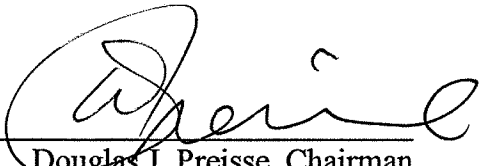


FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
280 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 462-3100

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON
7/7/08

APPROVED ON 8/4/08

BY:



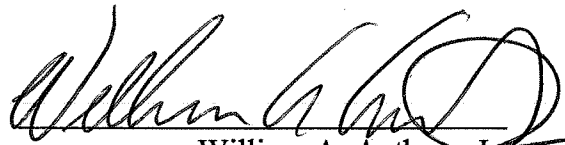
Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman



Michael F. Colley, Esq.

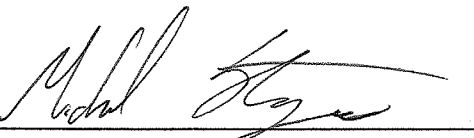


Kimberly E. Marinello



William A. Anthony Jr.

ATTEST:



~~Dennis L. White~~, Director
Michael Stinziano

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BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- - -

In Re: :
Regular Meeting. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Board Members
William A. Anthony, Jr., Michael F. Colley, and
Kimberly E. Marinello, with Deputy Director Matthew
M. Damschroder, at Memorial Hall, 280 East Broad
Street, Columbus, Ohio, called at 3:00 p.m. on
Monday, July 7, 2008.

- - -

ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.
185 South Fifth Street, Suite 101
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481
Fax - (614) 224-5724

- - -

ORIGINAL

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APPEARANCES:

Ronald J. O'Brien, Franklin County Prosecutor
By Mr. Patrick Piccininni
Assistant County Prosecutor
373 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the Board of Elections.

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Karen Cotton;
Ms. Mary Hackett;
Ms. Katherine M. Thomsen;
Ms. Brenna Umbstaetter;
Mr. Stan Wayne.

- - -

1 Monday Afternoon Session,
2 July 7, 2008.

3 - - -

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Let's call
5 the meeting of the Board of Elections to order for
6 our regular meeting of Monday, July the 7th, 2008.
7 Roll call vote.

8 Mr. Colley.

9 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Here.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Ms.
11 Marinello.

12 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Mr.
14 Anthony.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Here.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Chairman
17 Preisse.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All members
20 are present and the first order on the agenda is the
21 approval of minutes from previous board meetings.

22 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
23 move that the minutes of the meeting of the Board
24 held on May 5th, May 20th, and June 4th, 2008,

1 be approved as submitted.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Board
4 Member Colley, would you second that?

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: I did last time.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Let's do it
7 again.

8 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Call for a
10 vote, Mr. Chairman?

11 MR. PREISSE: Yes, I call for a vote.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All in
13 favor, say "aye."

14 (All ayes heard.)

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The motion
16 carries.

17 I'll send the sign-in sheet across so
18 that you can sign the cover. There's three different
19 sheets to sign.

20 The next item is that the Board has been
21 notified that Dorothy Teater is withdrawing from the
22 General Election ballot as the Republican nominee for
23 Franklin County Clerk of Courts. It's not necessary
24 for the Board to certify her removal, it's therefore

1 noted.

2 For purposes of the record it's
3 worthwhile to have the Board vote to memorialize the
4 fact that Ms. Teater has withdrawn from the ballot.
5 That also sets up a window during which the Franklin
6 County Republican Central Committee can meet and vote
7 to certify a replacement candidate to the ballot.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: If we have one.

9 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Mr. Chairman, I
10 move that the Board recognize the formal withdrawal
11 from the November 4, 2008, General Election ballot of
12 Dorothy Teater as the Republican Nominee for Franklin
13 County Clerk of Courts.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'll second that
15 motion.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All in
17 favor, say "aye."

18 (All ayes heard.)

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The next
20 item, we do have a series of personnel related
21 matters that the Board may want to be briefed by
22 staff on in executive session and then we'll come
23 back to the public session to act on them if
24 necessary. It would be appropriate now for a motion

1 to go into executive session.

2 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: I move that motion.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: You move
4 it.

5 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: I move that the
6 Board adjourn into executive session to consider the
7 appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline,
8 promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public
9 employee.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Good.

11 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And we'll
13 do a roll call for this. Board Member Anthony.

14 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Board
16 Member Colley.

17 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Yes.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Board
19 Member Marinello.

20 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And
22 Chairman Preisse.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And we are

1 in executive session.

2 (EXECUTIVE SESSION.)

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Is there a
4 motion to return from executive session?

5 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chairman, I
6 move that the Board come out of the executive
7 session. No motions were made, no items were agreed
8 upon, no votes were taken, and no consensus was
9 reached.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Is there a
11 second?

12 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: A roll call
14 vote. Board Member Anthony.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Board
17 Member Colley.

18 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Yes.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Board
20 Member Marinello.

21 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Chairman
23 Preisse.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We're back
2 in public section.

3 (PUBLIC SESSION.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The first
5 item on the agenda, Board Member Anthony.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I move that the
7 Board enter into an agreement with Marlene Wirth
8 authorizing leave for the balance of the calendar
9 year and accepting her retirement effective December
10 31st, 2008.

11 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All those
13 in favor, say "aye."

14 (All ayes heard.)

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Motion
16 carries.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I move that the
18 Board accept the retirement of Director Dennis L.
19 White effective July 31st, 2008.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Is there a
21 second?

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You want to second
23 Denny's retirement? Should we let him go?

24 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We'll do a
2 roll call vote. Board Member Anthony.

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Board
5 Member Colley.

6 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Yes.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Board
8 Member Marinello.

9 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Abstain.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Chairman
11 Preisse.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And then
14 the next motion --

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, I'd
16 like to read his resignation letter into the record.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Please do.

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, as a
19 letter we received from Dennis L. White, 5113 Hendron
20 Park, Groveport, Ohio 43215 dated July 7th, it is
21 to the Board members of the Franklin County Board of
22 Elections and says, "Dear Board Members: This letter
23 serves as official notice of my retirement effective
24 July 31st, 2008. Best wishes, and thank you for

1 everything.

2 "Respectfully, Dennis L. White,
3 Director."

4 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Why is that
5 letter so funny?

6 MR. PICCININNI: It's artful in its
7 brevity.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The next
9 item is to approve the time line, the evaluation
10 criteria for selecting a successor to Director White.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, I move
12 that the Board adopt the Proposed Succession Plan for
13 selecting its next deputy director and that is
14 outlined in -- that's my motion.

15 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I second that.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Vote? All
17 those in favor, say "aye."

18 (All ayes heard.)

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Motion
20 carries.

21 We'll turn to the fiscal part of the
22 agenda. Bill, if I can have that last page that has
23 the handwriting. Brenna Umbstaetter, our fiscal
24 officer, is here.

1 Brenna, if you could come up to the table
2 there.

3 MS. UMBSTAETTER: Sure.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Brenna will
5 correct me as I go along if I need additional
6 information, but there are six categories for which
7 the staff recommends the Board seek supplemental
8 appropriations from the County Commissioners. The
9 first is to move in-person absentee voting out of
10 Memorial Hall for this fall.

11 As you'll probably recall from coming
12 down here this March and February, this facility was
13 overwhelmed with a number of individuals who came to
14 vote here for the primary. 6,800 people voted in
15 person at the Board of Elections, 5,500 of them were
16 cast during the last week alone. We believe that the
17 numbers of in-person absentee voters this fall will
18 only grow.

19 So it's our recommendation we take
20 in-person absentee voting off site. We looked at
21 several options, Veterans Memorial and City Center.
22 It's I think the County Administrators'
23 recommendation that we go to Vets Memorial because
24 it's a county facility.

1 The only problem with Vets that I see is
2 that they're not able to accommodate the in-person
3 absentee voting on two days, Friday and Saturday
4 October 10 and 11, and the County Administrators'
5 recommendation is for those two days we just move our
6 operations across the street, across from Vets
7 Memorial on West Broad to the new Firefighters union
8 facility that has a large meeting facility.

9 I think it's early enough in the absentee
10 voting cycle that we're probably not going to have a
11 huge turnout on the beginning part of the month as
12 opposed to the end of the month.

13 Voters will be able to park for free at
14 Vets. There are some expenses related to that move,
15 \$34,700 in equipment including ballot-on-demand
16 printers, IDS or T1 lines for voter registration
17 system connectivity, and miscellaneous office
18 supplies for having the staff separated.

19 Also, I think this is not on your memo,
20 right before I came in I got an e-mail from Vets
21 Memorial, they also want \$22,100 in rent, so that
22 request brings us to -- 34,700, Brenna? I don't have
23 that note in front of me -- is increased by 22,100.

24 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Excuse me. I'll

1 wait.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That's all
3 right. Any questions on the in-person absentee
4 voting portion?

5 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chairman, I
6 had a couple or several questions. The rent, does
7 that include the parking for those days that we'll be
8 over there?

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yes.
10 Parking would be free.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: It's a total of 35
12 days that we'll be over there?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That's
14 correct.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: On the 10th and
16 11th of October, are they having a concert or
17 something that day?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: There is a
19 very large -- I'm told there's a very large
20 convention that comes that weekend to Vets every
21 year, has for a number of years in the past, and they
22 didn't feel that they could accommodate us and that
23 convention in the facility during that weekend.

24 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: They take all the

1 space.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah.

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Every area.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That's what
5 I'm told.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: How difficult is
7 our equipment to move across the street? I mean,
8 that's a nice hall, I've been in the fire hall.
9 That's a lot of hassle packing up and unpacking.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: In my view
11 it is a lot of hassle. We're talking about moving
12 voting machines and office equipment, computers, all
13 those kinds of things, essentially setting up.

14 I wanted to go to Vets initially until I
15 found out we couldn't be in there for the full 35
16 days, then I bought into Denny's recommendation to go
17 to City Center. City Center for us would not be free
18 parking, so the county would have to pay for the
19 parking for the people that came to vote. We could
20 accommodate that, free vouchers similar to what we do
21 here for Board members and other visitors.

22 But I would say the county was adamant
23 that we use Vets as opposed to City Center and so my
24 recommendation, given the totality of the request

1 that we have yet to lay out, that this is one way
2 that we can show that we're trying to be fiscally
3 responsible and responsive to the Commissioners'
4 desires.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Your estimate for
6 going to Vets is significantly lower than the
7 original estimate for moving off-site voting to City
8 Center.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Correct.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: But it just --

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It went up
12 a little bit more because of the e-mail I got
13 literally five minutes before the Board meeting
14 suggesting that the Board would need to pay rent for
15 the space.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That issue didn't come
17 up before?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The way
19 this transpired was Denny and I had an initial
20 meeting at Vets with the general manager, this was
21 probably about a month ago, and when we learned at
22 that time that we would not be able to have the space
23 exclusively for the full 35 days, we decided we
24 weren't even going to have any further conversations.

1 Then last week Denny was approached by
2 Don Brown at the Data Center Board meeting on Monday
3 and then Jim Goodnow, who is the head of PFM who used
4 to be the general manager of Vets sent me and Denny
5 an e-mail last Wednesday while he was on vacation
6 extolling the virtues and benefits of Veterans
7 Memorial, all of which are correct, it's a known
8 site, it has parking there, and so I think that is
9 the Commissioners' staff's strong recommendation.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What about parking on
11 the days that we would be across the street?

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The plan
13 would still be that we would park at Vets, and we
14 would have signage on the street directing voters
15 across the street. And we'll probably get a
16 sheriff's deputy there to handle it. I believe
17 there's a traffic light there to handle traffic,
18 pedestrian parking crossing.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What's the status of
20 the negotiations with the firefighters?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We're
22 headed over there this week. My understanding from
23 conversations this morning is that it won't be a
24 problem for us.

1 MS. THOMSEN: I have a quick question.
2 I'm not sure if you guys can move because I think
3 early voting can only be in one location.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It can only
5 be in one place, and it won't be here. It will only
6 be at Vets. So no one will be allowed to vote here.

7 MS. THOMSEN: I mean moving it to the
8 Firefighters.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think the
10 view that we would have is we're not doing it in more
11 than one place at a time.

12 MS. THOMSEN: Okay. Do you want me to
13 double check for you?

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: If you
15 would, that would be great.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, Matt,
17 where would we set this up at Vets?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It's the
19 small auditorium on the far east side of the
20 facility. I think it's called the Brehm.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: The Wayne Brehm
22 Auditorium.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The Wayne
24 Brehm Auditorium.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: There's a stage in the
2 back there?

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It's
4 securable and the Board of Elections has used that
5 space in the past for poll worker training.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: So this event on
7 the 10th and the 11th, what is this?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I don't
9 know. Some kind of convention.

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: There's no way
11 that they could --

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That's what
13 we've been told. It is this board's prerogative, I
14 mean, if this board says that it does not want to
15 move to an off-site location during which we're going
16 to have to move to another location for a two-day
17 period, you can say, you know, City Center's willing
18 to give us the space for the full 35 days, and really
19 the only cost difference is about \$25,000 in parking
20 that we would be having to pay, if that's this
21 board's decision.

22 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I've got some
23 trepidation about setting up in one place and moving
24 for a couple days and then moving back. I mean,

1 stuff happens.

2 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: One little thing
3 goes wrong, whew.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That would make me
5 nervous because -- I planned to talk to the
6 Commissioners about this earlier, and we talked about
7 it, it has to be a continuous 35 days, we can't --
8 and I think it's a problem. I personally think it's
9 a problem.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'm concerned about
11 the confusion of the communications. While if it is
12 the case that parking would be the same, I suppose
13 that eliminates some confusion factor, nonetheless
14 it's crossing Broad Street, et cetera, et cetera.

15 I wonder if we could move on with the
16 description of the memorandum and then revisit this
17 piece of it. My sense is we might want to revisit it
18 at the end of the meeting and then at another time.
19 Our backs are not up against the wall yet in terms of
20 selecting this location, although I assume the longer
21 we wait, the available facilities may start drying
22 up.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
24 we're not at risk of the space at City Center drying

1 up.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: It might be a better
3 deal if you wait.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Exactly.

5 Where are we going in City Center?

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Anywhere you want.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The space
8 that we had identified as ideal at City Center is the
9 second floor, the old Forever XXI storefront. It
10 would be on the second floor as you're coming up the
11 escalators, that main set of escalators overlooking
12 the amphitheater. So it's centrally located within
13 the facility.

14 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Easy to find.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Well, I
16 mean, if we were in City Center, we would have to do
17 a great deal of signage out on the street level and
18 on the parking garage levels directing people to the
19 voting location site.

20 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Who owns City
21 Center, the city?

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Capital
23 South. That's who all of our -- Vets Memorial,
24 according to their letter dated July 3rd I received

1 today, their proposal is valid through July 25th.
2 If we're at City Center, we have a particular need to
3 kind of move forward at some point, certainly by the
4 end of this month, because we need to have T1 lines
5 installed and that --

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: See, that's the
7 problem I have with moving across the street, there
8 and back. I understand it makes sense to do it in
9 one place, stay there for the duration. And if they
10 can't make it happen -- I mean, I do like Vets.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I love everything
12 about Vets except the complications of the move.
13 Maybe we can -- if they understand it gives us some
14 pause, they might be able to go back and look again.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Shuffle
16 some things around.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: All right.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The next
19 category is a voter education campaign. We have
20 requested -- and, Brenna, correct me if I'm wrong
21 with this number -- we had requested originally
22 \$750,000 for voter education for this year's general
23 election. The Commissioners appropriated \$325,000.

24 In January of this year the Commissioners

1 asked the Board to do a voter education campaign
2 relative to early voting or absentee voting. The
3 Commissioners gave us a supplemental appropriation in
4 January or February of 142,000 to conduct a voter
5 education campaign at that time.

6 Staff recommends a voter education
7 campaign for this fall that would have three
8 different messages. The first would be the close of
9 registration time period so that voters would know,
10 if they're newly registered, or if they need to
11 change their address, what the requirements for that
12 would be.

13 The second campaign would cover the
14 promotion of voting early by absentee ballot, either
15 requesting one by mail or voting in person.

16 And then the final message would be
17 closer to the election and would remind voters of the
18 need to bring ID with them to the polls when they
19 come to vote.

20 Obviously, as everyone on this panel
21 knows because of their other roles in politics,
22 television advertising in a presidential election
23 year is very, very expensive, which is why this
24 package is as expensive as it is. It's also larger

1 than we even estimated last year. But as the
2 campaigns have done in the past, they have always
3 broadcast on cable television, radio advertisements,
4 and print advertisements as well.

5 Staff's recommendation would be to
6 continue to use a bipartisan team of media
7 consultants so that no one can argue that the
8 campaign is benefiting one party over the other or
9 one group of voters over the other.

10 Any questions on the voter education
11 campaign?

12 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, Matt,
13 is it going to have -- is any federal money out there
14 for that?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: HAVA money.
16 The availability of HAVA money for voter
17 registration?

18 MS. THOMSEN: I'm not sure exactly how it
19 could be done. I would have to check into that.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I know in
21 2006 part of our voter education campaign relative to
22 the use of the voting machines was partially offset
23 by HAVA funds, and if such funds were available this
24 year, that would be great. But I'm not aware if

1 any -- maybe, Kathy, if you could check.

2 MS. THOMSEN: I'll check and see.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That would
4 be great.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What was the
6 advertising budget in 2004; do you remember?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I don't
8 recall in 2004. 2004 was just a soft get-out-to-vote
9 message, prominently featured the chairmen of the two
10 major political parties in Franklin County.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I didn't get any
12 offers after that.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It was well
14 received I'm sure.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I hired agents and
16 everything.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Any other
18 questions of voter education?

19 (No response.)

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Full-time
21 employee wages and overtime. There are two
22 categories for which we are seeking supplemental
23 appropriations and that's, one is just for what I'll
24 call baseline full-time employee salaries, and then

1 also for comp. time payouts that have been made
2 already this year for full-time employees and for
3 comp. time that's currently on the books; that amount
4 is \$422,204. Questions on that?

5 (No response.)

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Part-time
7 employee wages and overtime. We were budgeted for
8 2008 and our part-time employee budget for 2008 was
9 appropriated and set at the 2006 actual level. We
10 have activities for which we're requiring part-time
11 employees that are greater this year than 2006.

12 For the period January through May of
13 this year voter registration forms are coming in at a
14 pace 25 percent higher than the same time period in
15 2004, obviously, that requires a greater number of
16 part-time employees; the increased absentee ballot
17 locations that we'll have to process this fall; not
18 to mention the five or six statewide petitions that
19 we'll have to check this fall when they're filed.

20 So clearly the Board and OMB
21 underestimated. We think we knew that we were
22 lowballing it setting our 2008 budget request at 2006
23 actual levels. So in reviewing it Brenna, Denny, and
24 I think that 477,000 is probably a reasonable number

1 to request.

2 Ballots. Paper ballot printing. Because
3 of the number of statewide issues going into 2008
4 with the information we had, expecting Columbus bond
5 issues again, we budgeted for all of our absentee
6 ballots to be three-page ballots. It's pretty likely
7 at this point, with three statewide issues for sure
8 and four or five or six being circulated right now,
9 that it will probably bump over to a fourth page for
10 absentee.

11 Additionally, with the directive from
12 last year requiring all provisional ballots be cast
13 on paper, that adds a fourth page to all of those we
14 had to put in the precincts. And also the Director
15 issued for the primary we had to provide a paper
16 ballot option. We learned in a conference that --
17 that directive was only for the primary, but it's
18 reasonable to expect at this point that a similar
19 directive will be issued for the fall.

20 The Secretary of State did do a
21 reimbursement plan or program for the primary
22 partially reimbursing counties for the cost of the
23 paper ballot backup. I would guess, my personal
24 opinion, which is Matt Damschroder, my guess is there

1 will be a similar program this fall if a directive is
2 issued requiring a paper ballot voting option for
3 voters on voter day in the precinct.

4 Our estimations between the increased
5 pages for absentee, the increased pages for
6 provisional ballots on election day, and the election
7 day paper ballot options, that that will be
8 \$628,766 in paper ballot printing.

9 And then finally --

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I had a question
11 on that.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah.

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair. The
14 first question is what is the size of these paper
15 ballots now?

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Is Karen
17 here?

18 MS. COTTON: 17 inches.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: 8-1/2 by
20 17.

21 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: 8-1/2 by 17. Are
22 they printed on both front and back?

23 MS. COTTON: Yes.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: They run

1 about 30 cents a page.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The other question
3 is, because I know there was some confusion about the
4 person requesting a paper ballot and a person
5 requesting a provisional ballot, are we going to --
6 and they're both the same looking ballot. Are we
7 going to make any kind of delineation between what a
8 provisional ballot should look like, just maybe the
9 color? Because I had the same information,
10 somehow --

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The
12 ballot --

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: It has the same
14 information on it.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The ballot
16 by the constraints of state law as it has been
17 interpreted to me from an e-mail from the Secretary
18 of State's office last year, that the actual physical
19 ballot is not different. It still says "Official
20 November 4th, 2008, General Election Ballot."

21 What we're going to do, at least in some
22 of the experiences we had in the primary this year
23 where we literally had about 60 days to prepare and
24 tried to get poll workers to prepare for the paper

1 ballot option, on election day when voters check in
2 at the table and they are told that they -- and they
3 want paper ballots or electronic ballots, they'll
4 show their ID, sign the paperwork for the poll
5 worker, and then will be directed then to a paper
6 ballot table where a separate set of judges will
7 handle the processing of provisional ballots and
8 election day paper ballot option ballots.

9 What we're going to do to help the poll
10 workers distinguish between the two activities, the
11 provisional voting and election day paper ballot
12 option voting, is we're going to give them two
13 different sets of envelopes that are colored
14 differently and in different print. One will be --
15 Correct me if I'm wrong, Stan -- a yellow provisional
16 envelope that will have the provisional application
17 printed on it, and the other one is --

18 MR. WAYNE: Tan.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- tan that
20 will have printed on it the election day --

21 MR. WAYNE: "Paper Ballot Privacy
22 Option," something to that nature.

23 FROM THE FLOOR: Envelope.

24 MR. WAYNE: Yes, "Privacy Envelope."

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: So whether
2 or not that confusion on election day in the primary
3 is widespread or not, we don't know for sure, but we
4 do know it did happen that in some instances, either
5 voters who were doing a paper ballot option directive
6 2008 directive, someone had to vote provisionally
7 instead of a paper ballot, or the voter had to fight
8 for the opportunity to do that. So we're hoping that
9 our new training procedures and our new material on
10 election day will help eliminate the chances of that
11 happening.

12 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Did we have to
13 increase our training budget for that? Is that part
14 of this request?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yes. And
16 that's under the next category of Miscellaneous.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I bring it up
18 because that really, I mean, I heard from a lot of
19 folks who were confused about that.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah.
21 Well, and it was confusing. And our poll worker
22 training manual had already been printed, and we had
23 to print looseleaf supplemental -- Stan, correct me
24 if I'm wrong -- supplemental instructions on how to

1 handle that. It was a good training class, but --
2 now that we have had the benefit of the spring and
3 summer to prepare for it, I think we're going to be
4 better able to implement the directive should it
5 come.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay. All right.
7 Thanks, Matt. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The last
9 category is miscellaneous use of materials and
10 supplies. To assist us in checking all these
11 statewide petitions, in addition to using part-time
12 staff we also bring in some contract labor. We need
13 to -- this increase of \$103,012 for miscellaneous
14 materials and supplies would include that.

15 It would also cover a flip chart that
16 we've -- that "we" being Mary and Stan, have
17 developed that will assist poll workers and voters on
18 election day with resolving identification problems
19 and provisional ballot problems, and also -- yes,
20 Bill -- that question about if I'm choosing a ballot,
21 is it provisional or a regular paper ballot, it goes
22 in a tan envelope.

23 Also this money will fund a project that
24 we're doing this summer. In August -- Stan -- we've

1 identified poll workers in precincts that had some
2 kind of problem on election day in March. "Problems"
3 being defined as we have reports that they didn't
4 process voter IDs correctly, or didn't process
5 provisional ballots correctly, or had trouble opening
6 machines. There's about, I think 2-, 300 people --
7 Mary?

8 MS. HACKETT: We're hoping, yeah.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- that
10 we've identified that will be required to come back
11 to a special training class this summer in August so
12 they can get focused and specialized training on
13 areas that they demonstrated problems with in the
14 primary. So that additional funding will also cover
15 that.

16 So the request in terms of what the total
17 dollar number is in terms of a supplemental
18 request -- oh, I should also say it's listed in the
19 executive summary with the new version.

20 I think it's worth noting, Brenna pointed
21 out as she was reviewing the budget, the Board of
22 Elections in odd numbered years is able to charge
23 back to municipalities, townships, and school
24 districts the cost of running elections in odd

1 numbered years. Then the county budgeting process
2 assigns a number in terms of the revenue it expects
3 to gain from those charge-backs, and where we're at
4 so far this fiscal year is about \$600,000 in revenue
5 greater to the county general fund than the OMB
6 anticipated receiving as a result of diligence of our
7 office in assessing the cost to, again, those
8 municipalities, townships, and school districts.

9 So while our request for supplemental
10 funding is significant, while it's not directly
11 offset on balance sheet by increased revenue, I think
12 it is worth noting at least for the record and for
13 the conversations that we'll be having with the
14 Commissioners and staff that I think that has to at
15 least be taken into some consideration. While we're
16 needing excess funding, we've also generated revenue
17 in greater numbers than expected.

18 End of presentation. Unless, Brenna,
19 unless you have anything to add.

20 I kind of put together the narrative, she
21 has the numbers to back all that up, and she can go
22 into depth on any of those categories if you like.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: From the draft and
24 today's document it was a pretty significant drop in

1 the full-time employees' wages and overtime estimate.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
3 there was two versions that were sent out last
4 Thursday, sent out an initial version that was
5 created from the porch lakeside, and then I sent it
6 to the board members and Brenna and she corrected a
7 couple of the numbers where I had added incorrectly.

8 MS. UMBSTAETTER: They were calculation
9 corrections. The actual expense that we projected
10 has not changed.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, I move
12 that the Board authorize the Director and the Deputy
13 Director to petition the Franklin County Board of
14 Commissioners for supplemental funding to cover the
15 necessary and proper expenses of the Board of
16 Elections for the balance of fiscal year 2008.

17 Is there a new amount there? Is it
18 \$2,219,211?

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Well, it
20 depends on what we do for in-person absentee voting.
21 If we're at Vets Memorial, my expectation is that the
22 total package is 2,180,334.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: What if we're not?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: If we're at

1 City Center, we're back to that number from --

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The 2,219,211?

3 MS. UMBSTAETTER: Yes.

4 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I'm using the
5 figure \$2,219,211.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That was my
8 motion.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I will second that
10 motion with the revised number.

11 There's nothing we're voting on here that
12 would tie our hands to continue negotiating trying to
13 figure out if we can go to Vets and stay there
14 through the duration of the voting period.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That's
16 correct.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So I second that
18 motion.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Is there
20 any discussion on the motion?

21 (No response.)

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Call for a
23 vote. All in favor of the motion, say "aye."

24 (All ayes heard.)

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All
2 opposed, say "nay."

3 (No response.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Okay.
5 Thank you.

6 Denny and I will continue conversations
7 with the Commission staff to assure in-person
8 absentee voting at Vets, and I'll circulate a final
9 version of the memo to you all so you can see how --
10 I'll change the narrative in there about Vets and
11 City Center numbers and send it out to you as a
12 report to the Commissioners.

13 The next motion is we're going to have to
14 amend our travel and food policy at some point in the
15 future. We don't have the revisions ready today.
16 There are two expenses that were incurred, that have
17 been incurred, first is food expense reimbursement
18 for Mr. Fielder who purchased doughnuts for supply
19 pick-up day and election morning, and then also
20 SparkSpace where we held a mandatory manager's
21 meeting to prepare for the fall, coffee and bagels
22 there.

23 And the Auditor requests -- in the past
24 we had a policy that the Board gave the Deputy

1 Director a blanket authorization to approve these
2 kind of reimbursements for food. The Auditor, that's
3 why we're having to revise our policy because the
4 Auditor doesn't like it and they want --

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: They don't?

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: At this
7 point in time, until we have a new policy, they want
8 an individual approval of these two expenses. I
9 think the doughnuts between the two days was 80
10 bucks.

11 MS. UMBSTAETTER: Between 80 and 90.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And the
13 bagels and coffee and doughnuts and stuff at the
14 conference site was 250, 220, something like that.

15 MS. UMBSTAETTER: 394.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: What was
17 it?

18 MS. UMBSTAETTER: 394.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It was more
20 expensive.

21 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
22 move that the Board approve the food expenses for
23 Harold Fielder for supply pick-up and election day,
24 and to SparkSpace for a mandatory managers planning

1 meeting.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Kim, I just
3 thought of something.

4 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I wondered too.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I was
6 thinking about that we have somebody else make that
7 motion. You abstained on that.

8 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Okay.

9 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Then I will move
10 that the Board -- was that a motion?

11 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I withdraw the
12 motion.

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: You withdraw the
14 motion. Then I will move that the Board approve the
15 food expenses for Harold Fielder for supply pick-up
16 and election day, and to SparkSpace for a mandatory
17 managers planning meeting.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: A second?

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Second.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We'll do a
21 roll call vote. Mr. Anthony.

22 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Mr. Colley.

24 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Yes.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Ms.
2 Marinello.

3 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Abstain.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Chairman
5 Preisse.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Motion
8 carries.

9 Two final items to be addressed we talked
10 about in executive session, and then also absentee
11 voting, we can address this at a later meeting, but
12 staff wants to establish a set schedule for in-person
13 absentee voting hours of operation. Staff's
14 recommendation is Monday through Friday going 8 a.m.
15 to 7 p.m., and then all of the Saturdays from 9 a.m.
16 to 5 p.m.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: How late did we
18 stay open last time? We had special session for a
19 couple days, right? The weekend?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The
21 Saturday before we stayed open until noon, but
22 because of the line we didn't get the last person
23 through the line until about 4 o'clock.

24 Then on Sunday the Board met and extended

1 the hours on Sunday to 9 p.m.? 7 p.m.?

2 Karen, do you remember?

3 MS. COTTON: 9 p.m.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And it took
5 us until about 11:30 p.m. to get everybody through.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Are we going to be
7 open on -- I'm sorry.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That's all
9 right. Go ahead.

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Are we going to be
11 open on Sunday? I don't see Sundays in here at all.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: This
13 schedule does not contemplate Sundays.

14 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Are you thinking
15 about contemplating Sundays?

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
17 staff's recommendation, and Todd is on vacation or
18 else I would have him speak directly to it, I think
19 staff's recommendation is that it's important for all
20 of our staff to at least have a day where we're able
21 to catch up, even though we probably will all still
22 be working, to not have to have activities that
23 engage the public; we can be here finishing up tasks
24 that have to be completed. Especially that Sunday

1 before the election.

2 I think doing Saturday, Sunday, Monday is
3 not going to give staff the time to accomplish all
4 our tasks before the election with what little rest
5 they'll be able to gather.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I think we need to
7 talk about that because I'm not, I mean, I think when
8 we talk about it, we can think about the voter's
9 access to being able to --

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We can revisit that.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: We still have time
12 to revisit that once you find a location.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We don't know where
14 they're sending them.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: We don't know
16 where they're going to vote. We need to talk about
17 that because Sunday is a pretty big day.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We did not
19 vote anybody on Sunday in the primary. Saturday was
20 a big day.

21 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: But we stayed open
22 later than 7 o'clock.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Well, we
24 closed, but people were still in line. We didn't

1 turn anybody away who was in line. Still took three
2 hours to get the last person through the line.

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Can we talk about
4 that?

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Absolutely.
6 And since there appears to be some concern, we could
7 bring the motion forward as is and it could succeed
8 or fail or be in a tie, or we could put it on the
9 agenda for the next meeting.

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, I make
11 a motion that we table this and we move it to the
12 next meeting.

13 MR. PICCININNI: A motion has to be made
14 before it's tabled.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That's right.
16 Thank you, sir.

17 MR. PICCININNI: No problem.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Another option is to
19 pass it as is and revisit it. If we're moving
20 forward for purposes of the staff, is it helpful to
21 pass as is and then revisit or --

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think for
23 staff purposes adding Sunday dramatically changes the
24 planning in terms of scheduling employees and things

1 like that, so it would almost I think, from a staff
2 perspective, I think it would be better to wait until
3 we have a full schedule because we're not going to
4 do, in terms of promotion, things like that, you
5 know, we're not ready, but we do need to decide that
6 at the next meeting. No later than the next meeting.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair, part of
8 the reason -- not doubts, I have some concerns about
9 this is that we know there's all kinds of groups out
10 there, out there every year, and this is not just our
11 staff we've got to be concerned about, it's the
12 public, and I think we are -- remind me who of us get
13 some input from some of those folks. At least talk
14 about it because, you know, once we decide, we get
15 the word out exactly what the time and the dates are
16 just so everybody knows. There won't be the
17 last-minute stuff that we had last time.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Right.

19 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The court order or
20 whatever it was. So that's my concern.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, inasmuch as you
22 were slated to make the motion, and I note here
23 you're making it, I hate that we're not going to
24 address the issue at this meeting.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Obviously,
2 if anybody else wants to make the motion, you can.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Right.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: With
5 Mr. Anthony's statement it would probably end in a
6 2-2 vote.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: And we can resolve
8 it at the meeting in a couple weeks. We can get it
9 resolved. Thank you, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. I would like
11 to, in the interest of harmonious relations with our
12 friends at the Board of County Commissioners and on
13 the advice of our counsel, I move that we authorize
14 the Director and Deputy Director of the Board of
15 Elections to provide to County Administrators written
16 and verbal communication between the Deputy Director
17 and Director and the Prosecuting Attorney's office
18 regarding the Board of Elections compensatory policy.

19 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I second.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All those
21 in favor, say "aye."

22 (All ayes heard.)

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Motion
24 carries. There is no other planned business to come

1 before the Board. Does anybody have any questions
2 that they would like to bring forward?

3 (No response.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: A motion to
5 adjourn would be in order.

6 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I move to
7 adjourn.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Is there a
9 second?

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Second.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We're
12 adjourned.

13 (The meeting concluded at 5:10 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Monday, July 7, 2008, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Maria DiPaolo Jones
Maria DiPaolo Jones, Registered
Diplomate Reporter and CRR and
Notary Public in and for the
State of Ohio.

My commission expires June 19, 2011.

(MDJ-3218)

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