

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

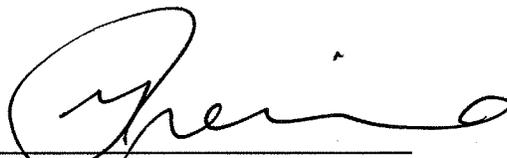
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

5/5/08

APPROVED ON

7/7/08

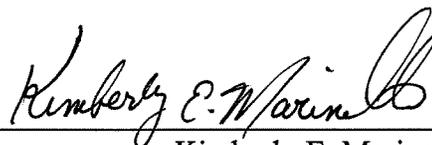
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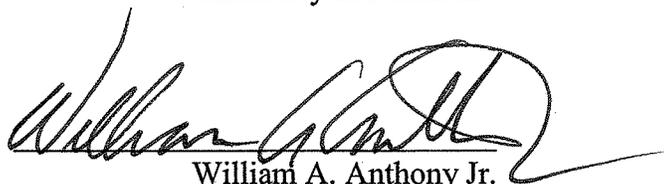
Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman



Michael F. Colley, Esq.



Kimberly E. Marinello



William A. Anthony Jr.

ATTEST:



Dennis L. White, Director

MATI DAMSCHROER,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

1 ORIGINAL

2 PROCEEDINGS OF: Board Meeting

3 DATE OF DELIVERY: May 21, 2008

4 Board of Elections of
5 Franklin County, Ohio
6 280 East Broad Street
7 Columbus, Ohio 43215
8 By Ms. Suzanne Brown,
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Ms. Suzanne Brown

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Office of the Prosecutor
3 Franklin County, Ohio
4 373 South High Street
5 Columbus, Ohio 43215
6 By Mr. Nick Soulas,

7 On behalf of the Board.

8 ALSO PRESENT:

9 Ms. Catherine Thompson
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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Let's come to
5 order.

6 Roll call?

7 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Mr. Colley?

8 MR. COLLEY: Here.

9 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Ms.
10 Marinello?

11 MS. MARINELLO: Here.

12 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Chairman
13 Preisse?

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

15 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We have three
16 members and a quorum.

17 The first item on the agenda is
18 approval of a number of minutes of the
19 Board from February, March, and April.

20 MS. MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
21 move that the minutes of the meetings of
22 the Board held on February 4th, 2008,
23 February 14th, 2008, February 19th, 2008,
24 March 2nd, 2008, March 5th, 2008, March

1 31st, 2008, and April 4th, 2008 be
2 approved as submitted.

3 MR. COLLEY: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All in favor,
5 say aye.

6 (Unanimous aye)

7 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion
8 carries.

9 The next item is a Challenge of
10 Right to Vote and Correction of
11 Registration List that was filed with our
12 office. We have changed the way we handle
13 some of these internally, so hopefully we
14 will be able to possibly reduce the number
15 that come before the Board.

16 This one is a Correction of
17 Registration List that is required due to
18 a data entry error on our office's part.
19 We keyed it wrong, so this correction
20 would move Ms. Cartharn to the correct
21 voting address.

22 MS. MARINELLO: I move that the
23 Board grant the Challenge of Right to Vote
24 and Correction of Registration List filed

1 by Terry W. McDonald of 2102 Middlehurst
2 Drive against Brenda L. Cartharn
3 purportedly of 2102 Middlehurst Drive and
4 order that Brenda L. Cartharn's
5 registration be immediately changed in
6 Franklin County to reflect her proper
7 registration at 2192 Middlehurst Drive.

8 MR. COLLEY: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All in favor,
10 say aye.

11 (Unanimous aye)

12 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion
13 carries.

14 That's all of the official
15 business we have, but I do want to bring
16 you up to speed on some other things going
17 on. I think you all have in your packet a
18 copy of the preliminary report filed by
19 the independent auditors, who oversaw a
20 post-election audit of the paper tapes and
21 paper ballots from the Primary Election.
22 They detail in this report the process.

23 I think the most important thing
24 to recognize is on the second page in the

1 middle that, quote, "No discrepancies in
2 counts were found."

3 As a result of the hand
4 inspection, the paper tapes and paper
5 ballots, there was 100 percent accuracy of
6 the voting system used here in Franklin
7 County.

8 MS. MARINELLO: Cheers!

9 MR. DAMSCHRODER: That is the
10 preliminary report and a few other odds
11 and ends they are reviewing. They will
12 submit a formal written report at the
13 conclusion of their official process. It
14 took about -- it was about 1,700 hours of
15 personnel time that was devoted to this
16 project over a little bit more than a week
17 to do the hand inspection of paper tapes,
18 counting the poll books, and hand
19 inspection of paper ballots as well. It
20 was a very worthwhile endeavor to test the
21 accuracy of our voting system going into
22 this fall.

23 Any questions on that item?

24 (No audible response)

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What is the
2 next step in terms -- you mentioned there
3 are a few other things here under
4 consideration in this document, which I
5 haven't read yet, subsequent communication
6 you were going to comment on?

7 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Yes. I think
8 they want to expand their comment from
9 what is listed in the preliminary report.
10 I think they have also expressed an
11 interest in reviewing some of our internal
12 procedures as it relates to ballot
13 security, chain of custody, and so those
14 kinds of things. We will certainly comply
15 with that. I have no reason based on the
16 preliminary report or previous activities
17 that we would find any of those would be
18 out of order.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I guess the
20 Secretary of State will be ordering all
21 the boards to examine their security
22 procedures. I heard it in a training
23 session last week.

24 MR. DAMSCHRODER: That's my

1 understanding, yes, but I don't think we
2 have received an official notice at this
3 point.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I was just
5 wondering if there might end up being an
6 intersection between what they are saying
7 and commenting on here and what we will be
8 called upon to do to self examine.

9 MR. DAMSCHRODER: There may very
10 well be.

11 Do we know when that directive
12 order will be coming out?

13 MS. THOMPSON: Currently we are
14 working with twelve members of the OAO. I
15 am sure you already have past security
16 procedures in place. Hopefully, it should
17 be rather soon.

18 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Thank you,
19 Catherine.

20 I also want to bring you up to
21 speed a little bit about our budget. I
22 think Brenna has put together a year to
23 date for you.

24 When Denny returns from vacation

1 he and I will be meeting with the County
2 Administrator. There are four things we
3 are particularly concerned about in terms
4 of our current budget appropriation.

5 The first item is as it relates
6 to voter education for the fall. The
7 commissioners have only appropriated
8 \$350,000 for a fall voter education
9 campaign. Denny and I have talked with
10 Gene Pearce and Don Spicer, a team of
11 Republican and Democrat, who have helped
12 us in the past do our voter education
13 campaign and identified three distinct
14 messages that we would like to try to
15 communicate, the first being the deadline
16 for voter registration; the second being
17 the requirements and deadlines associated
18 with early voting, absentee voting; and
19 the third being requirements of election
20 day voter identification.

21 Their preliminary budget to do
22 three messages based on estimated TV and
23 radio buy time this fall is about
24 \$850,000, which if we were going to do all

1 three messages would require a
2 supplemental appropriation of about a half
3 million dollars. That's one issue we will
4 be talking to the budget staff about.

5 The other is our personnel costs
6 particularly as relates to part-time
7 employees. We had a very large
8 expenditure of funds in the primary for
9 personnel, mostly as it related to the
10 increased volume of absentee voting. Our
11 initial budget process we anticipated
12 150,000. Absentee ballots for the primary
13 we only had 125,000. All that takes a
14 great deal of people to handle that
15 process.

16 We will be looking for
17 supplemental appropriations for personnel,
18 also as relates to ballot printing costs.
19 We received an e-mail last week. I can't
20 remember if it was from the Secretary of
21 State's Office or where it was, but there
22 is the potential in addition to the ballot
23 we already know about for five state-wide
24 issues this fall.

1 We knew we were going to be
2 three pages with the eight Columbus
3 issues. If we have three, four, or five
4 state issues as well, it will be four
5 ballot pages. The printing budget as
6 currently appropriated will be
7 insufficient to handle the expenditures
8 for the fall.

9 Finally, we will ask the
10 commissioners for funding to have a summer
11 school for our poll workers. We have
12 identified 350 poll workers from the
13 primary who we have identified need some
14 particular intensive training on a
15 specific issue or two that will be
16 requiring them to come in this summer to
17 be retrained in order for them to work
18 this fall.

19 We would like to make that
20 opportunity available to all poll workers.
21 Obviously not all 5,000 would take
22 advantage of that, but we would like to
23 make it available and find some means for
24 compensating them for that extra time to

1 come in this summer and receive additional
2 training to be better prepared for fall.
3 Also we will acquire personnel
4 expenditures for part-time employees to
5 help train those folks.

6 Those are the four areas when
7 Denny gets back that we will talk with
8 commissioners and Staff about as they
9 relate to the budget going forward for
10 this year.

11 Any questions on any of that?

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Your ballot
13 may grow yet even more.

14 MR. DAMSCHRODER: There could be
15 a state-wide constitutional executive on
16 the ballot as well, which would add to our
17 already known hefty ballot.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are the
19 commissioners aware of this informally
20 yet?

21 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I know that
22 one of the commissioners is aware, but I
23 don't think the Commissioner Staff is
24 aware of the full impact of all these

1 issues. We have kind of talked with them
2 about it and Budget Staff understands, but
3 I don't think there is a full
4 understanding of everything that would be
5 involved.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Where are we
7 in the budget cycle at the county?

8 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We have just
9 finished our fourth month, so we are into
10 the second quarter of the year. Because
11 most of our expenditures are directly tied
12 to an election, the summer will be not
13 expenditure intensive except as it relates
14 to personnel, since we have a lot of
15 part-time employees still here.

16 We carried over from the primary
17 to do voter registration. Our volume now,
18 we have been averaging for the first four
19 months of the year 15,000 registration
20 cards per month, which is triple what we
21 would have in an odd year. And the trend
22 is increasing each month.

23 We have additional part-time
24 folks that we are keeping here to help our

1 full-time staff keep current with voter
2 registration volume, as well as do some
3 odds and ends cleaning up the database so
4 we are prepared for the fall.

5 We won't know if we have an
6 August special until May 22nd, which is
7 the deadline for August special
8 elections. If we have an August special,
9 that would change the budget mix entirely.

10 MR. PREISSE: Okay.

11 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I do have two
12 personnel matters that we may want to
13 discuss in executive session.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I will
15 entertain a motion.

16 MR. COLLEY: I move that we go
17 into executive session for purposes of
18 hearing the very same.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I learned
20 from my training last week that that
21 requires a roll call.

22 MR. DAMSCHRODER: That is
23 correct.

24 Is there a second?

1 MS. MARINELLO: Second.
2 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Mr. Colley?
3 MR. COLLEY: Yes.
4 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Ms.
5 Marinello?
6 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.
7 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Chairman
8 Preisse?
9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
10 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We are in
11 executive session.
12 (Break in proceedings)
13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is there a
14 motion to go back into public session?
15 MS. MARINELLO: I make a motion
16 to go back into public session.
17 MR. COLLEY: Second.
18 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Mr. Colley?
19 MR. COLLEY: Yes.
20 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Ms.
21 Marinello?
22 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.
23 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Chairman
24 Preisse?

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

2 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We are back in
3 public session.

4 We don't have anything else on
5 the agenda for today, so is there a motion
6 to adjourn?

7 MS. MARINELLO: I move that we
8 adjourn.

9 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Is there a
10 second?

11 MR. COLLEY: Second.

12 MR. DAMSCHRODER: All in favor,
13 say aye.

14 (Unanimous aye)

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We are
16 adjourned.

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18 Thereupon, the proceeding was
19 concluded at 3:50 o'clock p.m.

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CERTIFICATE

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, on this 22nd day of May, 2008.

Patricia W. White

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

My commission expires May 30, 2012.