediately following the Health Committee Meeting beginning at 6:30pm)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:49pm by Chairwoman Addonizio who requested Legislator Nacerino lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Nacerino & Sayegh and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item #3 - Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2022

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4 - Discussion/ Bi-Partisan Redistricting Committee

Chairwoman Addonizio began the discussion by stating that in 2001, the Chairman of the Redistricting Committee was former Legislative Counsel Van Ross and that six (6) people sat on the Redistricting Committee that year. Former Legislative Counsel Van Ross also served as Chairman on the Redistricting Committee in 2011 during which 4 people sat on the Redistricting Committee. She stated that she believed it would be beneficial to have the Election Commissioners and the Director of IT on the Redistricting Committee. She asked for suggestions from the Legislators.

Legislator Sayegh questioned whether Legislative Counsel Firriolo would be the Chairman of the Redistricting Committee.

Chairwoman Addonizio confirmed Legislative Counsel Firriolo would be the Chairman, as the Legislative Counsel has chaired the Redistricting Committee in the past.

Legislator Nacerino questioned who had sat on past Redistricting Committees.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that Chairman Van Ross, Anthony Maccarini, John Tully, Don Pellegrino, William Spinelli, and Dan Burningham had served on the Redistricting Committee in 2001. In 2011, the Redistricting Committee was formed by Chairman Van Ross, James DiBelk, Anthony Maccarini, and Karen Greenfield Sanders.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how the members of the Redistricting Committee were recruited in the past.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated he did not know the answer to the question.

Legislator Sayegh asked for clarification as to whether the Redistricting Committee consisted of a chairman and four (4) members.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that in 2011 there were three (3) members and a chairman, totaling four (4) people on the Redistricting Committee and that in 2001 there were five (5) members and a chairman, totaling six (6) people.

Legislator Sayegh questioned whether having four (4) total members would make the Redistricting Committee lopsided.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that the Democratic and Republican Election Commissioners would form part of the Redistricting Committee along with Legislative Counsel Firriolo, which would already be three (3) members.

Legislator Sayegh questioned whether the Redistricting Committee needed to be balanced by party.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that the Redistricting Committee only needed to have bipartisan representation, not be equally balanced.

Legislator Sullivan stated that Dutchess County uses twenty (20) people for the Redistricting Committee and that it is to the discretion of each county to determine the amount of Redistricting Committee members needed.

Legislator Albano questioned what the goals of the Redistricting Committee would be.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that New York State has changed the law regarding redistricting. He stated that the law previously allowed for a 10% variation. He stated that the law now allows for a 5% variation. He stated that this is a major adjustment and that more electoral districts would have to be created.

Legislator Sullivan questioned whether this will be affected by the New York State Legislature.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that it would not.

Legislator Albano questioned whether there is relief should the redistricting not be worked out.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that there is no fixed date, but that the presumption is that the redistricting should be worked out before the 2023 elections. He stated that it should also be noted that the Redistricting Committee must try not to disrupt the current order.

Legislator Nacerino stated she thinks a board of five (5) will be sufficient.

Legislator Montgomery questioned what the process for deciding the number of members is.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that the discussion takes place in the Rules, Enactments & Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting and is then moved to the Full Legislative meeting.

Legislator Nacerino stated that people from the community could also be recruited to serve on the Redistricting Committee.

Legislator Montgomery stated that more transparency is necessary and that the process for selecting the Redistricting Committee members be put out to the public. She stated that data expertise is necessary. She stated that the Redistricting Committee should have equal representation of Democrats and Republicans.

Legislator Jonke disagreed. He questioned how members of the public would be determined. He stated he believes the Redistricting Committee should be kept small.

Legislator Albano agreed with Legislator Jonke. He stated that in the past there has been little disagreement within the Redistricting Committee. He stated that the Redistricting Committee should remain small.

Chairwoman Addonizio reiterated that having the two (2) Election Commissioners on the Redistricting Committee would solve the bipartisan issue.

Legislator Sullivan stated that he agreed with having five (5) members on the Redistricting Committee. He stated that the Redistricting Committee would only be moving a few hundred people as opposed to thousands.

Legislator Sayegh stated it would be advantageous to have the Election Commissioners on the Redistricting Committee.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how the election districts would be split.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that election districts should be made smaller so that they can be moved around without interfering with legislative districts. He reiterated that the Election Commissioners are essential to reconfiguring the election districts. He stated that IT/GIS would also be essential to accurately reflect the census in the election districts.

Legislator Gouldman questioned whether the county has seen a decrease in population numbers since the last census.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo answered yes, although population loss was not universal across the districts. He stated he would be surprised if there were more than two (2) possibilities for the creation of new election districts.

Legislator Sayegh questioned whether the Redistricting Committee should be opened up to two (2) more people outside of county employment.

Legislator Nacerino stated that there should be an odd number of Redistricting Committee members.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated that the Redistricting Committee would not be voting on anything, but simply providing suggestions to the legislature.

Legislator Castellano stated that there should be local representation of no more than two (2) members from each town. He stated that knowledge from each area is necessary.

Legislator Montgomery agreed with Legislator Castellano and reiterated that the public should be empowered with the opportunity to participate.

Legislator Sullivan stated that the process would become more complicated with more people.

Legislator Albano questioned how often the Redistricting Committee would meet.

Legislator Gouldman agreed with Legislator Montgomery and Castellano and reiterated that Democratic and Republican representatives from each town should be present.

Legislator Montgomery stated that the Redistricting Committee meetings should not only occur during business hours and not only be open to county employees.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the meetings can be opened to the public. She then asked the legislators for appointment suggestions.

Legislator Castellano stated that the towns should make suggestions.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo clarified that the Redistricting Committee would be changing legislative districts based on election districts. He stated that the Legislature must work with the Election Commissioners to have the Election Commissioners increase the number of election districts prior to the Redistricting Committee beginning their endeavors. He reiterated that the changes in districting will be purely based on census numbers, not political advantage.

Legislator Gouldman questioned whether the changes in districting would affect the state legislature.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo answered no.

Legislator Nacerino stated that this would be an arduous task and to ensure that those serving on the Redistricting Committee are able to strongly contribute, the Election Commissioners should appoint someone from within the Board of Elections.

Legislator Jonke questioned whether the results generated by the Redistricting Committee would come before the Legislature for approval.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo answered yes.

Chairwoman Addonizio suggested the appointment of a Democratic attorney to the Redistricting Committee to balance it and questioned whether anyone knew of someone who fit the description that would be interested.

Legislator Montgomery stated there is a more democratic way of going about the process of appointment. She stated people want to participate.

Legislator Sullivan reiterated that this is a legislative task.

Item #5 - Approval/ Appointments/ Electrical Board/ DaEira & Williams

Legislator Sayegh questioned whether the requirement for the candidates' approval to the board be that they live or work in the county.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated that she was unsure but believed they did need to live in the county.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #6 - FYI/ Ethics Board Annual Report – Duly Noted

Item #7 - FYI/ Litigation Report – Duly Noted

Item #8 - Other Business – None

Item #9 - Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:37pm Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Legislative Intern, Tanya Ramirez.