Minutes of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held at 9:00 a.m. on February 11, 2021 in the Legislative Conference room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902, and also via tele-conference and video conference.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Martin Chalk, Robert Briggs, Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Also present: David Manchester, Bryan Maggs, Paul Bishop, M.P.A. (CGR), David Riley, M.U.P. (CGR), Dr. Kieran Bezila (CGR)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 a.m.

The Chairman invited the Chairman of the Legislature, David Manchester to address the committee.

The Chairman of the Legislature thanked the committee members for the willingness to serve. He stated that the Charter mandates that the Legislature reconsider its representation after each decennial census. Mr. Manchester noted that the county’s founding fathers set up the charter form of government with the expansion of the population in mind, however, the population of Chemung County has decreased over time. He reviewed the goals and objectives of the committee and reminded them that tools have been made available to them (i.e. CGR, Attorney for the Legislature, Clerk and Deputy Clerk) and that they may request that other tools/services be made available to them. He noted that the Legislature has received some comment and had some discussion regarding public participation on the committee. Mr. Manchester stated that the meetings are advertised and open to the public (although due to COVID in-person public attendance has been restricted), the public will be invited to participate in presentations by CGR and ultimately, the public will get to make the final decision by voting on the Referendum. He encouraged the committee to consider other avenues for public participation. Their work will conclude with a report of their findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

The Chairman of the committee made the following remarks:

1. The County Executive in his budget message has recommended a study and possible reduction in the number of legislators. He also states that the 2021 budget has funding available for the study. This committee will look at the reduction of legislators possibility with the help of CGR.

2. This committee should also study to see if our current form of government with an elected county executive and treasurer is the correct fit for a county this size with the reduced population. We should study the cost of our current form of government including the 15 legislative seats and seek where reduction in cost may occur while maintaining the efficiency to better serve the community.

3. This committee will be open about our goals and accomplishments. Suggestions from legislators currently sitting on the board want the citizens to be involved with this
process. The citizens will ultimately be the ones making the decision whether or not our recommendations are accepted. In the mean time, we as legislators are elected and given the job to make suggestions and study this task before us. I encourage the citizens to contact their legislator with their concerns, suggestions, and questions and if that legislator decides to act on those concerns, suggestions, and questions, to put them in writing and forward them to the Clerk of the Legislature so that they may be presented to this committee.

4. From time to time, this committee may call upon a sitting legislator for comment.

5. From time to time, this committee may call upon experienced testimony from within and without the boundaries of this county.

6. The last census in 2010 counted a population of 88,830 in Chemung County. The U.S. Census Bureau projected a population of 83,456 in 2019. A reduction of over 5,000 residents. I believe that is a good number to start with and a good reason for this study.

7. With the help of CGR, we should create a schedule for our meetings. The time table is short. I believe our recommendation should be before the legislature by June.

Mr. Chalk asked for a clarification of the deadline for the final report/recommendation by the committee. Mr. Manchester stated CGR would like to have their report done by mid-May. The report and final recommendation will need to go through the Legislative process before September 2021. This will allow for the sixty day lead time required for a referendum to be included on the ballot in November.

Mr. Drake asked if any estimate or preliminary data has been released for the 2020 Census. Mr. Manchester noted that the original date for Census data to be released was January 4, 2020, however that date has been pushed back to sometime in March and could possibly be pushed back again. Mr. Sweet noted that the U.S. Census Bureau projections for 2019 list the Chemung County population at 83,456, about 5,000 less than the 2010 Census data. Mr. Smith noted that census tract information will be important to the committee, specifically what has happened to the population within a specific census tract since the last Census.

Mr. Briggs stated that he has taken under consideration the remarks made by some of his fellow Legislators and some members of the public. He suggested that the committee consider forming a four-person Citizens Advisory committee that would have a voice but no vote. He doesn’t want to slow down the process but he feels it wouldn’t hurt to let the public in on the process. Mr. Smith stated that while he appreciates Mr. Briggs’ remarks, he has not been contacted by any constituents (that live in his district) regarding public input on this committee. The work of the committee is not a contentious issue, he stated. It is directed by the Charter. Every census year the Legislature must undertake this process. He also feels that adding more people to the process could slow things down in what it already a tight time frame. Mr. Briggs agreed with Mr. Smith, noting that he doesn’t see this as a Republican vs. Democrats issue. He sees the county legislature working together for the good of the county. He noted that although he has had conversations with former legislators and City Council members he has not been contacted.
by a single constituent on the matter. Mr. Chalk added that it is important to maximize steps to achieve transparency regarding the work of the committee. He is comfortable with the way the make-up of the committee. Mr. Drake agrees that others should be involved in the process and that is why CGR was hired. They are an unbiased, outside entity that will provide the committee with expert, concise information. The use of CGR in this process should remove any public distrust and take away any political implications being implied. Mr. Sweet suggested that Legislators share any comments/suggestions from constituents with the Clerk to be forwarded to the committee.

Representatives of CGR, Paul Bishop, David Riley, and Dr. Kieran Bezila joined the meeting and provided the committee with an overview of the process to be completed, including the 20 counties that will be used as benchmarks for comparison. Mr. Bishop stated that even though they are not sure when the Census data will be released, estimates of population trends and projections for counties and cities created by Cornell University will be helpful in getting as close to actual population as possible. After the initial Benchmark Phase, CGR will work with the committee to develop a series of options for consideration. Mr. Bishop is hopeful that the Phase II Benchmarking will be completed by the end of March. At the conclusion of the Phase II CGR and the committee will work together to develop a survey for completion by individual Legislators. The survey will be anonymous and answers to the survey will be shared in the aggregate. Phase III will be a draft written report and Phase IV will be the completion of the final report. CGR will be available to make presentations to the Legislature and or the public whenever the committee deems it appropriate.

The committee will not meet again until Phase II Benchmarking is completed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m. on the motion by Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Chalk.
Minutes of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held at 8:45 a.m. on April 30, 2021 in the Legislative Conference room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Robert Briggs, Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Members excused: Marty Chalk

Also present: Bryan Maggs

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 8:45 a.m.

The Chairman stated that the committee would enter into Executive Session for the purpose of consulting with their attorney. All in attendance agreed to the Executive Session.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 9:01 a.m. with no action taken.

Mr. Sweet noted that CGR has declined to do business with the Chemung County Legislature. It appears that there is push-back from the Executive Branch.

Mr. Briggs stated that the committee has been charged with studying the "efficiencies of county government". He noted that having a County Executive that refuses to meet with the Chairman of the Legislature and who interferes with the work of the Legislature shows that Chemung County government is not being run efficiently. Mr. Briggs stated that there could be a more efficient way to run county government, and he feels that the committee has the ability to do the necessary research.

Mr. Smith suggested an alternative plan that would include an in-depth analysis of the Chemung County budget to extrapolate all costs associated with the current structure of government (i.e. County Executive). Mr. Smith suggested that a face-to-face meeting with the Steuben County Administrator and the (retired) County Administrator from Schuyler County would be helpful as a way to compare the administrative expenses associated with that structure of government, noting that all counties in New York State are required to do the same work (provide the same services).

The Committee agreed by consent to Mr. Smith's suggestion. He will analyze the 2021 Chemung County budget to determine the costs associated with the administration of the County Executive's Office. He will notify Mr. Sweet when he has completed this task.

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.
Minutes of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2022 in the Legislative Conference room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Martin Chalk, Robert Briggs, Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Also present: Kevin Meindl, Planning Commissioner, Sperry Navone, Republican Election Commissioner, Jim Harc, Democratic Election Commissioner, Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the New York State and Redistricting Institute and the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 a.m.

The Chairman of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) provided the Committee and invitees with the New York State Census and Redistricting Institute proposal. Mr. Sweet turned the meeting over to Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the New York State and Redistricting Institute and the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz to review the proposal. Mr. Simons reviewed the proposed scope of services including census/demographic analysis, mapping, and community engagement Support, geospatial and demographic databases, population deviation and demographics report, and drawing redistricting lines. Mr. Simon also reviewed the redistricting guidelines, process, and timeline. Mr. Simons recommended soliciting public input and keeping the public informed prior to the public hearing. Mr. Simons stated he would like to have the proposed mapping/demographic services for Chemung County completed by the end May or early June. Mr. Simons stated that the cost for the proposed mapping/demographic services is $17,948.

Motion made by Mr. Chalk, seconded by Mr. Smith to accept the New York State and Redistricting Institute and the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz proposal for Mapping/Demographic Services for Chemung County. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m. on the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake. Motion Carried.
Minutes of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee public information and listening session held at 2:30 p.m. on March 16, 2022 in the Legislative Chambers 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Robert Briggs, Marty Chalk, Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Also present: Joseph Brennan, William McCarthy, Bryan Maggs, Attorney for the Legislature, Jeffrey Wice, Adjunct Professor/Senior Fellow, New York Census and Redistricting Institute, New York Law School, Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Committee at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Sweet turned the floor over to Mr. Wice who provided an overview of the New York State redistricting process. Mr. Wice explained that the process of redistricting, the actual redrawing of district boundaries within a state or county, is based upon census data which is supplied by the Federal Government. Redistricting is a building block of our democracy which is driven by the US Constitution. Every district needs to be redrawn based upon equal population, often referred to as the one person one vote doctrine that each person’s vote needs to be equal to everyone else’s. The Federal Voting Rights Act requires the creation of minority districts in areas where there are severely high levels of minority voters who cannot elect their preferred candidates because they are outvoted by majority voters. This is not likely to be a factor for Chemung County. In late October of 2021, Governor Hochul signed Legislation (A.229c/S.516B). The law requires county redistricting to follow specific criteria including:

1. Population equality. District size cannot vary more than 5% between the largest and smallest districts (used to be 10% allowable variation). Chemung County’s population per the 2020 Census is 84,148. This equates to an ideal average size per Legislative District of 5,610. The 5% deviation would allow for the largest District to have 5,750 residents and the smallest to have 5,469. Currently, ten of the fifteen districts are out of proportion. It will require some tweaking to get districts within the current allowable deviation of 5%.

2. Districts cannot be drawn to deny or abridge minority groups to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice. Mr. Wice noted that Chemung County does not have minority blocks that need to be considered for redistricting purposes, however, minority blocks could and should be considered wherever possible. The population of Chemung County is 88% White, 6.5% Black, and 3% Hispanic, 50.5% female and 49.5% male.

3. Districts shall consist of contiguous territory.

4. Districts shall be as compact in form as practicable. Current districts are quite compact.
5. Districts cannot favor or disfavor incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties. Communities of interest shall be considered. To draw a district where people of a likeminded interest are included in the same district. To the extent practicable, no villages, cities or towns except those having more than forty percent of a full ratio for each district shall divided. Mr. Wice noted that the current district map divides the Town of Erin. It will require some large changes to ensure that the Town of Erin is not split between two districts.

6. Districts shall be formed so as to promote the orderly and efficient administration of elections.

Mr. Wice stated that criteria is listed in ranked order of importance. Efforts to achieve the highest ranked criteria must be met first.

Mr. Sweet thanked Mr. Wice for his overview. He noted that the committee will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting the committee will receive a Deviation and Demographics Report (the “Report”) from the New York Census and Redistricting Institute. The Report will include population within each current Legislative District and how much each District will need to be adjusted. Mr. Sweet stated that there will be further opportunities for the public to provide input. Mr. Sweet opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Francis Freeman asked if the voters would get to decide on the final draft of the proposed Legislative District maps. Mr. Sweet stated that there will be a public referendum in November of 2022. Mr. Freeman asked what would happen if the referendum was shot down. Mr. Wice stated that it would be sent back to the County Legislature to redraw the map. Mr. Freeman asked when the new maps would take effect. Mr. Wice stated that they need to be in place for the 2023 county elections.

Nicholas Grasso asked how the Report will be made available to the public. Joshua Simons noted that he will provide a pdf. document to the Legislature. Mr. Maggs stated that the Report will be distributed to members of the committee and if there is nothing proprietary in the document it will be made available to the public prior to the meeting.

Mr. McCarthy noted that the public is concerned as to when the new districts would go into effect. Mr. Sweet noted that ideally the process would have been completed in 2021. However, due to the delay in the release of the Census data the referendum will come before the voters in November of 2022 and will take effect for the election of county Legislators in 2026. Mr. Wice noted that as a rule of thumb the approved district boundaries are used at the next election. Mr. Simons noted that it was not feasible to get new lines drawn prior to the 2022 election. Data was not released from the Census Bureau until August of 2021 and the NYS Legislature did not release the adjusted data which included prison populations (per state law) until late September/early October. In addition, the new state law was not signed until November of 2021. Mr. Sweet noted that the referendum needs to be to the Board of Election by August 8, 2022.
Mr. Brennan asked if the possibility of changing the form of government and/or reducing the number of Legislative Districts was still being considered. Mr. Wice stated that both of these issues would require an amendment to the County Charter and would need to be considered outside of the redistricting process and would require a separate referendum. Mr. Sweet confirmed that the committee is only looking at redistricting the current number of districts due to the time crunch. Mr. Wice commented that all jurisdictions are required to use the same number of districts that are existing now in law unless county law allows that to be changed.

Francis Freeman stated that incarcerate prisoners should be released to the communities to which they are counted for the Census. Mr. Wice stated that this is an issue for the NYS Legislature. He noted that it is assumed, that upon release, most prisoners will return to their home counties.

Mr. Chalk asked what the biggest challenges will be going forward. Mr. Wice state the process should be one that is fair and transparent that follows the law. The new districts should reflect how people think districts ought to be shaped within the law. These will be the districts that will be used for the next ten years. Mr. Simons stated that the most complicated issue is that the current districting map splits the Town of Erin into two districts and the Town of Erin only comprises about 33% of the total district. Under the new state law the Town of Erin cannot be split. This will require some large shifts and changes to districts, more than simply tweaking things along the edges of districts. Also, currently, about 10 of the 15 Districts are out of proportion, with the most being a surplus of 10.87% and least being a deficit of 10.96%. The new state law allows for 2.5% deviation from the mean or 5% total deviation from the most populous to the least populous. Currently that deviation is 22%. To get these deviations in line with current law will require some effort.

Mr. Smith noted that the urgency that now presents itself is not a product of the Legislature dragging its feet. It is due to the delay in receiving final Census data. The committee was formed in 2021 and was eager to begin the process. Mr. Smith stated that he does not view this as a threatening process. It is required by law and prescribed in the County Charter. The committee’s main concern is completing the process so that the referendum can appear on the ballot in November.

Mr. Brennan noted that concerns have been raised regarding there not being enough public participation and/or input into the process. He asked Mr. Wice and Mr. Simons what their experience has been regarding working with a Public Commission vs. a Legislative body. Mr. Wice stated that a key component is to receive public comment through hearings throughout the process and determine if the plans are in line with issues raised by the public. He noted however, that things often become difficult when you are required to work within the law. Not all suggestions can meet the legal criteria. Mr. Brennan asked how the standard of one person, one vote will be achieved for minority communities, that is, is there a need to include a public body that would insure the rights of minorities. Mr. Wice stated that it will be important to listen to minority groups, noting that there are two clusters of minority communities in Chemung County. The plan should consider keeping minority communities together, however, it is not required by law.
Joe Atkinson noted that the redistricting process is running about two years behind schedule. He asked if the new district map will only have a life of eight years. Mr. Wice stated that the rule of thumb is that this data will be used until a new map is approved following the 2030 Census. Redistricting happens once every ten years, not more frequently. Mr. Simons noted that the process is really only six months behind, not two years. The plan will have a ten-year shelf life because a new plan will not be developed until 2031 to go to referendum in 2032. Mr. Wice reminded everyone that New York used to have a Fall primary. The primary was move to the Spring which does not allow enough time for lines to be redrawn and approved prior to the primary.

Jim Hare asked if the Report will be put on the county website. Mr. Maggs stated that the Report will be posted to the website. Mr. Hare requested that the state guidelines be made available to the public as well. Mr. Wice will provide this information.

Nicholas Grasso noted that Mr. Simons stated that ten out of the fifteen Legislative Districts are currently out of proportion by greater than double the standard deviation. He asked if the Report that will be provided to the committee on Monday will make a recommendation as to how to handle this. Mr. Simons stated that the next step after the Report will be to discuss the options available to deal with this issue. Mr. Simons will then create a draft plan based on the committee’s input that complies with all the relevant laws and reflects the priorities of the committee.

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.
Minutes of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee public information and listening session held at 10:00 a.m. on March 21, 2022 in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Robert Briggs, Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Members excused: Marty Chalk

Also present: Bryan Maggs, Attorney for the Legislature, Jeffrey Wice, Adjunct Professor/Senior Fellow, New York Census and Redistricting Institute, New York Law School, Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration, Kevin Meindl, Chemung County Planning Commissioner, John Burin

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Committee at 10:00 a.m.

The committee accepted the minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting as submitted.

Mr. Sweet turned the floor over to Joshua Simons. Mr. Simons reviewed the 2020 Chemung County Legislative Districts Deviation and Demographics Report (See attached). Mr. Simons reminded the committee that under the new redistricting law that came into effect at the end of October 2021, no municipality with a population less than 40% of the population of the ideal district size can be split by a redistricting plan. Chemung County has five such municipalities; the Village of Millport, the Town of Erin, the Town of Van Etten, The Town of Ashland, the Village of Wellsburg, and the Town of Baldwin. Of particular concern is the Town of Erin which is currently split into Districts 5 and 6. Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 currently have populations that exceed the legal limit of +/- 2.5% and Districts 10, 12, 13 and 14 currently have populations that are below the legal limit of +/- 2.5%. Mr. Simons noted that in terms of Voting Rights Act compliance, in order to comprise more than 50% of the population of a District, a protected minority group would have to have a population of at least 2,852 people. In Chemung County the only area of the county where there is a geographically concentrated minority voting age population is in the City of Elmira (Districts 9 & 11), however it is not large enough to make up a majority of a legislative district. Mr. Simons recommends that the African American community in the City of Elmira be treated as a Community of Interest.

Mr. Simons stated that the next step is to draw up a draft plan. He requested input and guidance from the committee regarding prioritizing the options discussed. Attorney Maggs stated that questions and/or suggestions should be sent to the Clerk of the Legislature within the next few days so that they can be forwarded to Mr. Simons on a timely basis.

Mr. Meindl asked why the 2020 Chemung County population was adjusted from 84,148 to 82,535. Mr. Simons stated that part of the new redistricting law for New York State required that prison populations be adjusted to the place of origin at the time of arrest. He noted that there are roughly 2,000 more prisoners housed in Chemung County than are from Chemung County.
Mr. Sweet provided the committee with a timeline for completing the redistricting process (see attached).

On the motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Briggs, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.
Minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held on April 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Robert Briggs, Marty Chalk, Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Also present: Bryan Maggs, Attorney for the Legislature, Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration

Invited guests: Andrea Ogunwumi, Executive Director, EOP, Herb Smith, President, EOP, Anita Lewis, Deputy, Resource Development EOP, Georgia Verdier, President, Chemung County NAACP, Kevin Meindl, Commissioner, Chemung County Planning Department, Tanya McGee, Assistant Planner 1, Chemung County Planning Department.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake, the minutes of the March 21, 2022 meeting were approved.

Tanya McGee gave a presentation on Redlining in the City of Elmira (see attached). Tanya explained that Redlining was a systemic method use to keep neighborhoods homogenous via race. Banks and federal institutions denied mortgages to people of color in urban areas preventing them from moving into suburban areas. Additionally, other “undesirables” such as Jewish and Italians were denied mortgages. Redlining was practiced throughout the country and although the practice was outlawed in 1968 per the Fair Housing Act studies have shown that 60% of these neighborhoods are in a similar situation as they were 80 years ago, facing the same types of discrimination.

Mr. Smith asked if the information provided for Census Tract 7 is the most recent information available. Ms. McGee stated that the information is from 2017.

Joshua Simons noted that there are things that need to be considered under the Voting Rights Act when making decision on district boundaries. Specifically, how many minority majority districts could be created in an area? In Chemung County the only minority that has a population where it would be possible to create a minority majority district is the African American population, however it is not geographically concentrated enough to do so, however, Mr. Simons recommends that the African American population in the City of Elmira, particularly on the East side, be treated as a community of interest. Currently, this community of interest is split between three legislative districts.

Mr. Chalk stated that some members of the Committee met with EOP board members and the President of the NAACP, Chemung County Chapter, to discuss their thoughts on capturing a majority of the African American community of interest in one or two districts. Census data shows that about 50% of the black population in Chemung County are centered on districts 9, 10 and 11. The overwhelming response was that achieving diversity and having the African
American population interspersed on a larger geographic area than it is now is what is most desirable. They felt that creating a larger concentration would be a step backwards. More diversity means better benefits for the total population.

Anita Lewis asked how a community of interest is defined. Mr. Simons stated that communities of interest are self-defined, not specifically defined by race or ethnicity. They are based on commonalities of a population within a particular geographic area.

Mr. Drake asked if reducing the number of Legislative Districts is something that can be accomplished by this Committee. If so, what is the process and what can be done, what can’t be done?

Mr. Smith noted that he served on an advisory committee that looked at reducing the number of districts. The committee did not recommend it and he is not in favor of it. He feels that the more legislators that represent communities of interest, the greater the chance that they will be heard. Also, fifteen districts create the opportunity for consensus building. Reducing the number would not provide the opportunity for broad input. The greatest pitfall in reducing the number of legislative districts would be that it would make it very easy for some group or individual to take the Legislature in a certain direction.

Mr. Maggs noted that he has discussed this issue at length with Jeffrey Wice, Adjunct Professor/Senior Fellow, New York Census and Redistricting Institute, New York Law School, as to what the law requires. Mr. Wice informed Mr. Maggs that the mandate under the Charter requires that redistricting be completed and a referendum be placed on the ballot the year after the Census data is released. The redistricting has to be done as the Charter is currently written. Reducing the number of districts is a separate issue that is not part of the redistricting process. The redistricting committee cannot reform the Charter. The County cannot avoid presenting to the voters this November a map of fifteen districts that are balanced in the way the law requires.

Mr. Smith noted that the County Executive has already made it clear, without seeing the proposed redistricting map, that he will veto the Redistricting Local Law. The Legislature will then have the opportunity to override the veto. If the Legislature overrides the veto there will most likely be concerted campaign to encourage the voters to vote against the referendum. Mr. Smith asked what happens if the referendum fails. Mr. Simons noted that if the Legislature is unable to override the veto or if the referendum fails the Legislature would have to develop a new redistricting plan. The final chance to put a redistricting plan to the voters would November 2025. Should a redistricting plan fail to be enacted by the November 2025 election the courts would take over the redistricting process. The court would appoint a commission to determine the boundaries of the fifteen districts. Regardless, it is the charge of this Redistricting Committee to put a plan to the voters this November. In Mr. Simons opinion, the Charter could use some reform in this area as it is not appropriate for a County Executive to be able to veto a redistricting plan that is required to go to referendum. The idea of having a County Executive is that there is a separation of powers and authorities, whereby the County Executive has administrative control and the Legislature has fiscal and oversight control. To have the County Executive in a separation of powers system directly able to impact the redistricting of the County Legislature is a violation of the concept of the separation of powers, Mr. Simons noted.
Mr. Maggs encouraged suggestions regarding how the district lines can be redrawn to accomplish the objectives that Tanya McGee spoke about, or to better encapsulate the communities that various legislators represent. There is an opportunity to present those ideas to the committee prior to mid-May. All suggestions will be considered by the Committee.

Andrea Ogunwumi asked for clarity regarding the identifying of communities of interest, stating that it seems almost like a redlining process. Mr. Simons described it as the opposite of redlining, stating that there was no altruistic motive in redlining, noting that it was done specifically for segregation and oppression. The whole point of recognizing communities of interest and the efforts to keep those communities within the same district is that those communities will have a stronger voice. Ms. Ogunwumi asked if there is any economic advantage to encapsulating a community of interest. She truly believes in the democracy and the representation of the Chemung County Legislators in that they have listened to the voices of all people.

Mr. Sweet thanked all who participated in today's meeting, noting how much he values their input. He encourages everyone to continue to attend the meetings. He stated that this is his third redistricting process as a legislator. In the past the entire process was completed by the Chemung County Planning Department with input from the Legislature. Due to changes to the law and the Planning Department not having the necessary resources the Committee recommended that the Chemung County Legislature hire a consultant. The entire process has been more transparent and inclusive than any in recent history and has been taken very seriously. It is disturbing to him to receive an email in which County Executive tells a constituent that he plans on vetoing the redistricting local law and intends to encourage the voters to vote against the referendum.

An updated timeline for the redistricting process was provided to the committee and those in attendance (see attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.
Minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held on April 18, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Members excused: Martin Chalk, Robert Briggs

Also present: Bryan Maggs, Attorney for the Legislature, Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration

Invited guests: Andrea Ogunwumi, Executive Director, EOP, Anita Lewis, Deputy, Resource Development EOP, Kevin Meindl, Commissioner, Chemung County Planning Department, Sperry Navone, Republican Election Commissioner, Chemung County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake, the minutes of the April 1, 2022 meeting were approved.

Mr. Sweet turned the meeting over to Joshua Simons. Mr. Simons reviewed two draft versions of legislative district maps, including the changes to each version would make to the current districts. The goal was to keep the districts as close to current boundaries as possible. Overall there are relatively minimal changes. Districts 3, 4, and 7 change the most on both versions. Mr. Simons also provided information regarding the population, population deviation, deviation percentage, and minority population for each district. The draft maps and corresponding population information are attached. At the request of the committee, Mr. Simons will provide draft maps (Plan A v0.1 and Plan A v0.2) for individual districts.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.
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Minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held on May 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Scott Drake, Michael Smith, Martin Chalk, Robert Briggs

Also present: Bryan Maggs, Attorney for the Legislature, Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration

Invited guests: Members of the Chemung County Legislature

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Sweet asked Mr. Simons to review the two versions (Av0.1 and Av0.2) of the Redistricting Plans and the rationale that was used. He stated that while he has been to Chemung County he is not intimately familiar with the community. Demographic data including street density, transportation interconnectedness and population density was utilized to create the plans. Mr. Simons noted that the two versions are much the same with just a few key differences. The biggest change was to District 6 as a change in NYS Redistricting Law prohibits the Town of Erin from being split between districts (40% threshold). Currently Erin is split bilaterally between District 5 and District 6. In both versions the entirety of the Towns of Erin and Baldwin are included in District 6. Particularly, a portion of the Town of Veteran was taken from District 6 and a portion of the Village of Horseheads was taken from District 4 and added to District 3. This shift caused shifts to all districts due to NYS law which requires a population deviation of +/- 138. Mr. Simons also noted that census blocks cannot be split between districts. These constraints must be considered when drawing district boundaries. He also pointed out that the Village of Horseheads Water Treatment Plant area is included in District 3 in Av0.2. This area could go to District 5 as only 25 people reside in this area however, that would require creating a new election district for those people and he does not feel that this is the best scenario.

Mr. Pastrick asked Mr. Simons if he prefers one version over the other and why. Mr. Simons stated that he prefers v0.2 because in v0.1 District 4 raises some red flags due to the incongruent shape. In v0.2 District 4 is much more compact.

Mr. Brennan asked for clarification regarding the splitting of census blocks. Mr. Simons stated that if the county were to conduct its own census of a particular area with complete demographics then splitting census blocks would be allowable. He noted, however, that it would be risky to start using data other than the official census data provided.

Mr. Brennan raised concerns regarding the compactness issue for District 4. He asked that the 4th District include Orchard Lane to Westinghouse including the streets in the area of Tift Avenue. He suggested that adding those areas to the district would help with the issue of compactness. Also, he feels that potential future land development (7 different spots) should be considered. Mr. Simons noted that future development was not a consideration. Mr. Simons stated that he would be happy to try to move some of the boundaries in District 4 to capture different
neighborhoods/streets however the new state law which tightens population deviation will cause even small adjustments to have a large impact on every other district. Mr. Brennan also noted that he had asked to be on the Redistricting Committee (the “Committee”) as he knew that his district would probably change the most. He can accept changes to the 4th District but he doesn’t understand why he is giving up certain areas that were previously in his district and is picking up new areas. He thought that part of the process was to try not to change boundaries.

Mr. Sweet noted that District 3 actually got cut the most as it had the largest population deviation. Mr. Sweet also noted that each member of the Committee pledged that no matter where the lines were drawn. He also noted that Mr. Simons was not made aware of any of the legislator’s addresses. Mr. Manchester noted that under both Av0.1 and Av0.2 his residence would move from District 2 to District 4. Making changes at this point will cause a ripple effect into all districts. Starting over is not an option. Mr. Simons’ concerns with Av0.1 drove the creation of Av0.2. The entire process was done unbiasedly and fairly.

Mrs. Woodard stated everyone has small concerns regarding how their district is being split up but they are willing to go along with the proposed plan(s). She stated that a lot of time and effort has been put into the plans provided and redoing any portion of them effects all the other districts. Mr. Brennan’s concerns regarding District 4 are small, she noted, and the Legislature would be wandering into dangerous territory by having individual legislators choose specific streets/neighborhoods that they want included in their district. Not all legislators will be happy with all of the changes but they are willing to accept what is being proposed.

Mr. Pastrick echoed Mrs. Woodard’s remarks, noting that the same amount of people (+/- 138) are in each district. The public will be equally represented with either version.

Mr. Chalk stated that all have to be willing to give and take and respect and appreciate the process and work of the Committee. He is willing to accept the proposed changes to District 10. He praised Mr. Simon’s efforts.

Mr. Smith stated that a merry-go-round effect is created by redoing the boundaries for one district. The process needs to stop at some point.

Mr. Drake stated that every district has gotten some areas and lost some areas.

Mr. Strange stated that he has no problem with either Av0.1 or Av0.2. He will be gaining a whole new section of a town, but he is willing to accept either. The process was unbiased.

Mr. Margeson noted that the redistricting process has nothing to do with the people in the room (the current Legislators). It is a process. A system is in place that must be used. The district boundaries cannot be manipulated to the benefit of the people sitting around the table.

Mr. Smith noted that the County Executive has commented that he will Veto whatever plan is brought forward without even seeing what is being proposed. The County Executive feels that the plan should have considered reducing the number of districts. That is not the issue before
this Legislature and would go against what is required by the Charter. He encourages his fellow Legislators to vigorously the tax payers to vote in favor of the redistricting plan.

Mr. Briggs stated that Mr. Simons did an excellent job. Manipulation of the district boundary lines was taken out of the process completely. No legislators were involved in the redrawing of the district lines. He noted that the Committee has been criticized for spending taxpayer money on hiring a consultant and pointed out that amount of taxpayer money wasted by the County Executive on lawyers’ fees suing the Legislature over his interpretation of the County Charter vs. the Legislature’s interpretation of the County Charter far exceeds what was spent on the process.

Mr. Sweet thanked the Legislature for allowing for the hiring of a professional consultant to complete the redistricting processes. The process was completed without gerrymandering or respect to where any current legislator lives. All proceedings of the Committee were open to the public and live streamed. There is still work to do. The public is invited to attend an information session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Simons will be available to answer questions.

Mr. Simons noted that he has been impressed with the Committee and the a-political process that was used throughout the redistricting process. Textbook best practices were used, including meeting with folks from EOP who represent the African American population in the City of Elmira to get their input.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. on the motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Smith.
Minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held on May 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present:  L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Scott Drake, Michael Smith, Martin Chalk, Robert Briggs

Also present:  Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration

Invited guests:  James Hare, Democratic Election Commissioner, Chemung County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake, the minutes of the April 18, 2022 meeting were approved.

Mr. Simons stated that he looked into moving things around in District 4 (as suggested by Mr. Brennan at the 5/2/22 meeting) however this did not create favorable results. The changes would split up neighborhoods and cause a ripple effect throughout all of the other districts. Mr. Simons discussed the prospect of including the Village of Horseheads water right-of-way in either District 3 or District 5. It is a minor administrative issue due to the small population of the area in question (25 people) Mr. Drake noted that there is no advantage to the residents to be in one district or the other. Mr. Simons noted that the biggest consideration would be the requirement to create a separate election district if the area was included in District 5. Mr. Sweet noted that the Board of Elections is already short on election inspectors and creating a new election district is not ideal. The committee agreed that leaving the right-of-way in District 3 (Plan A v0.2) would be the best solution. Mr. Sweet raised concerns regarding the consideration of future development that was suggested by Mr. Brennan at last night’s meeting when creating district boundaries. The redistricting process uses the census information provided by the Federal government for 2020. There is no way to project future development for the county. Mr. Simons noted that under limited circumstances future development may be considered but not for a county the size of Chemung County where the population deviation is so tight. Mr. Chalk stated that the Committee’s job is to manage what is in front of them, the census results that they are sure of, not try to predict the future.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Briggs to move forward with Plan Av0.2. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Sweet asked for any suggested revisions to Plan Av0.2. No revisions were suggested.

Mr. Sweet noted that Plan Av0.2 will be presented to the public on May 10, 2022 at a public information session to be held in the Legislative Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m. on the motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Smith.
Minutes of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee public information and listening session held at 7:00 p.m. on May 10, 2022 in the Legislative Chambers 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Marty Chalk, Scott Drake, Michael Smith

Also present: David Manchester, Joseph Brennan, William McCarthy, Bryan Maggs, Attorney for the Legislature, Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Committee at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Chalk, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 and May 3, 2022 meetings. Motion Carried.

Mr. Sweet stated that the purpose for the meeting is to provide the public with an opportunity to hear from the consultant, Joshua Simons, ask questions, and provide input/feedback regarding the draft proposed County Legislative redistricting plan (Plan A v0.2). Mr. Sweet reviewed the work of the committee, stating that, to date, the committee has met numerous times, primarily focused on eliciting feedback for the consultant who has used that feedback to prepare Plan A v0.2. At the outset, the Committee was informed of the 2020 Census results and the changes in NYS Law which lowered the acceptable population deviation between districts from 10% to 5%. This required the redrawing of district lines as some districts needed to gain population while others need to shrink to be within the allowable standard deviation for district population of +/- 2.5%. Mr. Sweet stated that changes in the law require that some district lines be redrawn because smaller municipalities cannot be split between districts. Also, census blocks cannot be split between districts, and districts boundaries should be formed to try to keep neighborhoods together and be as geometrically compact as possible. The committee met with Board Members of the Economic Opportunity Program, as well as the local NAACP and neighborhood planning groups to get feedback and to help ensure that interests of the African American minority community were not adversely impacted. Mr. Sweet thanked Mr. Simons for the enormous amount of work that he has put into explaining the process, listening to input and developing the draft redistricting plan. Mr. Sweet also thanked Attorney Maggs for his expertise and guidance throughout the process, as well as the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Legislature for their administrative help. Mr. Sweet turned the meeting over to Mr. Simons to review the laws and process used to draw the boundaries for the draft redistricting plans.

Mr. Simons walked through the requirements, rationale, and the thought processes that were used in developing Plan A v0.2. He explained that the law requires equal representation across the districts. The Federal Standard allows for a 10% deviation, however, on October 28, 2021 New York State passed a law that lowered the allowable population deviation to 5%. Also, the law prohibits any municipality whose population is less than 40% of the ideal district size to be split between districts. Currently the Town of Erin is split diagonally between District 5 and District 6. Several scenarios were run as to which district Erin should be put in. A decision had to be made as to which district Erin would go to. Ultimately it made more sense to give the entirety of the Town of Erin to District 6 and make the necessary population adjustments to neighboring districts to bring them into compliance. The District 15 boundary was moved to the north to capture population from District 6. The changes to the five City districts were minimal. District 13 picked up population south of Clemens Center Parkway. District 12 picked up four
blocks to the west of Morrowfield Avenue. District 11 needed to lose a small portion of population and District 10 needed to gain some therefore three blocks were moved into District 10. District 10 also picked up a few neighborhoods. District 9 picked up an area to the west of I86 bounded by the City line. Minimal changes were made to District 14. A corner of the south side of the Chemung River that used to be in District 7 was added to District 14. Districts 7 and 4 were the most difficult because they end up getting boxed in by other districts. District 7 was extended to the southern boundary of the Village of Horseheads and a portion of District 7 was added to District 14 to balance population. In draft version Plan A v0.1 District 4 swept down to the Village of Horseheads but it was not particularly compact. Mr. Simons noted that he was not satisfied with the awkward shape of district 4 so it was redrawn in Plan A v0.2 and the western boundary of the district was move to Hibbard Road which made the boundaries for district 4 much more compact. District 4 picked up a portion of the Village of Horseheads. The Matthew Circle area was included in District 4 as it is an unusually shaped census block which creates an island that cannot be divided between districts. The District 5 needed to pick up population and district 1 needed to lose population. Census blocks were moved in as square a shape as possible to balance the population of the 2 districts. District 2 is still the majority of the Town of Horseheads.

Mr. Simons noted that the redistricting process is a balancing act and the even small changes create a ripple effect across all of the districts. Solutions to the ripples may create more problems. He supports Plan A v0.2 as it complies with the various layers of legal requirements and priorities of keeping municipalities whole.

Mr. Sweet thanked Mr. Simons and opened the floor to public comment/questions.

Ken Miller, Horseheads resident, asked if Matthew Circle was included in one District. Mr. Simons stated that it is entirely in District 4 as splitting it up made less sense than not having it connect to anything. To get anywhere from Matthew Circle you have to go into district 3. The only way to get to Matthew Circle is to go through District 3. Mr. Miller asked if race was considered in any of the decisions. Mr. Simons noted that he did a deviation and demographics report which tests how far out of compliance the current districts are. A preliminary Voting Rights Act test was done to determine if there is a geographically concentrated protected minority population that constitutes a majority of a district. In Chemung County there is not. Mr. Simons did determine that the African American population should be considered a community of interest in the City of Elmira. He noted that although the law does not require that communities of interest be considered under redistricting, the committee reached out to local organizations that represent the African American population (EOP and NAACP) for their input. They had not particular recommendations as to anything they would want changed. Mr. Miller asked if demographics of political parties were considered in developing the redistricting plan. Mr. Simons stated that no electoral or political data was used and that he had no information regarding the residence of incumbents.

Mr. Sweet asked Mr. Chalk to expand on the meetings with EOP and NAACP. Mr. Chalk stated that the committee received valuable information from these organizations. All who attended these meetings were in agreement that diversity across the legislative districts is the main goal.

Anita Lewis, resident of the City of Elmira, EOP Board member, stated that it was good for the Board to work with the committee and learn about the redistricting process. She reiterated that diversity across the districts is what is important.
Joseph Atkinson, resident of Horseheads, made the following comments: The maps posted on the county website were of too low a resolution. People living on the borders of the new districts could not tell what district they’d be in. The redistricting seemed to be centered around keeping the City of Elmira the same. Elmira lost population but the structure of the districts is essentially unchanged. The reliance on the river as a barrier creates conditions where 2 Southside districts will creep more and more into Southport with each redistricting iteration. It appears as though there is just minor trimming around the edge of the city at the expense of surrounding districts. Elmira has 5 legislators, Southport has 4 and although Big Flats and the Village of Horseheads have similar sized populations, they only have 2 legislators. The proposed map unnecessarily breaks up a community of interest in the Tiff Ave. neighborhood of Horseheads. They have a neighborhood watch in the village and splitting out Tiff Ave. and Matthews Circle would be bad for the residents. Including the Village of Horseheads areas of Daffodil, Lilac as well as Astor and Wisteria are good for compactness of D4. Adding the area West of Chambers Rd. to Hibbard Rd in Big Flats to D4 hurts the districts compactness. By leaving too much of Elmira “as is” creates a scenario where D7 and D4 have been unnecessarily changed without public input or any regard to the congruency or demographics of those districts. A study should be done to investigate splitting census so that D3 includes part of the Town of Horseheads and to look at existing blocks to be part of the Village of Horseheads in D5.

Mr. Brennan, Chemung County Legislator, District 4 asked if any public input/feedback was taken into account in developing the Plan A v0.2. Mr. Simons stated that he received and used input from members of the committee, representatives from the City of Elmira, and invited guests who attended various meetings. Mr. Brennan asked how many districts a person living on the north end of district 7 (as proposed) would have to pass through to get to the southern end of the district (as proposed). Mr. Simons stated that as there isn’t a road that runs north/south for the entirety of district 7 it would require passing through several small districts (City of Elmira) for short distances. Mr. Simons noted that there is no way to create a district 7 that you can drive north to south without leaving the district without disregarding the shapes of at least a dozen other districts. He noted that under the current district map it is impossible to drive from the northern end of district 7 to the southern end without passing through several other districts. Mr. Brennan asked how he could confirm that the map that he has drawn using census data from Dave’s Redistricting is accurate. Mr. Simons noted that direct census data is incorrect on Dave’s Redistricting because under NYS law the prison population is removed from census blocks and redistributed to home communities. Mr. Sweet recommended that Mr. Brennan forward the maps he has drawn to the Clerk of the Legislature who will forward to Mr. Simons.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Chalk, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.
Minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held on May 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: L. Thomas Sweet (Chairman), Scott Drake, Michael Smith, Martin Chalk, Members excused: Robert Briggs

Also present: Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate at the Benjamin Center for Public Policy, GIS, MA Public Administration. Bryan Maggs

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

On the motion by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Smith, the minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting were approved.

Mr. Simons reviewed the redistricting maps addressing the issues/questions/concerns raised at the May 3, 2022 Public Information Session. He stated that the issue of compactness is concerned with the shape of a district, not the size of a district. Unusual shapes should be avoided whenever possible. He noted that districts with smaller population density will be larger in geographic area. Mr. Simons noted that the population density of the City of Elmira warrants five districts. He noted that the population of the Town of Horseheads also warrants five districts. If redistricting is done correctly, the number of districts in an area will be proportional to the population in the area. Mr. Simons also stated that compactness should not be achieved at the expense of other priorities (i.e. keeping neighborhoods together). He stated that Plan Av0.2 addresses the issue of compactness regarding the Matthew Circle neighborhood.

Mr. Sweet asked if there were any suggested changes to Plan Av0.2 from committee members following the May 2nd meeting with the Legislators or the May 3rd Public Information Session. No suggestions were offered.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake to continue to move forward with Plan Av0.2 as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

The committee agreed by consent to recommend an agreement with Weiler Associates for the provision of the (written) description of the meets and bounds of Plan Av0.2 in an amount not to exceed $5,000 to the Budget Committee.

Mr. Sweet noted that a public hearing on the proposed redistricting plan will be held on June 6, 2022 at 6:45 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers.

The committee agreed that a mailer/flyer should go out to all Chemung County residents regarding the redistricting referendum. The information should emphasize the fact that the process was done in compliance with the Chemung County Charter and New York State Law.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m. on the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake.
Minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held on June 10, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

**Members present:** Martin Chalk, Scott Drake, Michael Smith, Robert Briggs  
**Members excused:** Tom Sweet  
**Also present:** Bryan Maggs  
**Invited guests:** James Hare

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake, the minutes of the May 16, 2022 meeting were approved.

The committee discussed the comments made at the June 6, 2022 Public Hearing. Mr. Smith noted that no addresses of any current Legislator or candidate for the Legislator were provided to the consultant. Both of the redistricting map proposals were provided by the consultant prior to the candidates announcing their intentions to run for the Legislature. Mr. Briggs re-iterated that the boundaries that were drawn were done prior to the candidates making their announcement to run for the Legislature. He noted that any time boundary lines need to be redrawn there is a risk that incumbents or candidates may not remain in the current district. A consultant was hired to do a job and it was done well, Mr. Briggs added. Mr. Drake stated that both of the public comments highlighted the importance of hiring an independent consultant to produce maps based on the law. Mr. Chalk stated that is was a proper and prudent decision to hire an independent consultant. Mr. Chalk thanked Mr. Sweet for his leadership of the committee, noting that he always made sure that everyone’s voice was heard. Multiple opportunities for questions and input from the public were provided. The committee met several times with leadership from the local NAACP Chapter and the EOP for their input on matters of diversity and representation within the five City Districts. The feedback from those organizations regarding the process was positive. Mr. Chalk noted the importance of educating the public regarding the upcoming redistricting referendum.

Motion by Mr. Smith to stay the course and continue with Redistricting Plan A v0.2 as previously recommended. Second by Mr. Briggs. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:** Mr. Briggs expressed his displeasure with the interference of the County Executive in the work of the committee. Early on he quickly used his position to influence a consultant and convince them not to provide services to the Committee. By doing so he proved that there is no efficiency in Chemung County government. This is not the fault of the Legislature. The Executive Branch has, at every level of discussion and decision making, tried to exert his authority and has opposed what the fifteen elected officials have proposed. He has continued to try to exert his authority by stating that he will veto whatever (Redistricting) plan is approved by the Legislature.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. on the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake.
Minutes of a meeting of the Legislative Redistricting and Efficiency of County Government Operations Advisory Committee held on June 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Legislative Conference Room, 5th Floor Hazlett Building, 203 Lake Street, Elmira, NY 14902.

Members present: Tom Sweet (Chairman), Scott Drake, Michael Smith, Robert Briggs
Members excused: Marty Chalk
Also present: Bryan Maggs, Joshua Simons
Invited guests: James Hare

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

On the motion by Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Drake, the minutes of the June 10, 2022 meeting were approved.

The Final Report and Recommendations of the committee were reviewed and the document was read in its entirety by Mr. Sweet.

Motion to approve the Final Report and Recommendations was made by Mr. Drake, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion Carried unanimously.

Old Business: Mr. Hare stated that he was pleased to be included as an invited guest in the work of the committee. He has found the entire process to be very interesting and noted that it was handled in a professional manner which was guided by the law. He did not witness any partisanship by any member of the committee at any time throughout the process. As a Chemung County taxpayer he hopes that the ongoing debate between the County Executive’s Office and the Legislature can be set aside and kept separate from the redistricting process as it would be costly to have to go through this process again. He supports the (Redistricting) referendum that will be presented to the voters on November 8, 2022 and he urges the residents of Chemung County to do the same.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m. on the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Drake