

TOWN OF WOODFORD
BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING
WOODFORD TOWN HALL
November 2, 2021 5:00 P.M.

Members present: Ryan Thurber, Virginia Utilitch, Maureen O'Neil, Tiffany Tobin, and Susan Wright

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:20pm by Susan Wright, Clerk.

2. Oath of Office

Susan gave the oath of office to all board members present that were not given it at the previous meeting.

3. Election of Chairperson

Motion made by Ginni to appoint Maureen O'Neil as chair, 2nd by Tiffany. There being no further discussion, all were in favor; Motion Carries.

4. Approval of Minutes- August 10, 2021

The minutes were reviewed from August 10, 2021.

Motion made by Tiffany to accept the minutes as written, 2nd by Ryan. There being no further discussion, all were in favor, Motion Carries.

5. Reapportionment

Susan presented the map outlining the proposed new district the State submitted for review (map attached). The new district BEN-WDM-1, includes seven towns: **Woodford** (population 355), **Glastenbury** (population 9), **Somerset** (population 6), **Searsburg** (population 126), **Readsboro** (population 702), **Dover** (population 1798) and **Wardsboro** (population 869) for a population total of 3865. The ideal sized district, according to the State, is 4287. Susan explained that the Vermont Constitution requires the Vermont General Assembly, the Senate and the House, to be reapportioned every 10 years based upon the most recent U.S. Census population data, that being the 2020 census. Reapportionment review and re-drawing ensures that Vermonters have equal representation in the General Assembly in accordance with the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Ryan stated that by combining with other mountain towns may be more beneficial to Woodford. Woodford has not had good representation by being combined with Pownal. However, he is concerned with being included with Dover. Dover would have different concerns that those of Woodford, particularly the services they provide such as water, septic, etc. It would be better to be aligned with towns that have similar services and concerns. The Board agreed and reviewed and discussed different options by adding and deleting towns to reach what they felt would be an ideal district.

After much discussion the Board agreed on the following towns to be in the same district: **Woodford** (355), **Glastenbury** (9), **Somerset** (6), **Searsburg** (126), **Readsboro** (702), **Halifax** (771), **Whitingham** (1344), **Wardsboro** (869) for a total of 4182. (map attached). The Board agreed to request this change based on the following reasons:

- A. All of the towns are mountain towns.
- B. Most of these towns have the same municipal services.
- C. These towns would share similar local and state issues and concerns.
- D. Representation would be more uniform if the representative is addressing shared concerns and issues instead of completely different for each town.
- E. The total population of all these towns is closer to the State's ideal sized district than their proposed district.

Motion made by Ryan to submit the proposed district agreed to by the BCA Board to the State's Apportionment Board, 2nd by Maureen. There being no further discussion, all were in favor, Motion **Carries**.

6. Other Business

No other business

7. Adjourn

Motion made by Maureen to adjourn, 2nd by Ryan. There being no further discussion, all were in favor; **Motion Carries**.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by,
Susan Wright- Clerk