

Board of Civil Authority
Bennington, VT

Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021

Members Present: Cassie Barbeau, Barbara Bluto, Kate Canning, Jeanne Conner, Tom Haley III, Michele Hogan, Jackie Kelly, Albert Krawczyk, Vickie Lampron, Bruce Lee-Clark Jim Marsden, Mary Morrissey, Sarah Perrin, Joan Pinsonneault, Marjorie Robinson, David Shaffe, Anna Swierad & Kayla Thompson

**Meeting called to order by Board Chair, David Shaffe, at 5:03 PM.

**Cassie talked about leaving our districts exactly as they are now and likely having the support of our legislators that way. We are only 101 people short of being within deviation. District 2-1 is currently within range, district 2-2 is not.

**Jeanne Conner mentioned census may not be entirely accurate either, however, that can't really be considered at this point.

**There was general discussion to review the proposals before the board for consideration.

Proposal 1 was from the LAB as four single-member districts including 1,816 Shaftsbury residents;

Proposal 2 was two two-member districts including 1,816 Shaftsbury residents;

Proposal 3 was two two-member districts including the Town of Woodford residents;

Proposal 4 was two two-member districts exactly as they are currently, however short residents

**There was general discussion from board members as to the benefit of single member vs. two member districts: Chaos, space issues and significant cost increases for ballots & machines at the polls with four districts, single member districts only represent and are elected by a portion of town and may not be as willing to listen to residents concerns that are not in their district. With two-member districts, although it is a larger population, there are two elected legislators to call on, in likely two different committee assignments. It has worked for Bennington for many years and gerrymandering is not an issue here. While single-member districts may be better suited for other smaller towns, it is unfair to assume Vermont is all the same and we don't want our town cut up, nor cutting out portions of other Towns to make ends meet.

**Bruce made the motion to recommend to the LAB two two-member districts, seconded by Jackie, motion passed by majority with Sarah and Mary recusing themselves.

**Jim made the motion to recommend proposal 4, leaving our districts as they currently are, seconded by Anna, motion passed by majority with Sarah and Mary recusing themselves.

**With no further business, Cassie made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom, motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Barbeau
Town Clerk