

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
280 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 462-3100

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

11-7-11

APPROVED ON

12/5/11

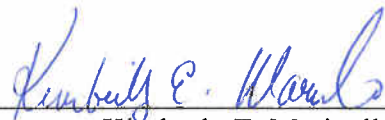
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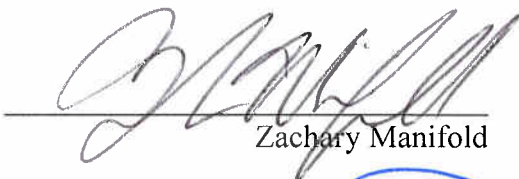
Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman



Michael F. Colley, Esq.

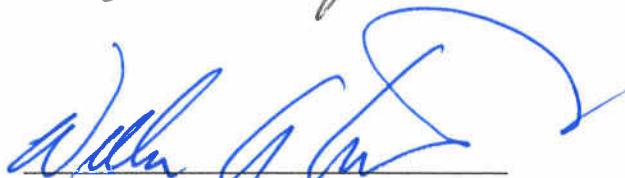


Kimberly E. Marinello



Zachary Manifold

ATTEST:



William A. Anthony, Jr., Director

BEFORE THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- - - - -

In Re: :

Special Meeting :

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- - - - -

Proceedings before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse,
Director William A. Anthony, Jr., Deputy Director
Nathan Burd, and Board Members Michael F. Colley,
Kimberly E. Marinello, and Zachary E. Manifold, taken
at Franklin County Board of Elections, 280 East Broad
Street, Columbus, Ohio on Monday, November 7, 2011, at
3:15 o'clock p.m.

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ATTENDEES

Ms. Suzanne Brown, Executive Assistant,
Franklin County Board of Elections

Ms. Brenna Umbstaetter,
Fiscal Officer

Mr. Zach Talarek,
Liaison to County Commissioners

1	AGENDA	
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P R O C E E D I N G S

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DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I would like to call the Franklin County Board of Elections meeting to order, and I will do the roll call.

Kimberly Marinello?

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Zachary Manifold?

BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Here?

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Douglas Preisse?

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And Michael Colley?

BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We're all here and present and accounted for.

The first item on the agenda is to approve the minutes of the October 3rd and October 13th Board meetings.

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board approve the minutes of the October 3rd, 2011 and October 13th, 2011 Board meetings.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Okay. Is there a second?

1 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Mr. Chairman, I second
2 the motion.

3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor, say
4 aye.

5 THE BOARD: Aye.

6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Ayes carry it.

7 The next item on the agenda is -- we have to
8 work with the statewide database. They need some
9 information from us. I don't know all the details of
10 it, but it's something called Bridge.

11 Not your regular concrete construction
12 bridge, but we need to be able to work with their
13 database and their database with ours. And so we had
14 to have our folks that do our voter registration
15 system, which is called EMCS, they need to help build
16 this Bridge. So the next two items are dealing with
17 that.

18 And we need to have this in place partly
19 because they're going to also give us some money back.
20 We don't know how much, but they're going to reimburse
21 us or give us some money back. We don't know what
22 that dollar amount is, but we have to pay this up
23 front in order to get started on it.

24 Is that --

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: Yeah, that's correct.
2 It's not just us. Every county in the state is being
3 asked to make some changes to their system. Part of
4 what it would do would allow voters to update their
5 registration online, as opposed to having to do it all
6 by paper.

7 That's something that there has been some
8 legislation discussed, and they do want to pursue
9 that, again, next year.

10 I think that's the biggest part of the
11 expense. But like Bill said, they are going to
12 reimburse us for a portion of the cost. They have not
13 told us what portion that would be.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You mean the Secretary of
15 State?

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Secretary of State, yes.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: Secretary of State's
18 Office, yeah.

19 But in order to have it ready to go when
20 they need it, we have to get it started, basically,
21 this week, so that's why we're asking for approval
22 now.

23 And the 19,845 is 30 percent of the cost.
24 It's about a 65, 66,000 total project. We'll be

1 following up with the Secretary of State's Office as
2 soon as we can to find out what the reimbursement will
3 be.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All right.

5 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: All right.

6 Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board authorize the
7 fiscal officer to open a purchase order in the amount
8 of \$19,845 to pay EMCS for the costs associated with
9 the statewide voter registration database project.

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

11 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

12 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor, say
13 aye.

14 THE BOARD: Aye.

15 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Motion carries.

16 The next item on the agenda is another
17 invoice for EMCS, but this is for the redistricting.
18 I have a hard time saying that. They have to -- and
19 I'm not sure what they have to do.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: It basically -- as
21 you all know, Matt Shade is doing our side of our
22 districting work. When he's done with what he needs
23 to do, it has to be imported into our Integrity
24 system, which is managed by EMCS.

1 And there's a cost associated with updating
2 our system to be able to take that import. I can't
3 explain it as well as our IT manager can, but this
4 also is related to our Integrity system and updating
5 it enough so that we can have the new districts in
6 place as soon as Matt is done with his work.

7 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Now, this will
8 probably all be reimbursed; right?

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: That one, we're not
10 sure of.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I don't think that will.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: The first item,
13 definitely, this one, we don't know. Now, there was
14 an appropriation --

15 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: For the
16 redistricting?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: Right. And if we see
18 money from that, that's what we'll use it for. But
19 the fact is that we've got no instructions at all as
20 to what to expect, when to expect it, or how that's
21 going to work.

22 So we're hopeful that we get money from the
23 State for that, but at this time we haven't gotten any
24 of that, so I don't know how that's supposed to work.

1 But we need to -- again, it's a time
2 sensitive matter, which is why we have to move
3 forward --

4 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Okay.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: -- without knowing
6 exactly what we're going to be reimbursed.

7 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
8 move that the Board authorize the fiscal officer to
9 open a purchase order in the amount of \$2,025 to pay
10 EMCS for the costs associated with redistricting.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor, say
14 aye.

15 THE BOARD: Aye.

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Motion carries.

17 The next item on the agenda is -- it's
18 budget time again, and attached you will find our 2012
19 budget request. It's a lot more pages than what we
20 gave you all, but this is basically a summary page of
21 our budget. And as you can see, it looks to be about
22 \$11,581,946.

23 Brenna is here, our fiscal officer, if you
24 have any questions on this budget you would like to

1 ask her as you peruse this.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Can we have kind of an
3 overview of where we are and where we are in relation
4 to historically in recent years and our discussions
5 with the County?

6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yes, sir, you can.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Just sort of an overview,
8 and put it in context for us.

9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Are you able to do that
10 succinctly and quickly?

11 MS. UMBSTAETTER: Well, you'll see that
12 there's significant savings in what we're projecting
13 next year over 2008, which would be our most similar
14 year, and there are really only two main factors that
15 lead to that reduction.

16 One is that we had over a million dollars of
17 ballot printing in 2008, since we were, effectively,
18 running two voting systems. We had -- the outside
19 printers had to do the paper by choice ballots for
20 each location, and we have achieved some savings by
21 bringing some print jobs in house to the County print
22 shop.

23 As far as where we are this year, it's a
24 little misleading, because the year-to-date expenses

1 reflect the reduced primary that we have in the
2 spring. So where we typically budget each year for
3 two full elections, we're currently showing some
4 surplus, primarily in poll workers and election
5 supplies that are attributable to that smaller
6 primary.

7 For the year, I think, we'll end up closer
8 to our budget for 2011, because we are seeing more
9 expense for this general than would be typical in an
10 odd-numbered year.

11 So we're a different odd-numbered year. If
12 we had had this much increase in activity for the
13 general, we might have to go to the Commissioners for
14 a supplemental appropriation. This year we already
15 had that excess in our budget from the primary
16 savings.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: We met with Zach, I
18 believe it was about a month ago now, to go over the
19 initial figures, and we have our follow-up meeting
20 next Wednesday, I believe, with the Commissioners and
21 with Zach to finalize this and then go for any final
22 details. But this is a number that we feel
23 comfortable is going to be our target for 2012.

24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Even if we have two

1 primaries -- and if that happens, you know, part of
2 that House bill says that they will pay for it, so
3 those costs should all be reimbursable, but we don't
4 know whether we're going to have them or not.

5 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: I was going to ask:
6 How is it set up -- is the bill set up so we would
7 have to pay it and then ask for reimbursement?

8 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I have no idea.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: Yeah. This -- the
10 numbers you're looking at, I believe, Brenna, assumes
11 one primary; is that correct?

12 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yes, it does.

13 MS. UMBSTAETTER: Yes.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: And we don't want
15 to -- right now, we have two primaries, but we know
16 that there's also still some talking going on to maybe
17 avoid that.

18 But if the second primary is assured, I
19 believe we do have to front those costs and then be
20 reimbursed for those afterwards by the Secretary of
21 State's Office. But what you're looking at assumes a
22 typical one primary, one general.

23 But we will certainly work with the
24 Commissioners to let them know that there's a strong

1 possibility that a second primary, which would cost us
2 around a million dollars or so up front, may very well
3 be likely. In fact, it is the law right now. So if
4 it doesn't change, that's what we're going to have.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So that will be made
6 crystal clear to them?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: We've been in
8 discussion with Zach daily, almost, about the
9 different changes, so there will be no surprises from
10 us for the Commissioners. We're trying to keep them
11 as updated as we can be on what's happening at the
12 Statehouse and how it impacts our budget.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And no absentee
14 application mailings?

15 MS. UMBSTAETTER: That is an error. We have
16 one.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Okay. That's
18 what -- I didn't understand that. Thank you.

19 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Is there a
20 likelihood -- the Secretary of State wants to do it
21 statewide. Is there a likelihood that we won't have
22 to pay for it, essentially; that the State's paying
23 for it?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: It's similar to the

1 appropriation we talked about earlier. We've read
2 that there's a deal and it's going to happen and this
3 is how it's going to work.

4 But in terms of -- I mean, that was part of
5 the agreement, to not do the unsolicited mailings this
6 year, was that the Secretary of State's Office would
7 do it statewide next year so everybody has the same
8 access to it.

9 Again, though, we haven't received much
10 followup in terms of how that will work for our
11 county. So it's a possibility we'll have no mailing
12 expenses next year, if, indeed, that is the case.

13 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: How much does that
14 typically run a year? That's in here already?

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What?

16 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: The absentee
17 mailing, what we have typically been.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: It was going to be, I
19 think, 214,000 to do one for this general election.
20 Of course, it can vary by if you do postage on the
21 application or postage on the return ballot.

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You can save a lot of
23 money by just mailing to republicans. It's a smaller
24 universe.

1 MS. UMBSTAETTER: Well, we've gotten quite
2 efficient on those application mailings by having the
3 print shop do them and using their materials. So
4 where one mailing to all registered voters used to run
5 over \$400,000, now it's typically right around
6 200,000 --

7 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: That's a huge
8 savings.

9 MS. UMBSTAETTER: -- for materials and
10 postage together.

11 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: That's great.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What's the timing of the
13 next discussion --

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: We meet with the
15 Commissioners office on Wednesday of next week to go
16 over this in a little bit more detail than what you
17 have here. We've been through the preliminary
18 meetings with the Office of Budget Management, and
19 then Wednesday we go through the -- and then the final
20 step, Zach, I believe is --

21 MR. TALAREK: It's the middle of December,
22 is when the final budget will be approved by the
23 Commissioners.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: And so if anything

1 arises between our meeting next week and when the
2 final budget needs to be approved, we'll discuss that
3 at our next gathering.

4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Would the Board like a
5 more detailed budget? We could prepare that for them.

6 MS. UMBSTAETTER: I can easily prepare
7 something with more detail to distribute to you, if
8 you would like that or are interested in seeing it.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, you have before.

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: You would prefer us to
11 email it to you?

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Sure. That's fine.

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All right.

14 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: An email would work
15 for me.

16 MS. UMBSTAETTER: We've had several
17 discussions about whether to revise these figures
18 based on all of the changes that have been occurring,
19 potential changes. And for the most part, these are
20 the figures that we projected for next year around end
21 of July, beginning of August.

22 And rather than update the totals every time
23 something changes in the outlook, we tend to leave
24 them static and make sure that we know what the

1 changes really are going to be before we start
2 changing projection numbers.

3 There are two levels of recommended budget
4 for dealing with these contingencies that we see. If
5 we have something that is very likely to occur but we
6 want to make sure that contracts are inked or bids are
7 in, we have had items that have been approved in past
8 years in our bottom line budget, but placed in
9 contingency, which includes it, but we don't have
10 access to it until some activating event.

11 If it's more of a looming uncertainty, then
12 sometimes the Commissioners will budget something on
13 our behalf in a contingency category but within the
14 County budget rather than our budget.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: And the motion that
16 we're asking you to approve today just basically
17 affirms that this is what we're going into our meeting
18 on Wednesday with. It doesn't mean that it may not
19 change a little bit, but that's what we're heading to
20 the Commissioners with at this point.

21 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: All right.
22 Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board approve the
23 submission of a 2012 budget request of \$11,581,946 to
24 the Board of Commissioners Office of Budget and

1 Management.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You agree with that?

4 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

5 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor, say
6 aye.

7 THE BOARD: Aye.

8 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And the next item on the
9 agenda is some real unfortunate news. One of our
10 Youth at the Booth young ladies, Candie Sandefur, she
11 was killed in a car accident. Was it last week? She
12 was pregnant with her child. And her boyfriend, I
13 guess he's still in an induced coma. And it's
14 something we've never -- that I don't ever remember
15 doing, but we would like to send her family flowers,
16 because she was a Youth at the Booth.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: She was scheduled to
18 work Tuesday.

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: She was scheduled to work
20 on Tuesday, and the funeral was Tuesday, as a matter
21 of fact. This is something we've never done before,
22 so if the Board so wishes, we would like to at least
23 send flowers to her family. Not to exceed --

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURD: 100.

1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: -- \$100. And we have
2 attached to the agenda information about her.

3 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Mr. Chairman, I move
4 that the Board authorize a \$100 expenditure for a
5 flower arrangement to be sent to the funeral of
6 Candie Sandefur.

7 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

8 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second? Moved
9 and second. All those in favor, say aye.

10 THE BOARD: Aye.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The last item, I guess we
12 do not adjourn, but we need to go into a recess,
13 subject to a call from the Chair. So is there a
14 motion to recess?

15 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: So moved.

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

17 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

18 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We stand recessed until
19 the Chair calls us back together. Thank you.

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21 Thereupon, the proceedings were
22 recessed at 4:36 o'clock p.m.

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CERTIFICATE

The undersigned do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were digitally recorded, electronically transmitted, and transcribed via audible playback, and that the foregoing transcript of such proceedings is a full, true and correct transcript of the proceedings as so recorded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, on this 18th day of November, 2011.

Jennifer L. Koontz

JENNIFER L. KOONTZ
Certified Digital Reporter
Notary Public - State of Ohio.
My commission expires September 15, 2013

C. Simpson

CRYSTAL SIMPSON
Certified Digital Transcriber