Link to Audio

Link to Audio

Link to Agenda

Link to Attachments

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TITUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MET IN A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2011 AT 3:00 AM. IN THE TITUS COUNTY COURTROOM, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

BRIAN P. LEE	COUNTY JUDGE
MIKE FIELDS	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
PHILLIP HINTON	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
THOMAS HOCKADAY	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
CARL JOHNSON	COUNTY AUDITOR

PUBLIC ATTENDING MEETING

GERRY EVENWEL	SUE EVENWEL	NIGEL CHRISTOPH
PAULA DYKE	CHRIS DURANT	CAROLYN NORMAN
KAY MCNUTT	ROBERT “BOB” BASS	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY: JUDGE BRIAN P. LEE
INVOCATION: JUDGE BRIAN P. LEE

1) TO RECEIVE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION, EVALUATE DEMOGRAPHICS AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REDISTRICTING OF COUNTY POLITICAL BOUNDARIES. (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1, 00:00:40).

A. BOB BASS: WILL DISCUSS WHAT REDISTRICTING IS, WHY WE DO IT, AND WHAT THE STANDARDS ARE, AND WHAT THE PROCESS AND PROCEDURES ARE.

REDISTRICTING IS A CONSTITUTIONAL BASED CONCEPT ARISING OUT OF ARTICLE 2 OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION WHICH CALLS ON THE CONGRESS TO BE RE-APPORTIONED AFTER EACH CENSUS. THE FRAMERS INTENTION WAS THAT EACH SEAT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTS THE SAME NUMBER OF PEOPLE SO THAT THE WEIGHT OF THAT VOTE CAST WILL BE EQUAL REGARDLESS OF WHAT STATE IT WAS CAST. THE IDEA WAS TO AVOID BIAS BY THE MORE POPULOUS STATES AND LACK OF REPRESENTATION FOR THE UNDER-POPULATED STATES. THIS CONCEPT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO LOWER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, ARISING OUT OF A SUPREME COURT CASE THAT CAME OUT OF MIDLAND TEXAS.

ANY GOVERNMENTAL UNIT THAT ELECTS ITS REPRESENTATIVES FROM SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS HAS TO LOOK AT ITS EXISTING BOUNDARIES AFTER THE CENSUS DATA IS RELEASED TO DETERMINE HOW CLOSE IT IS TO BEING BALANCED. THE TOLERANCES THAT ARE PERMITTED VARY DEPENDING ON THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT; LOCAL LINES CAN BE 10%. WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT WE TAKE THE TOTAL POPULATION UNDER THE CENSUS AND DIVIDE IT BY THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONER SEATS AND THAT GIVES AN IDEAL PRECINCT SIZE OF ABOUT 8084 PEOPLE AND THEN WE COMPARE HOW CLOSE THAT AVERAGE IS TO THE ACTUAL COUNT. PRECINCT 1 IS 147 PEOPLE BELOW THAT STANDARD, PRECINCT 2 IS 22 PEOPLE BELOW THAT STANDARD, PRECINCT 3 IS 406 PEOPLE BELOW THAT STANDARD, AND PRECINCT 4 IS 573 ABOVE THAT STANDARD. WE NEED TO MOVE OUR BOUNDARIES SO AS TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN PRECINCTS 3 AND 4.

IN MOVING OUR POPULATION WE HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF THE VOTING RIGHTS OBLIGATION. THE DIFFICULTY THAT IS GOING TO BE EVIDENT IS IN MOVING THOSE BOUNDARIES, WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY HAD TO COME INTO MT PLEASANT FOR THE POPULATION FOR BALLOTS OF PRECINCTS, ALL FOUR PRECINCTS COME INTO THE CITY.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOCKADAY, TO ADOPT ORDER “AN ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING OF COUNTY POLITICAL BOUNDARIES”, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HINTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1, 01:06:22 HOURS AND/OR SEE ATTACHMENT #1)

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOCKADAY, TO ADOPT ORDER “FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING POLITICAL BOUNDARIES OF TITUS COUNTY, TEXAS FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF 2010 CENSUS DATA AND ORDER FOR REDISTRICTING OF POLITICAL BOUNDARIES”, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HINTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACT 1, 01:06:57 HOURS AND/OR SEE ATTACHMENT #2).

2) IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT. (LISTEN TO AUDIO TRACK 1, 01:16:25).

THE MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER BOGGS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HINTON TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (LISTEN TO TRACK 1, 01:16:35)

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TITUS

The above and foregoing is a true and complete Transcription of my notes taken in my capacity as County Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Titus County, Texas, on the _____ day of _____, 2011 at the time and place heretofore set forth.

Attested to this _____ day of _____, 2011.

_____
DIANNE NORRIS, Titus County Clerk