

**At a Redistricting Work Session of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors
Held on Thursday, April 28, 2011, 5:00 p.m., in the Conference Room
County Office Building, 233 L South County Drive, Waverly VA**

STAFF PRESENT

Henry A. Thompson, Sr., County Attorney
Shannon D. Fennell, Assistant to County Administrator
Brenda H. Drew, Housing Programs Coordinator

Item 1. Call To Order

The April 28, 2011 Redistricting Work Session was called to order by County Attorney Thompson. He welcomed the citizens and provided an overview of the redistricting process.

County Attorney Thompson: “This is an attempt to explain the redistricting process, prior to the May 19, 2011 meeting so that the Board of Supervisors can make a determination, one way or the other. We are going to go through building blocks that were used. We will be going over the 3/26/11 Technical Revision Plan or the BETA Revision Plan. Every ten years, the United States Census Department gives numbers that designate the population for every area of the County. Sussex received that data in late February or early March of this year. And in determining whether or not to redistrict, the Board of Supervisors had four mandatory redistricting requirements; and the primary one that causes the Board to consider redistricting is that mandate of equal population. Supervisors and elected officials represent people. The United State Supreme Court has indicated that there must be equal representation based on the population make up of the electoral district. The United States Supreme Court indicated that you can have a ten percent population differential. With a ten percent population, no election district can be greater than ten percent in number than any other election district. What happened was that upon receiving the information, there were three districts that were out of compliance with the one person one vote rule. The districts were: Blackwater, which has approx 202 to 205 more citizens than the ideal district. The second district that was out of compliance with the one person one vote was Courthouse District, which has 181 more individuals than the ideal district which was 1,620.5 people; the third was the Wakefield District which lost approx 202 citizens. And because of what was happening, there was a 25% population differential between the six election districts. The Board of Supervisors has analyzed that data but they also looked at the inmate data. If the County had chosen to include inmates in the redistricting process, there would probably have to be no redistricting. But the Board of Supervisors determined that incarcerated individuals have no connection whatsoever to the citizens in Sussex. There are approximately 2,350 inmates in Sussex I and Sussex II. That gives us the number in the County of approximately 11,087 individuals. In 2000, the County was approximately 12,504 individuals with inmates. The Board of Supervisors, in the 2000 redistricting started with raw number of 10,300 non inmates. In 2010 redistricting, the County lost population, including no non-inmates, the County has 9,750 people.”

Comments and questions were heard from several citizens.

County Attorney Thompson displayed a redistricting map which depicted boundaries.