

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 30, 2001, 3:00PM
SPECIAL MEETING – REDISTRICTING OF
COMMISSIONER ELECTION DISTRICTS
ROOM 564, CUMBERLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FAYETTEVILLE, NC**

PRESENT: Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Vice Chairman J. Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner John Henley, Jr.
Commissioner Billy R. King
James Martin, County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Warren called the Special Meeting to order.

The Board members reviewed options on redistricting of commissioner election districts because of population changes in the Census 2000. The Census figures indicate there is a substantial inequality of population between Commissioner Districts 1 and 2.

Options under consideration by the Board at this meeting were as follows:

Alternative A – Multimember plan: This plan will add Brentwood, Cross Creek 21 and Morganton Road 2 to District 1. This plan will cause the least amount of changes and disruption.

Alternative C provides for three at large members and 2 members each from districts 1 and 2. This plan will require a referendum and will present a lot of challenges to make it work. At some point there may even be 8 commissioners serving at one time.

Commissioner Baggett noted that Alternative C will require a lot of changes (9). Alternative A only requires 3 changes.

Chairman Warren noted that Alternative C would be very difficult to implement.

Commissioner Edge noted at the Public Hearing there was only 1 speaker and that speaker supported a 7-member district. Commissioner Edge said it appears people are pretty much happy with the way things are as far as the multi-member districts are concerned.

Commissioner King said he was supportive of Alternative C to add one more at large member and decrease a member in district 2 because it would address the equity issue. He noted that now citizens in district 1 can only vote for 4 commissioners, while citizens in district 2 can vote for five (greater voting strength). He said this plan would treat everyone the same.

Commissioner Edge inquired about the cost of holding a referendum if Alternative C was selected. Estimated cost: \$50,000.

Commissioner Henley said he was philosophically leaning towards Alternative C. However, the logistics of getting there would present a number of problems. He noted how difficult it would be to educate the public in such a short period of time on all of the changes that would occur if Alternative C was chosen. (The referendum would have to be held in November of this year). He said it is logistically difficult to implement Alternative C. Commissioner Henley said he had received no phone calls about this issue; however, he did call some people to see if there were concerns. By and large they indicated they were ok with what we have now.

Commissioner Blackwell said that he felt he represented everyone and did not look at which district someone lives in when he is called on to help with a problem.

Commissioner Council said she had received no phone calls about this issue and she would find it hard to spend \$50,000 on an issue that no one seems to be too concerned about. However, she noted that Commissioner King was right about the equity issue.

Commissioner King said he thought the cost of the referendum would be less than \$50,000 and if it would treat everybody the same he would be supportive of it.

Commissioner Edge noted that even though the current voting plan allows for citizens in district 1 to vote for only 4 people, that number is in fact a quorum of the Board of Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to adopt a Resolution approving Multi-member Alternative A Plan – (corrected 8-30/2001).

SECOND: Commissioner Edge

DISCUSSION: Commissioner King said he had served under the present plan structure and he felt Alternative C would in some way better serve the citizens, i.e, all citizens would have an opportunity to vote for five commissioners. Commissioner King inquired if the Board could take action at this meeting. The County Attorney and Chairman noted the meeting had been properly advertised as a Special Meeting to discuss the redistricting issue. A Public Hearing has already been held (August 20, 2001). Commissioner Blackwell thanked everyone who was instrumental in bringing all of the numbers together for the Board to look at. Chairman Warren and Commissioner Edge thanked the Board for holding this Special Meeting to allow Commissioner Edge to participate in the discussions and decision regarding this issue, as he will not be in town for the September 4 meeting, at which time this item would have been discussed. Commissioner Henley said he was appreciative of the motion made at the August 20 meeting to delay action so he would have an opportunity to review the options.

VOTE: **FAVOR:** Commissioners Baggett, Council, Edge, Blackwell, Warren
OPPOSED: Commissioners Henley and King

RESOLUTION OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS ONE AND TWO

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners elects two commissioners from Commissioner district 1 and three from Commissioner District 2, with two commissioners elected at large; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners finds as a fact, based on Census 2000 results, that there is a substantial inequality of population between Commissioner Districts 1 and 2; and

WHEREAS, the Census 2000 results show that Cumberland County's population was 302,963 and that Commissioner District 1's population was 100,002 and Commissioner District 2's population was 202,961; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 153A-22 gives the Board of Commissioners authority by resolution to re-define the Commissioner Districts and the Board of Commissioners finds it appropriate and desirable to do so; and

WHEREAS, at a duly called special meeting on August 20, 2001, the Board of Commissioners voted 5-2 to re-define the boundaries of Commissioner Districts 1 & 2 as shown on that certain map labeled "Multi Member Alternative A Corrected 8/30/01"; and

WHEREAS, said "Multi-Member Alternative A Corrected 8/30/01" moves Cross Creek 21, Brentwood and Morganton Road 2 precincts from Commissioner District 2 to Commissioner District 1;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners that it amends and redefines the boundaries of Commissioner District 1 as shown on that certain map prepared by the Cumberland County Planning Department labeled "Multi Member Alternative A Corrected 8/30/01" (which map is incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth), to include the following elections precincts: Manchester, Spring Lake, Morganton Road 2, West Area, Brentwood 5, Cross Creek 1, Cross Creek 2, Cross Creek 3, Cross Creek 5, Cross Creek 9, Cross Creek 13, Cross Creek 16, Cross Creek 17, Cross Creek 19, Cross Creek 21, Cross Creek 24, Cross Creek 26, Cross Creek 28, Cross Creek 32 and Cross Creek 33; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners amends and redefines the boundaries of Commissioner District 2 to include all other electoral precincts in Cumberland County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners finds that the populations of Commissioner District 1 and 2 as so amended and re-defined are substantially proportionately equal and within applicable legal precedents and guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effectively immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Attorney shall submit the changes effected by this resolution for pre-clearance to the United States Department of Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Board shall file a certified copy of this resolution in the Secretary of State's office, the Cumberland County Register of Deeds Office, and with the Chairperson of the Cumberland County Board of Elections.

This the 30th day of August, 2001.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:15PM

Clerk to the Board