

On this 20th day of April 2011 the Fannin County Commissioners Court met in a Special Meeting after public notice was posted on the 15th day of April 2011 at 9:00 a.m. with the following members being present:

Creta L. Carter II	County Judge
Gary Whitlock	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Stan Barker	Commissioner, Precinct 2
Dewayne Strickland	Commissioner, Precinct 3
Joe Strong	Commissioner, Precinct 4

The following business was transacted to-wit:

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Carter declared the time to be 10:03 a.m.

ITEM 1. INVOCATION

Hon. Joe Dale, Precinct 1

ITEM 2. ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Judge Carter declared a quorum.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

**ITEM 4. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
FANNIN COUNTY REDISTRICTING**

Mr. Bob Bass of Allison, Bass & Associates, L.L.P. presented a brief history of the laws governing redistricting particularly with regard to proper representation and protection of minority populations and the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Bass stated the Counties' population is 31,539 with the prison population used in the Census subtracted giving the ideal precinct population to be 7,885 people; according to these numbers Precinct 2 is over-populated by 433 people and Precinct 4 is under-populated 497 which results in an 11.9% deviation. Mr. Bass stated that a 5% or less deviation in local government is ideal and anything over 10% creates a violation of the Constitutional Standard thereby creating a liability.

Mr. Bass recommended moving the Commissioner's precinct boundaries in precincts 2 and 4 which would result in moving voting precincts as well. Mr. Bass' suggestion was either moving the boundaries for Voting Precinct 17 - Edhube [Plan 1] or Voting Precinct 7 - Bailey [Plan 2] from Commissioner Precinct 2 into Commissioner Precinct 4.

Mr. Bass stated the political impact will be to the road mileage and bridges of the two commissioner's precincts and consideration needed to be given to future growth in the County which would most likely be in Precinct 2.

Judge Carter asked what the procedures will be to redistrict. Mr. Bass stated once the Court has decided on which boundaries to move, a public forum should be held; once a final decision has been made Mr. Bass' firm will submit a letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for approval; the changes would take affect at the beginning of 2012.

Mr. Bass stated if a consolidation of Justice of the Peace Precincts was to be considered it should be done during redistricting and would require an analysis of the case loads and revenue generated.

Mr. Bass suggested a timely decision be made on the redistricting so that a public forum could be held, then have the plan adopted so that the DOJ letter could be submitted right away since the DOJ will respond on a first come first served basis.

Dewayne Strickland made a motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Dewayne Strickland
Second by: Commissioner Gary Whitlock
Vote: 5-0 Passed

The above and foregoing represents true and correct minutes of the Fannin County Commissioner's Court meeting in Special Session the 20th day of April 2011.

(LGC 81.003)

ATTEST:



Tammy Biggar, Fannin County Clerk

