

OK
Mirski
2011.11.16

House Special Committee on Redistricting

Belknap County Public Hearing
Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon Street East
Laconia, NH
October 18, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Reps. Paul Mirski, Chairman; Elaine Swinford, Spec Bowers, Warren Groen and Robert Perry

State Representatives Present from Belknap County: Reps. Elaine Swinford, Robert Malone, Robert Kingsbury, Alida Millham, Donald Flanders and Franklin Tilton

Materials made available to the public:

1. Map of Belknap County with 2010 populations
2. State and federal constitutional provisions and state laws addressing redistricting
3. The algebraic formulas for calculating deviation with the aggregate method and the component method
4. Instructions for finding the House Special Committee on Redistricting website
5. The schedule for all of the county public hearings.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

20 members of the public were present.

Introduction of script was read by Chairman Paul Mirski.

Hon. Gail Morrison, former state representative from Sanbornton/Tilton:

- Would like to see Sanbornton/Tilton stay together:

Johan Andersen, Gilford:

- Thinks we should break up Belknap District 5. Make it more cohesive – towns extend over a large area.

Rep Alida Millham, Gilford (Belknap 5):

- Easier when it is one town per Rep. Suggest County wide Float.
- Worked before probably would not work now.

Gilmanton, Barnstead, Alton and 1 Float

Rep. Robert Kingsbury, Laconia (Belknap 4):

Q: Do revisions to comply with one man/one vote need to be in place for 2014?

A: Rep. Mirski: No, they need to be in effect for 2012 General Election.

Rep. Mirski:

- Vote last week in House addressed the timing of the adoption of ward lines (HB 656).

Laconia – 6 wards represented by 5 reps.

Rep. Franklin Tilton, Laconia (Belknap, District 4):

- Has been like this from way back – 3 or 4 decades.
- Each member represents all of Laconia not just a ward. Attend all City Council meetings.

Rep. Spec Bowers:

- What, if any, offices are elected by ward?

Rep. Tilton:

- School Board is only office elected by ward.
- Laconia too small to be by wards.

Rep. Warren Groen:

- Constitutional provision will not permit election at-large in Laconia.

Hon. George Hurt, former state representative (Gilford):

- Needs to be 1 man 1 vote.
- Gilford not much in common with others in District 5.

Alan Glassman, Center Barnstead:

- Should keep Alton, Barnstead, Gilmanton together plus 1 Float.

Hon. Gail Morrison:

- New Hampton, Center Harbor do not share much roadway.
- Sanbornton/Meredith have impassible roads in winter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Elaine Swinford

Handwritten Comments Submitted:

Lisa Furlong, Center Harbor:

“I realize that a public hearing is to listen, but many of us in attendance would appreciate more explanation and updating regarding the process. Questions should be allowed from the floor to facilitate better communication. Thank you.”