

**TOWN OF HYDE PARK  
BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY  
HYBRID MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 26, 2021**

**Members Present:** Richard Bailey, Lisa Barry, Susan Bartlett, Brian Jones, Pixie Loomis, Kim Moulton

**Members Virtual:** Brickett Bailey, Vicki Emerson, Ed French, Mitzi McInnis, Tina Teale

**Others Present:** Kate Donnally (virtual), Dan Noyes

Chair S. Bartlett brought the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

1) 2021 Reapportionment – review of proposed changes

There was general discussion over the proposed reapportionment. S. Bartlett stated that we need to decide if we are in agreement with the proposed change for Hyde Park. The change would mean Hyde Park changes from a 2-member representative district that includes Hyde Park, Belvidere, Johnson and Wolcott to a 1-member representative district that includes Hyde Park and Eden. She stated that the good thing with this proposal is that Hyde Park is not being split out into multiple districts like Morristown.

Dan Noyes stated that this is his first reapportionment. He stated that it will be interesting to see how it finally ends up. It really comes down to what the town wants for representation when looking at the proposed changes. He stated that one advantage to a 2-member district is that each representative has built relationships with people on different committees in Montpelier. That could work to benefit a district. An advantage to a 1-member district is that it would be easier to knock on doors when connecting with the community.

V. Emerson stated that she felt Hyde Park and Eden have different thought processes on issues and don't have a lot of similarities. For example, Hyde Park has zoning and Eden doesn't. How does one representative meet the needs of two diverse communities and how much sway do we really have in this process?

S. Bartlett stated that communities can bring a lot of sway to the process.

K. Moulton stated that at the last reapportionment, Eden was proposed to be split in half. Half of Eden would have been with Hyde Park and a few other towns to form a 2-member district and the other half would have been with an Orleans County town. The Hyde Park BCA voted against the state proposal and recommended a different proposal keeping Eden whole. The other town BCA's voted the same way. The state approved our proposals.

Kate Donnally stated that she was new to the process and was interested in knowing how the BCA felt about the changes.

E. French asked D. Noyes what his voting record was compared to K. Donnally's trying to ascertain how often they voted the same. R. Bailey stated that Kate and Dan probably vote the same way 90% of the time and D. Noyes agreed.

There was a motion by E. French that was seconded by T. Teale to accept the proposed reapportionment of Hyde Park into a 1-member district comprised of Hyde Park and Eden.

E. French stated that having a 1-member district makes the representative more accountable to the people they represent. E. French discussed his opinions on the negatives of a 2-member district and how former representatives have run for office in the past.

B. Bailey wanted to confirm that E. French wanted a 1-member district. E. French confirmed that yes, that is what he wanted.

P. Loomis wanted more information prior to a vote. She wanted to know her options, for example, what happens if we vote the proposal down. S. Bartlett explained that if the proposal was voted down, we would need to come up with our own proposal to submit to the reapportionment board.

S. Bartlett stated there was a motion on the table to accept the proposal of a 1-member district comprised of Hyde Park and Eden. She called for a roll call vote:

Ed French: Yes  
Brickett Bailey: Yes  
Mitzi McInnis: Yes  
Tina Teale: Yes  
Lisa Barry: Yes  
Brian Jones: Yes  
Pixie Loomis: No  
Vicki Emerson: Yes  
Rich Bailey: Yes  
Kim Moulton: Yes  
Susan Bartlett: Yes

The motion passed 10 yes to 1 no, there were no abstentions.

## 2) Other Business –

S. Bartlett wanted the BCA to know that with the changes in election laws, the Town Selectboard's have the authority to approve mass mailings of election ballots for town-wide elections as the State will be doing for all General Elections. The Selectboard voted to not send out election ballots via a mass mailing. The Selectboard felt that if people wanted to vote by absentee, they will call the Town Clerk's office to get a ballot sent to them.

K. Moulton stated that there are other Election Law changes that were not put on this agenda tonight as she wasn't sure how long the reapportionment discussion would take. The next BCA meeting on December 6th at 6:30pm will be for abatement requests. Immediately following the abatement meeting, there will be a BCA meeting to discuss and possibly act on the new election laws.

There was a motion to adjourn by K. Moulton that was seconded by P. Loomis. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.