

WARD SYSTEM PRESENTATION

Megan Tennermann of Orange County Planning addressed the Town Board. She stated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 set a redistricting standard to get as close as possible to one-person, one-vote and that equal representation is the goal with +/- 5% with largest district not to be more than 10% of the area enumerated. Based on the Town's 2020 census population of 12,646, there would be four equal districts of 3,161.5. Based on the election district map by census block and population by election district, equal representation is challenging. She offered two scenarios for the wards.

Option 1		Option 2	
Ward 1 = 1, 2, 5, 6	3,506	Ward 1 = 1, 2, 5, 6	3,506
Ward 2 = 3, 8, 9	3,010	Ward 2 = 3, 8, 9	3,010
Ward 3 = 6, 7, 10	3,013	Ward 3 = 6, 7, 12	3,067
Ward 4 = 4, 11, 12	3,117	Ward 4 = 4, 10, 11	3,063

She suggested that option 2 would make more sense since the proposed Ward 4 is located near the Monroe border and would keep the district more compact as possible within the community. A discussion ensued as to whether either option was viable. Megan suggested that the County could redraw the district map within six weeks as Ward 1 is 12% higher than the others.

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to direct the County of Orange to redraw the election district map for the purpose of population distribution for Ward system implementation.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Tennermann explained in order to implement this change, a public hearing would have to be held, and after 45 days the map could be adopted and approved by the Department of State.

VOTE AYES 4: Valentine, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith, ABSENT 1: Ardisana **ADOPTED**

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORANGE

TOWN OF CHESTER

I, **Linda A. Zappala**, Town Clerk of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared the foregoing and is a true and correct copy of the extract of Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of the Town of Chester from the 9thth day of November, 2022.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that each of the members of said Town Board had due notice of said meeting, and that Cynthia Smith, Deputy Supervisor, and Robert Courtenay and Brandon Holdridge, Councilpersons were present at such meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the seal of the Town of Chester, this 27th day of December, 2022.



Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk

