



# Thurston County Board Minutes



## Thurston County Board of Supervisor's Special Meeting December 28, 2021

A Special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Thurston County, Nebraska was held at the regular meeting place of the Board in Thurston County, Nebraska Courthouse in Pender, Nebraska on the 28th day of December 2021. Present were Glen Meyer, Dan Trimble, Arnie Harlan, Mark English, Georgia Mayberry, and Davin French. Absent Price. Also present were Patty Bessmer Thurston County Clerk, Wayne Bena Deputy Secretary of State of Elections & Tom Perez Thurston County Emergency Manager. Also, present Andrea Snowball, on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe, & Gwen Porter spoke person for Omaha Tribe, Victoria Kitcheyan Chairwoman spoke person for the Winnebago Tribe arrived at 10:20 a.m. and several others from both Tribes. Notice of the meeting was given to all members of the Board of Supervisors and a copy of their acknowledgement of notice and receipt of notice of the agenda is attached hereto. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Board of Supervisors of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board Glen Meyer at 10:04 a.m. Chairman Meyer stated that the open meeting laws will be followed during this meeting and are posted in the front of the court room for anyone that would like to review them.

Andrea Snowball was here on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe to discuss the redistricting maps that were presented to the Board on October 25, 2021 by the County Clerk in which GWorks prepared for the County. Meyer explained to those in attendance the Board only looked at Population and & Supervisors Districts. All maps presented to the Board, had met all criteria of that of Section two of the Voter Rights Act regarding sufficient majority. Preferences were discussed at that meeting but it was discovered recently that they did not vote on which map to accept, that will be voted on today 12/28/2021 as the deadline for this to occur is December 30, 2021. Andrea brought up that the American Native Rights Fund had a map that they wanted to have the Board consider as an option. Emily Delisle representative of American Native Rights Fund spoke to the Board by phone as she was not able to attend in person. After much discussion Chairman thanked her for speaking to the Board.

Chairwoman Kitcheyan discussed the map that was drawn by a stellar contractor, questioned by the group whether it was stacking districts., since it was not created by a redistricting contractor approved by the state of Nebraska.

Gwen Porter asked what was more desirable of the map that the board was proposed if it was the lines or what was it. It was explained to her that the straight lines and the population of each district are what they look at.

Wayne Bena - Chief Deputy to Secretary of State was here to explain how the process of redistricting has occurred for all 93 counties in the state. Legislation had to set their lines between mid-August to the end of September 30, 2021 before anything could be completed with counties. Next the Precinct lines had to be completed by the county so that no legislative lines over lapped. This too was also completed by Gworks with a deadline of November 1, 2021, this deadline had to be completed on time by Thurston County Clerk. Then the political subdivisions, had only two months to complete the drawing of their lines. This only gave the Election Commissioners two months to get this data into the Voter Registration System. Wayne stated that he has worked with Gworks for quite some time and they will not sign off on a map that does not meet the legal requirements. Wayne also stated in his opinion that Gworks have provided all the legal requirements. Population, age range, and racial data is the requirement for the proposed maps, thus Thurston County has met all those requirements of minority majority or exceeded them in 5 of the 7 Districts. These maps address the total minority majority and also the eligible voters in each district. The maps that have been presented to the board with 4 Districts might have the opposite effect, specifically that if it has been brought to the boards attention that there is a scenario in which 5 board seats have a minority majority and then go to 4 board seats that could be considered packing.

Motion by Trimble second by English to adopt the redistricting map #1. Roll call Aye: Harlan, Trimble, French, Meyer. Nay vote Mayberry, Absent Price. Motion Carried.

Motioned by French second by Trimble to adjourn. Roll Call Aye: Mayberry, Harlan, Trimble, English, French, Meyer. Motion carried.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

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Patty Bessmer

Glen Meyer