



1 APPEARANCES:

2 Office of Ron O'Brien  
3 Franklin County  
4 Prosecuting Attorney  
5 373 South High Street  
6 Columbus, Ohio 43215  
7 By Mr. Patrick J. Piccininni,

8 On behalf of the Board.  
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2                   P R O C E E D I N G S

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4                   CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I would like  
5 to call the Franklin County Board of  
6 Elections meeting to order.

7                   MR. DAMSCHRODER: Roll call.  
8 Ms. Marinello?

9                   MS. MARINELLO: Here.

10                  MR. DAMSCHRODER: Ms. Petree?

11                  MS. PETREE: Here.

12                  MR. DAMSCHRODER: Chairman  
13 Anthony?

14                  CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Here.

15                  MR. DAMSCHRODER: Mr. Colley is  
16 not in attendance today.

17                  The first order of the agenda is  
18 to approve the minutes of previous  
19 meetings.

20                  CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I will  
21 entertain a motion.

22                  MS. MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
23 move that the minutes of the meetings of  
24 the Board held on April 30th, 2007 and

1 June 4th, 2007 be approved as submitted.

2 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
3 second?

4 MS. PETREE: I second.

5 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All in favor,  
6 say aye.

7 (Unanimous aye.)

8 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion  
9 carries.

10 The next item on the agenda, I  
11 think, as all the Board members know from  
12 information we mailed to you, Phil Harmon,  
13 who was qualified by the City of Columbus,  
14 filed with the Board of Elections a  
15 protest of the candidacy of Hearcel  
16 Craig. That original protest was filed on  
17 June 18th. An amendment to the protest  
18 was filed on June 22nd.

19 This is a little bit of an  
20 unusual situation than normally. Protests  
21 are filed shortly after the Board actually  
22 issues its certification for the ballot  
23 and petitions filed. Given the unusual  
24 circumstances of this protest I think it

1 would be in order for the Board to  
2 actually, formally decide to actually hear  
3 the protest before we proceed with getting  
4 into the meat of the protest.

5 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Then I will  
6 entertain a motion to hear the protest  
7 submitted by Mr. Harmon.

8 (No audible response)

9 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Hearing none,  
10 I guess it's a moot point. It cannot be  
11 heard before this Board.

12 MR. DAMSCHRODER: That's  
13 correct.

14 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: What's the  
15 next item on the agenda?

16 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Moving on to  
17 the rest of the agenda, we will deal with  
18 personnel matters.

19 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Do we need to  
20 go into executive session?

21 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Why don't we  
22 do that. We can talk about the hiring and  
23 firing and promotion of employees in  
24 executive session before coming back into

1 public session.

2 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I make a  
3 motion that the Board go into executive  
4 session to discuss personnel matters.

5 Do I hear a second?

6 MS. PETREE: Second.

7 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Roll call  
8 vote.

9 Ms. Marinello?

10 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.

11 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Ms.  
12 Petree?

13 MS. PETREE: Yes.

14 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Chairman  
15 Anthony?

16 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Yes.

17 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We are in  
18 executive session.

19 (Brief break in proceedings)

20 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I would like  
21 move to come out of executive session.

22 No matters were voted on or  
23 agreed upon during executive session.

24 Is there a second?

1 MS. PETREE: I second.

2 MR. DAMSCHRODER:

3 Ms. Marinello?

4 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.

5 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Ms. Petree?

6 MS. PETREE: Yes.

7 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Chairman

8 Anthony?

9 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Yes.

10 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We are back in  
11 public session.

12 The next item on the agenda is  
13 the personnel agenda.

14 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Then I will  
15 entertain a motion.

16 MS. PETREE: Mr. Chairman, I  
17 move to accept the resignation of Beth  
18 Kyle Fields as a full-time employee of the  
19 Board of Elections effective July 8, 2007,  
20 and to permit the Director and Deputy  
21 Director to hire her as a part-time  
22 employee.

23 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
24 second?

1 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All those in  
3 favor, say aye.

4 (Unanimous aye)

5 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion  
6 carries.

7 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I move to  
8 increase the annual compensation of  
9 Brenna, B-r-e-n-n-a, Umbstaetter,  
10 U-m-b-s-t-a-e-t-t-e-r, by \$5,000  
11 retroactive to April 1st, 2007.

12 Is there a second?

13 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All those in  
15 favor, say aye.

16 (Unanimous aye)

17 MR. DAMSCHRODER: And the next,  
18 we have not given part-time seasonal  
19 employees an hourly wage increase for  
20 about three years. Maybe it would be four  
21 years at this point.

22 We need to add additional years  
23 of service ranges for compensation. This  
24 motion is a little bit tedious only

1 because there are a lot of ranges and  
2 compensation per hour for each range, but  
3 we have to read it into the record, I  
4 believe.

5 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Then I will  
6 entertain a motion.

7 MS. MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
8 move that the Board establish the  
9 following hourly compensation schedule for  
10 part-time employees effective July 9,  
11 2007: Starting pay, \$9.79 per hour; after  
12 four elections, \$10.30 per hour; after  
13 eight elections, \$10.82 per hour; after  
14 twelve elections, \$11.33 per hour; after  
15 16 elections, \$11.85 per hour; after  
16 twenty elections, \$12.36 per hour; after  
17 twenty-four elections, \$12.88 per hour;  
18 after twenty-eight elections, \$13.39 per  
19 hour; after thirty-two elections, \$13.91  
20 per hour; after thirty-six elections,  
21 \$14.42 per hour; and after forty  
22 elections, \$14.94 per hour.

23 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
24 second?

1 MS. PETREE: I second that.

2 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All those in  
3 favor, say aye.

4 (Unanimous aye)

5 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion  
6 carries.

7 On to the fiscal portion of the  
8 agenda, we have three contracts that need  
9 to be approved. Two of the contracts are  
10 with Elections Systems and Software. One  
11 is for the maintenance agreement. The  
12 other one is the license and support  
13 agreement. And then the third contract is  
14 with Sequoia Voting Systems for the voter  
15 registration system for the license and  
16 support for this year.

17 There are a couple of items that  
18 the Prosecuting Attorney's Office still  
19 has to work out. They are minor with the  
20 vendors in terms of contract language, but  
21 would like to get the Board's approval to  
22 authorize the execution of these  
23 agreements, pending final approval from  
24 the Prosecuting Attorney as to the

1 language and form.

2 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I will  
3 entertain a motion.

4 MS. PETREE: Mr. Chairman, I  
5 move that the Board approve support and  
6 maintenance contracts with Election  
7 Systems and Software and Sequoia Voting  
8 Systems, subject to final contract  
9 approval by the Prosecuting Attorney, and  
10 authorize the Director and Deputy Director  
11 to execute said contracts on behalf of the  
12 Board.

13 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
14 second?

15 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All those in  
17 favor, say aye.

18 (Unanimous aye)

19 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion  
20 carries.

21 The last two resolutions in this  
22 category have to do with budgetary  
23 matters. I think, as all of you know, we  
24 sent it to all of you. The Secretary of

1 State issued a pretty radical directive  
2 earlier this year that prohibits further  
3 use of the voting machines for provisional  
4 ballots. As you will recall, one of the  
5 reasons we selected the electronic voting  
6 machines was that we could do provisional  
7 voting on the touch screens.

8 We have looked at the cost of  
9 implementing her decision. Well, first,  
10 we asked her to reconsider her decision  
11 and create a waiver program so we could  
12 continue using the system as we have  
13 successfully used it thus far and as we  
14 intended to when we purchased it.

15 Instead of granting the waiver  
16 she reaffirmed her directive. Our initial  
17 estimates are it's going to cost us \$1  
18 million this fiscal year in unbudgeted  
19 funds to buy the secure ballot transport  
20 equipment that we need to have to get the  
21 printed ballots from the Board out to the  
22 precincts on election day and to secure  
23 the ballot boxes for the voters to place  
24 their votes in to bring back on election

1 night, as well as voting booths for voters  
2 to stand in to mark their ballots.

3           Again, these are unbudgeted  
4 expenses. We want to ask the  
5 commissioners for funding to buy all this  
6 equipment that the Secretary of State is  
7 now mandating us in an unfunded manner to  
8 purchase.

9           Also we are asking for  
10 additional funding for voter outreach. We  
11 have talked about the request of Bill  
12 Anthony and others, looking at our  
13 expenditures last year in terms of voter  
14 outreach. We want to keep that effort  
15 going, particularly with some increased  
16 field activities this year, and seek  
17 additional funding for that.

18           Finally, as you will recall,  
19 pending those manufacturers, an automated  
20 absentee ballot processing tracking system  
21 that the commissioners approved for us in  
22 2006 but didn't approve for this  
23 year, what we want to do is use some of  
24 the leftover poll worker compensation

1 money, precinct election officials. We  
2 want to use the leftover compensation for  
3 those folks that we didn't use in the  
4 spring because of no primary, use those  
5 funds to pay for the Pitney Bowes project  
6 this year. That will be up and running, a  
7 test election in 2007, with Pitney Bowes  
8 instead of waiting until '08.

9           The next two resolutions  
10 designate those funds in a formal fashion  
11 so the commissioners can move forward with  
12 granting us those dollars.

13           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I will  
14 entertain a motion.

15           MS. MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
16 move that the Board accept the report of  
17 the Director and designate as proper and  
18 necessary those additional expenses  
19 related to implementing Directive 2007-06,  
20 the 2007 Voter Outreach Campaign, and the  
21 acquisition of an automated absentee  
22 ballot processing and tracking system in  
23 2007.

24           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a

1 second?

2 MS. PETREE: I second.

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

5 (Unanimous aye)

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion  
7 carries.

8 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY:

9 Ms. Marinello, go ahead.

10 MS. MARINELLO: I move also that  
11 the Board authorize the Board of  
12 Commissioners to transfer \$250,000 from  
13 Account No. 10510400 to Account No.  
14 10510200 and to petition the Board of  
15 Commissioners to enter a State Term  
16 Contract with Pitney Bowes for its  
17 automated absentee ballot processing and  
18 tracking system for the benefit of the  
19 Board of Elections.

20 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
21 second?

22 MS. PETREE; I second.

23 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All those in  
24 favor, say aye.

1 (Unanimous aye)

2 MS. MARINELLO: And, Mr.

3 Chairman --

4 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Actually, Kim,  
5 I'm sorry; I think this last motion is  
6 redundant.

7 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Outreach is  
8 already in there the first time.

9 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Yes.

10 Finally, we got a call last week  
11 from a representative from the Department  
12 of Homeland Security, informing us that  
13 one of the registered voters in Franklin  
14 County was not a U.S. citizen. This  
15 person has voted three times since  
16 registering.

17 I talked with the Prosecuting  
18 Attorney. He asked that we refer this  
19 over to him for investigation and possible  
20 prosecution if necessary, based upon the  
21 allegations.

22 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Well, then I  
23 will entertain a motion.

24 MS. PETREE: Mr. Chairman, I

1 move that the Board refer Mr. Nary,  
2 N-a-r-y, Sin, S as in Sam, i-n, of 6065  
3 Tipperary, T-i-p-p-e-r-a-r-y, Drive to the  
4 Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney for  
5 investigation and possible prosecution,  
6 based upon allegations of fraudulent  
7 registration and illegal voting.

8 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
9 second?

10 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All in favor,  
12 say aye.

13 (Unanimous aye)

14 MR. DAMSCHRODER: That motion  
15 carries. We will refer that over sometime  
16 this week.

17 Finally, there are two general  
18 announcements for the Board. The first is  
19 we are going to try this fall doing two  
20 what we are going to call Vote Centers.  
21 The first will be located up in Northeast  
22 Columbus in Ward 62.

23 Basically, what this vote center  
24 will be is combining in this location 13

1 precincts in one single location.

2 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Well, the  
3 Secretary of State, is she -- how does she  
4 feel about that?

5 MR. DAMSCHRODER: This is fine  
6 with the Secretary -- what would require a  
7 law change would be to say that anybody in  
8 the county could vote at this place.  
9 Basically, instead of having 13 different  
10 voting locations for these 13  
11 precincts, we're going to have one  
12 location for the 13 precincts.

13 Voters when they come in will  
14 still have to sign in in their individual  
15 precinct poll book, but then they'll be  
16 directed to a bank of voting machines  
17 where they can vote on any machine in the  
18 location. We will also try this in  
19 Reynoldsburg.

20 They currently have a location  
21 that has seven precincts, but we have not  
22 set it up as a unified voting area. They  
23 have had seven different stations in that  
24 big union hall out there in Reynoldsburg.

1           We are going to try that in  
2     these two areas. We are going to keep the  
3     voting locations that are presently  
4     assigned in those precincts in our pocket  
5     in the event that it doesn't work and we  
6     want to go back to having individual  
7     locations.

8           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I know you do  
9     a good job of notifying everybody.

10          MR. DAMSCHRODER: We are going  
11     to send letters out. It will help us  
12     because we are going to be able to  
13     designate one person as the super  
14     presiding judge and give them extra  
15     training on machine problems and  
16     troubleshooting so that person can deal  
17     with all the problems in that precinct  
18     instead of us having to send extra people  
19     out.

20          CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there  
21     anything we should do from a party  
22     standpoint from either party to help get  
23     the word out?

24          MR. DAMSCHRODER: I don't know,

1 but Danny and I will talk about it. I am  
2 sure there is.

3 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: There will be  
4 some of these folks who will claim they  
5 didn't get it.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Right,  
7 exactly. I think what we are going to do  
8 is do two mailings for this election and  
9 also another mailing before the primary  
10 next year.

11 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: It may help  
12 each party to send info, advising them.

13 MR. DAMSCHRODER: And we will  
14 post notices at the old voting locations  
15 so that folks know.

16 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: It makes a  
17 lot of sense to me.

18 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The thought is  
19 right now we have 834 precincts and we are  
20 always growing. In fact in the August  
21 meeting I think Karen has 17 additional  
22 precincts to bring to you for precincts  
23 that have just grown too large and exceed  
24 the statutory maximum.

1           We are always growing in number  
2 of precincts. By going to this concept  
3 instead of having 832 locations, we can  
4 maybe get it down to 200 locations.  
5 Again, people would still have to go to  
6 their assigned location and sign the  
7 correct poll book, but it would help us in  
8 terms of location management.

9           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: It will  
10 probably help us with poll worker  
11 recruitment.

12           MR. DAMSCHRODER: Absolutely,  
13 poll worker recruitment and poll worker  
14 training.

15           MS. MARINELLO: I would just  
16 like to say that when I was on jury duty  
17 it was so nice to see Howard coming in  
18 there to the captive audience and talking  
19 about poll working, passing out  
20 literature, and the new voting machines  
21 and all that stuff. I thought that was  
22 such a good idea because we couldn't do  
23 anything else but listen to him.

24           MR. DAMSCHRODER: We have had a

1 lot of positive feedback from folks who  
2 appreciate our coming down to do the  
3 voting machine demonstration at jury duty.

4 MS. MARINELLO: I need to ask on  
5 this Northeast Ward 62, is that just Ward  
6 62?

7 MR. DAMSCHRODER: It will be all  
8 of Ward 62 and I think four adjacent  
9 precincts. I think it's Columbus 82. So  
10 it's all of Ward 62 and a couple other  
11 precincts from an adjacent precinct. It's  
12 basically -- and the location is going to  
13 be the Alladin Shrine Auditorium over on  
14 Stelzer. It's going to be pretty much in  
15 that area from Sunbury Road to 270 from  
16 161 down to -- not quite to Agler.

17 So it's a pretty big chunk of  
18 the rectangle there. They will all vote.

19 MR. PICCININNI: Will that be a  
20 collection point too?

21 MR. DAMSCHRODER: No. I can  
22 give the Board members maps of what the  
23 precincts affected are.

24 MS. PETREE: Will they go in

1 that front door?

2 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Actually, I  
3 think it will be in the back. There is  
4 kind of a newer facility, a large,  
5 multi-purpose auditorium in the back  
6 behind the main hall.

7 MS. PETREE: Oh, yeah.

8 Is there a handicap ramp in the  
9 back?

10 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Yes, it is  
11 handicap accessible in the back. There  
12 will be signs pointing people to the back.

13 Finally, on the agenda I wanted  
14 to let you know that last Friday we put a  
15 bid, a contract for bid, up through the  
16 County Purchasing Department. After '04,  
17 as you will recall, one of the things we  
18 talked about in our report to the  
19 community was upgrading our phone system.

20 Through the support of the  
21 County Commissioners we were able to  
22 upgrade portions of that phone system in  
23 2006. What that upgrade allowed us to do  
24 for the first time ever was gather

1 statistics about our call volume.

2 One of the things we found  
3 through that was that our capacity in  
4 terms of live operators is wholly  
5 insufficient to meet the demand. In one  
6 day -- I'll botch the total number, so I  
7 won't give it to you.

8 On average in the absentee  
9 department last year we answered 55  
10 percent of the calls of people that tried  
11 to call us.

12 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: That's not  
13 good at all.

14 MR. DAMSCHRODER: In terms of  
15 the general vote calls, such as people  
16 calling to ask where their voting location  
17 is and those kinds of issues, we did  
18 better but not good enough. We cracked  
19 just 90 percent.

20 We are talking about literally  
21 over a 100,000 phone calls in a very brief  
22 30-day period. As Denny and I looked at  
23 it, our one option was to hire people here  
24 to answer the phones.

1           We looked at that from a problem  
2 standpoint because we didn't have anywhere  
3 to put them. For every person we hired we  
4 had to buy a phone and we had to buy a  
5 computer.

6           We are putting out to bid a  
7 contract to hire a third-party call center  
8 that handles this kind of work for other  
9 businesses where Bell -- the phone calls  
10 would come into our system. The caller  
11 can use the automated system if they want  
12 to or be transferred to a live operator at  
13 the call center. They will have all the  
14 same training that our staff does. They  
15 will have an Internet site for voter  
16 hookups and things like that.

17           They will have all the same  
18 information there that we have here and  
19 they will be able to handle those  
20 questions, and we will still be the backup  
21 for them. If there is an issue they can't  
22 resolve, a problem, then they will still  
23 come to our staff after that.

24           We looked at this from a

1 logistic and from a cost standpoint to  
2 probably be our best bet. There are a  
3 couple of folks on state term contract for  
4 this, but we thought we wanted to broaden  
5 it out and see if we could get some other  
6 folks.

7           We did put in some requirements  
8 that the location be physically housed  
9 within 150 miles of Columbus so we don't  
10 get into any calls forwarded to India or  
11 something like that, and that the callers  
12 have clear, English-speaking skills, but  
13 also that they be able to support  
14 non-English languages as well in the event  
15 we get callers needing assistance in a  
16 language other than English.

17           It's out right now. We will be  
18 bringing that to you later this summer for  
19 review and approval.

20           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: That makes  
21 sense. That's good work.

22           MR. PICCININNI: I hope our  
23 phone system doesn't crash.

24           MR. DAMSCHRODER: I hope so,

1 because this has been a lingering problem  
2 for us.

3 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: For a long,  
4 long time. We have probably never had the  
5 capacity to be able to do it.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: That's  
7 correct.

8 These numbers that we have don't  
9 even track yet the people who call and get  
10 a busy signal. The numbers we have are  
11 just people that got into the system. We  
12 have asked AT&T who is now, I think,  
13 called something else.

14 MR. PICCININNI: SBC is now  
15 AT&T.

16 MR. DAMSCHRODER: That's  
17 correct.

18 We have asked AT&T to now start  
19 tracking for us the calls that back up in  
20 their system, so it may be an even greater  
21 problem than we know. But the good news  
22 of having numbers is that we know how to  
23 fix the problem.

24 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Well, thank

1 you.

2 MS. PETREE: Will we try this  
3 this fall?

4 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I wanted to  
5 try this fall, but we don't think we can  
6 have the contract up in time. We will  
7 start training with them this fall.

8 We will have representatives on  
9 Election Day to get a sense for the kinds  
10 of calls that we get. We will have it up  
11 and running for the primary. The primary  
12 numbers aren't nearly as voluminous.

13 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: If that is  
14 all before us, I will entertain a motion  
15 to adjourn.

16 MS. PETREE: Mr. Chairman, I  
17 move to adjourn.

18 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
19 second?

20 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All in favor,  
22 say aye.

23 (Unanimous aye)

24 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: We are

1 adjourned.

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Thereupon, the proceeding was

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concluded at 3:45 o'clock p.m.

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## 1 CERTIFICATE

2 I, Patricia W. White, Court Reporter  
3 and Notary Public in and for the State of  
4 Ohio, do hereby certify that I reported  
5 the foregoing proceedings and that the  
6 foregoing transcript of such proceedings  
7 is a full, true and correct transcript of  
8 my stenotypy notes as so taken.

9 I do further certify that I was  
10 called there in the capacity of a Court  
11 Reporter, and am not otherwise interested  
12 in this proceeding.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
14 set my hand and affixed my seal of office  
15 at Columbus, Ohio, on this 16th day of  
16 July, 2007.

17 Patricia W. White

18 PATRICIA W. WHITE, Notary Public -  
19 State of Ohio.

20 My commission expires May 30, 2012.  
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23  
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