

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GENESEE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
OLD COURTHOUSE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 AT 4:30 PM**

The Genesee County Committee of the Whole met on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 prior to the regular Legislature Meeting at the Old County Courthouse Legislative Chambers, Batavia, New York

Legislature Chair Rochelle Stein called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm in the Legislative Conference Room of the Old Courthouse. Discussion on the redistricting process as a result from the 2020 Census.

Approval of the Minutes of July 28 2021 – Jail and MRI. Motioned by Legislator Maha and seconded by Legislator Klotzbach. Carried, unanimously.

County Manager Matt Landers introduced the discussion regarding redistricting and the 2020 Census, which was a topic at the NYSAC Fall Conference. Genesee County should contract with a professional organization that knows redistricting and the reweighting of the votes for all our districts in a fair manner. First thing, we have not missed anything with this redistricting process based on the timelines of previous redistricting. Over time, the weighting system has become fairer. Sometime this fall, an RFP will need to be done to look for this type of professional service. Next summer we will pass a resolution with the new weighting system and create a Local Law to accept the results.

County Planner, Felipe Oltramari, handed out packet of statistics from the 2020 census. According to the 2020 Census, the Seneca Nation lost 50% population, this is a huge number.

Legislature Chair Stein, stated, at the NYSAC seminar, there was an opportunity to make an appeal of the census. When you make an appeal, you have to provide a remedy. For the 2020 Census the Federal Government counted the Native American Reservation. The local representatives did not count it. Could this be reason for decline of numbers? Discussion on more about reasons for declining numbers. Suggested that Genesee County has a conversation with Senator Jacobs' office. Legislature would like to make sure he is aware of the issues and find out the appeal process and timeline. It will be necessary to correspond with Congressman Jacobs regarding a current population at the reservation for the Native Americans.

County Planner Oltramari continued to review details from 2020 census. Much better count in 6th ward in the City.

This results need to be understood and our community needs to understand. Our responsibility is to make sure the Seneca Nation gets a fair chance.

County Manager stated if consultant regarding RFP is approximately \$10,000 (rough guess).

At 5:03 PM the meeting adjourned upon motion of Legislator Yunker seconded by Legislator Deleo, carried