



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

DAVID H. KNAPP
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI
Deputy Clerk

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REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION MINUTES – OCTOBER 13, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Knapp, Mr. Hulslander, Ms. Sardo, Mr. Czarny, Mr. Rainone

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Moran

ALSO ATTENDING: Mrs. Ervin, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Bush; see also attending

Chairman Knapp called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and thanked everyone for volunteering for the process. He appreciates everyone's help and input on this.

1. Introduction of the Members

- Dave Knapp, Chairman of the Legislature
- Joe Rainone
- Dustin Czarny, Democratic Election Commissioner
- Kevin Hulslander
- Michele Sardo, Republican Election Commissioner

2. Election of Chair

Chairman Knapp stated that he serves as Chair Pro Tem until a Chairperson is elected. Chairman Knapp opened the floor to nominations for Chairperson.

A motion was made by Mr. Rainone, seconded by Ms. Sardo, to nominate Kevin Hulslander as Chairperson. Ayes: 4 Abstentions: 1 (Czarny); MOTION CARRIED.

3. Setting Dates of the next Meetings and Public Hearings

Chairman Hulslander stated that this is an organizational meeting, and the primary thing to do is to establish the meeting dates of this committee. Mr. Czarny said he has questions about the organizational structure of the committee. Chairman Hulslander responded that he would like to establish the meeting dates first, then Mr. Czarny can raise point of order.

Chairman Hulslander said the meeting dates are:

Tuesday, October 19th at 10 a.m. at the Legislature
Wednesday, October 27th at 10 a.m. at the Legislature
Wednesday, November 3rd at 1 p.m. at the Legislature

Chairman Hulslander said the public hearing dates are:

Friday, October 22nd – one in the morning, one in the evening; time determined in near future
Thursday, October 28th
Friday October 29th

The location will also be determined in the near future and will be disseminated.

Mr. Czarny asked if the commission will be having all these meetings before the election, and Chairman Hulslander responded yes. Mr. Czarny said with one third of the committee being election commissioners that is a lot of time to commit before the election and asked why such a rush when they have months to have the hearings. Chairman Hulslander replied that he has authority as Chairman to establish, and Mr. Czarny interrupted saying alright. Mr. Czarny said he is not questioning the Chairman's authority but the wisdom of it. Chairman Hulslander reiterated that he has total authority and discretion to establish these meetings. These are the meeting dates and when the public hearings will be established. It is not subject to discussion. Mr. Czarny asked, as a chartered member, why he does not have the chance to discuss this. Chairman Hulslander answered Mr. Czarny, that he can talk, but at the end of the time, these are the meeting dates that he has authority to establish. Mr. Czarny said he understands that Chairman Hulslander has the authority to establish, and he would like some time to ask questions. Chairman Hulslander stated that he does not have to answer any of Mr. Czarny's questions, but he can take them under advisement.

Chairman Hulslander agreed with Mr. Czarny that this is a fair and open process. Mr. Czarny said he cannot have input into the meeting times and, as an election commissioner, he already has obligated times to do the business of the election. Never before has the redistricting commission set dates to hold hearings in the middle of October when an election is going on. Mr. Czarny said Chairman Hulslander's authority to set the times is not being questioned, the reason to rush this process is. Mr. Czarny said he is setting many of the meetings and public hearings during business hours, which is time that the election commissioners are already obligated to be at their board (some during early voting). A case could be made that Chairman Hulslander is interfering with the election. Chairman Hulslander said he does not agree with that, and everyone is busy and taking time away from their jobs. These are the established hearing times and dates. Mr. Czarny said Chairman Knapp was quoted (after the Legislature proposed this) in an article saying none of this would happen before the election. Chairman Knapp corrected Mr. Czarny that his statement was that there would not be a vote before the election.

Mr. Czarny said this does not have to start. Looking at 270 in the charter, it says there is six months to convene a commission, and there is no time period for the commission to do the work; only the time period of three months after submitting final maps to the Legislature for a vote. Since the maps do not go into effect until 2023, the commission has until February of 2023. Chairman Knapp clarified that the charter says the commission has to do it within a time period after the census data is presented. Mr. Czarny read from the charter, "...within 3 months after the submission of the report..." Mr. Czarny paraphrased from earlier in the charter, "Such commission shall consist of the members of the county board of elections, the chairman of the county legislature, one person selected by the county executive, and one selected by the legislature members of the majority party... The commission shall study the population..." Mr. Czarny read from section 207, "The county legislature shall appoint a commission to evaluate the existing county legislative districts for equity and representation in relation to population within six months after the publication of results of the regular federal census taken in Onondaga County in 1970; or within six months after the publication of the results of any federal or specified population census, taken pursuant to section 20 of the General Municipal Law..." Mr. Czarny said that it says the commission has to start within six months, and the data was not published until September meaning they have until March. Chairman Hulslander interjected that they are in compliance with the law. Niagara and Erie counties have already started their process. This commission has an established schedule, and that is not something that will change. Mr. Czarny said he understands he is trying to ram this through, and Chairman Hulslander said no. Mr. Czarny continued that just because Chairman Hulslander has the votes to do so, does not mean he should do so. Mr. Czarny said he can voice his objection.

Mr. Czarny stated that he does not believe that the commission has heard all of his objections including notification to the public to participate in this process and the ability of the commissioners to participate. Mr. Czarny asked who is drawing the maps. Chairman Hulslander responded that they will take the question under advisement, and he will let them know. Chairman Hulslander said Mr. Czarny is not entitled to that information and said in the next few days everyone will get information at the same time.

Mr. Czarny asked if each commissioner would have the ability to get information from the County Law Department and admin department regarding population shifts in the district. Chairman Knapp said yes, of course. Mr. Czarny stated that he has an email into both, which have not been answered for four or five days. He understands that they may not have been ready to answer considering the speed of which this has been called, but the commission needs to know the population shifts before they have another meeting. Is this not correct? Chairman Hulslander stated that Mr. Czarny will get the information at the same time as everyone else. Mr. Czarny asked if it will be all the information he requested, and Chairman Hulslander said he does not know what was requested. Mr. Czarny stated he is requesting population shifts in every town from 2010 – 2020, population shifts in every legislature district from 2010 – 2020, and also population shifts in every ward from 2010 – 2020. Mr. Czarny is requesting map drawing software to produce their own maps. In 2010, the democratic side was allowed to submit draft maps, so he is requesting the resource be given to every commissioner so they can all submit draft maps. Mr. Czarny is requesting all of this before they start the public hearing process. Mr. Czarny is requesting the public hearing process be after the November election, so the public has time to know about the times and dates of the meetings; which they do not have the information today. There are no times or places, and it is nine days away from the first meeting they are suggesting. Chairman Hulslander said they set the dates, and it is plenty of time for the public to know where the meetings will occur. Mr. Czarny said it is plenty of time in the middle of an election. Mr. Czarny is sure Erie and Niagara are not going along these exact accelerated timelines, and they started long before this and had public hearings well in advance. Mr. Czarny said Chairman Hulslander is suggesting having the four hearings in two days; not separate days. There is no time to get information, hear what the public has to say, and then feeding that information to the commissioners to make a judgment; unless a judgment on the maps has already been made. Chairman Hulslander responded that Mr. Czarny will have time to consider it as well as the public.

Chairman Hulslander asked if there was anything else. Chairman Knapp stated that he has not received any data.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION**
DATE: **OCTOBER 13, 2021**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Michele Sardo	BOE
Diane M. DiLore	OCDE
Deniz Howell	Constituent
DUJAN CZARNY	BOE
Heather Waters	constituent
Yvette Velasco	LAW
KYLE W. MADDEN	PUBLIC
Su Storzky	CE
Traus Glazer	OOIC
Darcie Lesniak	LEG
Nick Paro	leg
Perrine Wasser	constituent