

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for May 29, 2008

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date for a Special Board Meeting. Present for the meeting were Bob Koch, Chairman; Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem; and Neva J. Corkrum, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board.

COMMISSIONER REDISTRICTING

Public Meeting: To consider a vote for or against the adoption of Commissioners redistricting plan.

Public Meeting convened at 9:00 am. Present: Commissioners Koch, Corkrum and Miller; County Administrator Fred Bowen; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience at beginning of meeting: At least 12 people including Jim Rabideau, David Chassin, Shirley Morrow, Brenda High, Joyce Olson, Jan Nuenschwander, Tom Larson, Connie Curiel, Sue Boothe, Diana Killian, Mike Killian, and David Corkrum.

Mr. Koch said we're here to consider a vote for or against the adoption of the Commissioners' redistricting plan.

Mr. Miller said I think redistricting should have been accomplished. We had ample time. There was plenty of time to do this when it was first starting to be discussed. I am disappointed. There have been others that have taken the energy to look at a way of not getting this redistricted when the time really should have been spent on redistricting for the fairness and the right of the constituents in the county. I think that we should listen to the constituents. I think we've had plenty of different groups come in here and mention in other public hearings that they are interested in redistricting.

Something that I remember that Gene Prince, retired past deceased senator from the 9th District, say was "Govern, don't rule." The way I took this is that we should listen to our constituents and do the right thing. That is our job, to redistrict. I think that should have been done.

Mr. Koch said I have a number of comments. I guess I have sat back for a long time and didn't get on the phone and start calling everybody. Taking it for what it was, I don't like playing ball like that. I was ready to sign and approve this map last July. It did not get approved. It was asked to go back four times. I don't feel it is right to redistrict in

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an election year and especially carry on to within six weeks or so of an election. Our filing period started a week ago Friday which is a legal filing period. One of the other things that has come up is that not all of the precincts in the proposed District 1 and 2 came out of District 3. Some were interchanged within District 1 and 2. Our deputy prosecuting attorney has advised us against redistricting at this time.

Mr. Miller asked if Mrs. Corkrum had any comment. Mrs. Corkrum said no.

Mr. Miller said I think just to cover the map situation, the first map was brought in with just the population being equal in July. If anything the maps should have been brought back to us sooner but they were during the election period. We had been discussing that after the election in November, we would continue to work on this and we did. Actually there was no controversy in any of the maps. There were just adjustments. That's a normal thing to do when you're looking at redistricting. It's normal. You just don't grab the first one and say this is fine. You try to perfect it as well as you can. We've had many motions in prior times to go ahead and approve this.

Mr. Miller said, also, we have got a job here to do. That is to redistrict for the fairness of the people. I don't think we're doing that. But I also believe that the time if anybody is a viable candidate, if they read in the paper, they know what is going on, and they would know -- You're talking about meshing of two districts. There are five precincts that would have overlapped between you two. I don't think that's a problem at all.

By the way about the filing period, the filing period legally is June 2, which I would say time is short but it can be done. Again, as commissioners we should be working towards a way of doing this, not avoiding it, not passing it on.

Here's the other problem I have with the whole situation. I've heard that we should wait till the 2010 census. Ridiculous, because by the time you get the numbers it's 2011. Here we are back to 2012, we can't do it. It's going to be the same problem over again. Not only that, if you set it for four years of the date that you do it, you're going to be following the election. We should do it prior to the election, before the election. We should have this redistricting done. That's my big concern now because if we do it now,

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in four years, in 2012 when everything has changed here -- Connell may be larger, maybe it's not -- But we can redistrict ahead instead of behind the filing period. To me that's real important. This is not just a pop-up deal. It's been going on for awhile.

I think the interest of people coming here hasn't been because of phone calls so much. It's because of the interest of what's right and fair. It's a large district I have.

Mr. Miller said we got a letter from the Democratic chairman. There were a few mistakes in that. One, it said only candidate in a large district -- It was seven. There were seven of us. Keep that in mind. When there are seven, the most ever in any election period ever, seven candidates in one district -- Why? It's because half the county is in that district. That should have been done then but it wasn't. So we should have done it right afterwards. It just kept getting delayed and excuses for why we can't, legal reasons, but now it came down to this time. I think everybody is aware of it. It's the right thing to do, Bob. It's the right thing, Neva.

Motion - Mr. Miller: So at this point I'll make the motion that we redistrict using Map #4 and that it be done prior to this election.

Mrs. Corkrum said there is no second from me.

Mr. Koch said I can't second either.

Mr. Koch said also one of the fallacies you came up with is the RCW says that we are in the filing period right now. Mr. Miller said I haven't seen that. Mr. Koch handed Mr. Miller a paper. Mr. Miller said what's happening here is this is for people who are going to be gone that week. Mr. Koch said it just says the filing period has started. If it's properly executed, it's the same as hand-filing next week.

Mr. Koch said I would entertain a motion to the fact that redistricting occur sometime this year after the election process is done this year.

Mr. Miller said I think after this is finished we will be able to discuss that. I will second that motion. Well, first, there's no second on my motion, is that correct?

Mr. Koch said correct. Mrs. Corkrum said correct.

Mr. Miller said I will second that motion. Mr. Koch said that we will redistrict and you said #4 map. I think that if anything would be a discussion. I don't have a

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problem personally. I didn't have a problem with the first one. I did not even see #3. Mr. Miller said #3 was just like #4 supposedly. Mr. Koch said I didn't see it until last week. Mr. Miller said it was brought to us. Mr. Koch asked where? When? Mrs. Corkrum asked when? Mr. Miller said it was brought to us, Zona brought it up here and then we said -- Mr. Koch said, yes, last week. Mr. Miller said no, no, no, I saw it before. Zona brought it up here. Mr. Koch said I know you might have but we didn't. Mr. Miller said you did, too. You were standing there. You should have.

Mr. Koch said I would entertain a motion to redistrict the last part of November or first part of December of 2008.

Mrs. Corkrum said I have a concern that we're using population numbers that may not be accurate. I would be in favor of waiting for the census. But the two of you can vote that in.

Mr. Miller said I think the population we're using is the best that we can get it this time. I think 2010 would not be good. It's going to be 2011 before the numbers come in. We're back to 2012. It can be the same situation.

Mr. Koch said honestly in discussion, if we wait for the census it's still going to be a confused #3 district. Mrs. Corkrum nodded her head. Mr. Koch said by doing it now, like I say we don't know exactly except for the fact the census is done in 2010, say for instance receiving it in 2011, that will give us some time to look at numbers and make a map and be ready to go.

Mrs. Corkrum said I think we all should be involved in drawing the map. I don't think it should be one commissioner working with staff and leaving the rest of us out.

Mr. Miller said it wasn't. We had the public hearing meetings, and the workshops we had, the three of us were here. I know she always left. Bob was here. The second one --

Mrs. Corkrum called for the question.

Mr. Koch said I asked for a motion. I can't make one.

Mr. Miller said I think it is important to do this before the filing period. Mr. Koch said that hasn't been seconded.

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Motion – Mr. Miller: I will make the motion that we will continue on with redistricting after the election period this year. Mr. Koch asked we will redistrict? Mr. Miller said we will. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 2:1 vote in favor. Yeas: Mr. Koch and Mr. Miller.
Nay: Mrs. Corkrum.

Adjourned at 9:11 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until June 2, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed June 9, 2008.