

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
RULES COMMITTEE****Friday, April 23, 2021 – 9:00 AM – Small Conference Room, Board of Education, Dresden, TN****Rules Committee Members Present:** Commissioners David Hawks, Gary Eddings, Roger Donaldson, Eric Owen, Dale Overton, James Westbrook, Dennis Doster, Greg Usery, and Larry Taylor**Rules Committee Members Absent:** None

The Weakley County Rules Committee met on Friday, April 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education in Dresden. Others present included County Mayor Jake Bynum, Finance Director John Liggett, CTAS representative Mike Galey, Election Commission Alex Britt, Director of Schools Randy Frazier, and two representatives of the media.

I-II. CALL TO ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Hawks called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked for consideration of the minutes from the meeting that was held on September 15, 2020. Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner Overton, the motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Recording Secretary- Commissioner Hawks called for a recommendation for Rules Recording Secretary. Commissioner Donaldson recommended Kirsty-Rhe Janse to serve as the new recording secretary and with no other recommendations Kirsty-Rhe Janse was unanimously appointed as recording secretary.

B. Presentation of Redistricting Plan- Mike Galey, CTAS Consultant, was recognized and informed the committee about the effects that COVID-19 had on the census. He explained that in normal circumstances, the census bureau would deliver the numbers to the state in April; however, the pandemic caused the timeline to change.

Mr. Galey explained that all districts must use equal population districts to equalize the representation of each district. Districts can't overlap, and they can't be split. Weakley County does not have a minority/majority district; however, the county has to consider this, as lines cannot be drawn to exclude certain minorities. Military personnel can't be excluded, and neither can students who attend college.

The district should be relatively equal in population, and this is determined by dividing the total population by the number of commissioners. The range is about 5 percent. A district can be 5 percent over or 5 percent under, but anything exceeding 5 percent must be justified. The plans that are being drawn up are county legislation, as well as for the school district. Voting districts will be taken care of by the election commission. The Administration Commission is involved due to their knowledge of where the districts are, where everyone lives, and having all the information well documented by the AOE.

Mr. Galey informed the commissioners that the state would identify districts that are out of compliance. In 2010 the census population was 35,021 and the estimated census population for 2019 is 33,328 which is a significant drop. This number was estimated before the pandemic; however, Mr. Galey stated that he is concerned that the number will drop even more due to the pandemic. He explained that they expect the number to decline due to the inability to go door to door collecting data and the university being shut down.

Mr. Galey mentioned a special census when Commissioner Doster asked if there was a way to make up for the lost number. The committee was informed that if Weakley County wanted to conduct a special census, they could, but it would be costly, and the funds would have to come out of pocket. The concern was that the census population determines the funding, and therefore revenue could be affected by this drop in number. All of the school funding is also based on the census, which could have a dramatic impact.

Commissioner Owen wanted to know if the decrease in number was solely due to the college population or county-wide. Alex Britt was recognized and informed the commissioners that the dorms and the Grove apartments are in district six. District five has the next largest number of students. Though district six has many individuals, it is also one of the lowest in the voting population. Due to the lack of official numbers, it can't be determined where the loss will come from.

Ultimately nothing can be done until the numbers are received. It is so difficult to move the deadline because it affects qualifying deadlines, which then affects primaries. After county lines are drawn, state lines are drawn, and then finally, federal lines are drawn. Once the numbers are received, maps will be laid out and, a discussion will be held on what has to happen next.

Legislation has just passed at the state lev, giving the comptroller the authority to move the date. With all of the previously mentioned deadlines, it is uncertain how much the date can be pushed.

Commissioner Owen asked when the data would be received, to which Mr. Galey responded with late October early November. There are several options moving forward but, no final decision can be made until the numbers are received.

Mike Galey mentioned that a decision has to be made on who will help the county moving forward. Traditionally CTAS does help the county and is ready to do that again; however, if there is someone else in the county that has the capability to do it as well they can be hired.

Commissioner Westbrook made a motion to step into an agreement with CTAS and with a second from Commissioner Owen the motion was passed unanimously.

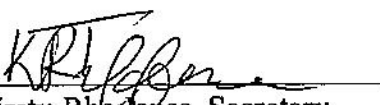
V. Other business

None.

VI. Adjourn

Having no other business, Commissioner Hawks made the motion to adjourn, and with a second by Commissioner Owen, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kirsty-Rhe Janse, Secretary
Rules Committee

Approved:

David Hawks

David Hawks, Chairperson
Rules Committee

Date: 4-21-21