

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


MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

6/23/10

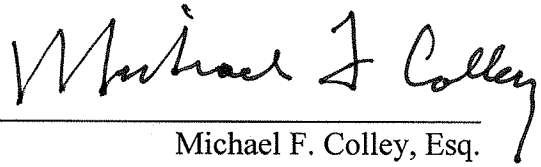
APPROVED ON

7/13/10

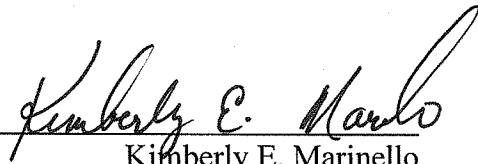
BY:



Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman



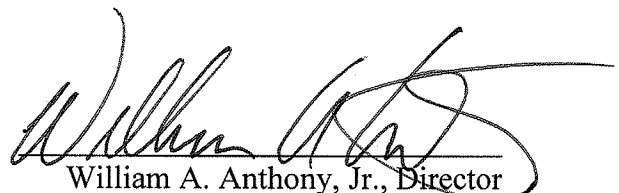
Michael F. Colley, Esq.



Kimberly E. Marinello

Zachary Manifold

ATTEST:



William A. Anthony, Jr., Director

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BEFORE THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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IN RE: :

Special Meeting :

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Proceedings before Chairman Douglas J.
Preisse, Board Members Michael F. Colley,
Kimberly E. Marinello and Zachary E. Manifold,
Director William A. Anthony, Jr., and Deputy
Director Matthew Damschroder, taken at the
Franklin County Board of Elections, 280 East
Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday,
June 23, 2010, at 2:33 o'clock p.m.

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1 ALSO PRESENT:

2 Mr. Anthony E. Palmer, Jr.,
3 Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

4 Mr. Ben Piscitelli,
5 Media Relations

6 Ms. Karen Cotton,
7 Operations Manager

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1	INDEX	
2	Agenda Item	Page No.
3	Call To Order/Roll Call	4
4	Precinct Boundary Amendments	7
5	Personnel Matters	30
6	Adjourn	118
7		
8	Exhibits	Page No.
9	A - Precinct Action Proposal	7
10	B - Precinct Action Proposal	10
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I would call the
5 board meeting, Franklin County board meeting
6 -- Franklin County Board of Elections meeting
7 to order, and I'll do a roll call.

8 Kim Marinello.

9 MS. MARINELLO: Here.

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Zach Manifold.

11 MR. MANIFOLD: Here.

12 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Doug Preisse.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

14 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And Michael
15 Colley.

16 MR. COLLEY: Here.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Everyone is here
18 and accounted for, sir.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Mr.
20 Director, I think in talking to the
21 Republican board members, we may want to
22 reverse the agenda a little bit and do the
23 personnel item first, but before we do that,
24 to go into executive session to discuss the

1 personnel matter.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I was going to
3 suggest that.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Good.
5 We're on the same page. Again.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And I would move
7 that the board go into executive session for
8 the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All right. We'll
10 take a roll call --

11 Is there a second, first of all?

12 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Thank you, Kim.
14 And we'll take a roll call.

15 Kim Marinello.

16 MS. MARINELLO: Here.

17 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yes?

18 MS. MARINELLO: Yes. I'm here
19 again.

20 (Laughter.)

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Zach Manifold.

22 MR. MANIFOLD: Yes.

23 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Doug Preisse.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And Michael
2 Colley.

3 MR. COLLEY: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We are now in
5 executive session.

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7 Thereupon, Executive Session was
8 held from 2:47 o'clock p.m. to
9 3:02 o'clock p.m.

10 - - - - -

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Okay. We'll
12 take a vote to go out of executive session.
13 There were no votes taken -- what am I
14 supposed to say? I forgot.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: No
16 votes taken.

17 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah, no votes
18 taken. All right.

19 A vote to come out of executive
20 session. Kim Marinello.

21 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.

22 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Zach Manifold.

23 MR. MANIFOLD: Yes.

24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Doug Preisse.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Michael Colley.

3 MR. COLLEY: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We are now out of
5 executive session.

6 The first item on the agenda is
7 precinct changes, precinct boundary amendment
8 changes. You guys want to talk about it,
9 discuss it a little bit before we go into
10 anything?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: In
12 summary, Exhibit A contains amendments to 123
13 precincts, and the amendments for those 123
14 precincts would have a net result in a
15 remaining 61 precincts from that original
16 list.

17 Based on our estimates -- all of the
18 locations -- all the precincts in Exhibit A
19 are amending the boundaries of contiguous
20 precincts that currently vote in the same
21 voting location, and so the voters impacted by
22 approving Exhibit A would not have a change to
23 their voting location for this election.

24 The estimated cost savings for one

1 election as a result of approving Exhibit A
2 would be approximately \$39,650, which
3 multiplied out through the 2012 fiscal year
4 would be a savings of \$198,250.

5 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And that estimate
6 is based on?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That
8 is based on \$650 per precinct that we would
9 save, and it's primarily made up of poll
10 worker compensation, the cost of poll worker
11 training, and that poll worker training
12 includes training materials.

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I think that this
14 probably makes -- not probably; I mean this
15 makes sense, good sense. We could save some
16 money. This is going to be an expensive
17 election cycle. We're not really moving
18 anybody. In this one, they can be voting in
19 the same precincts. So I'd certainly support
20 this Exhibit A.

21 MR. MANIFOLD: Do we still do
22 mailings to these voters in Exhibit A that
23 they're changing precincts, even though
24 there's not a polling location change?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: When
2 we change the precinct boundaries in the voter
3 registration system, it does automatically
4 queue up a voter acknowledgement card. Most
5 voters don't track what their precinct number
6 is, so for everyone on this list, they'll get
7 a card and it will say you're still voting at
8 the same place, and it will just be an extra
9 reminder for this election of where their
10 polling place is.

11 Because for some, the last time they
12 may have voted was 2010 -- I'm sorry, 2008.
13 And in some cases, these voting locations have
14 changed since then, so they may have forgotten
15 their card, but they got --

16 MS. MARINELLO: Is that cost of that
17 card coming out of --

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It is
19 not reflected from a net from that savings.

20 MS. MARINELLO: All right.

21 MR. MANIFOLD: Mr. Chairman, I move
22 that the board adopt the precinct boundary
23 amendments as submitted in Exhibit A, that the
24 amendments become effective immediately, and

1 that the Director and Deputy Director are
2 empowered to make incidental precinct name
3 changes as necessary to accommodate these
4 amendments.

5 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a
6 second?

7 MR. COLLEY: Second.

8 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in
9 favor?

10 MEMBERS: Aye.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Opposed? Motion
12 carries.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The
14 next proposal is an additional list of 118
15 precincts that, if their boundaries are
16 amended as proposed here, would cut that
17 number of precincts on this list from 118 to
18 59. The reason that they are in a separate
19 exhibit for separate consideration is that for
20 half of the people on this list, it would
21 result in a change of voting location.

22 And so that's why we've decided to
23 present them to you separately, because I know
24 there's some concerns about changing people's

1 voting locations in June before a November
2 federal general election.

3 And I think it's worth noting that
4 we probably would have done this last year but
5 that having an August special election
6 precluded us from making these kind of changes
7 last summer, and we didn't want to make them
8 after the general, because we're not allowed
9 to change precinct boundaries, we're not
10 allowed to adjust boundaries when prior to a
11 primary election a central committee member is
12 on the ballot. So that's why we didn't make
13 some of these changes until now.

14 My sense is that making the change
15 now, when people are starting to tune in to
16 the fact that there is an election coming up,
17 that people are more likely to take heed of
18 the mailing from the Board of Elections and
19 note the voting location change, as opposed to
20 delaying the implementation of the boundary
21 proposal to later this year after the election
22 or even next year, when fewer people are
23 paying attention to election administration
24 issues.

1 The savings through the end of 2012
2 for this group would be 236,000, because we
3 factor in the cost savings of machine delivery
4 to multiple locations and the cost of renting
5 additional locations that this would
6 consolidate.

7 Any questions about Exhibit B?

8 MR. MANIFOLD: Mr. Chairman, my
9 concern with this -- there's a couple things.
10 I think my main concern is the changing four
11 and a half months before a major general
12 election. I think that's probably my biggest
13 concern, because a lot of people don't vote
14 that often and they come out in the general
15 elections and their polling location has
16 changed, and we get a lot of calls saying, I
17 don't know where I'm going.

18 But my other concern is, the
19 Director and I spent about a day driving
20 around, we took a day and just kind of looked
21 at a lot of these, and we did all over, north,
22 south, east, west. And some of them are good;
23 some of them I thought were good changes that
24 probably would result in some people being

1 closer to their location. Some of them were
2 good changes, but then some of them weren't so
3 good.

4 I don't know if Mifflin is still in
5 here; I was looking to see if Mifflin was in
6 here. It was one of the ones that we were
7 concerned about. It happened with a few of
8 them.

9 There's just some of them that just
10 didn't seem to make sense, that if we were
11 going to change, I think I'd prefer to really
12 maybe sit down or have maybe even meetings or
13 hearings and kind of go through these one by
14 one, just because I had some -- some of them
15 just made sense and some of them didn't.

16 Like the Mifflin one, I think, it
17 was one of these things where if you moved --
18 there were two polling location options, and
19 if you moved to the one -- no matter how you
20 went, basically you were taking somebody from
21 like -- and already Mifflin is so messed up
22 because it's so large. It was like four
23 miles, and if you moved it, it was going to be
24 like -- I think they were basically at like

1 Morse and Cleveland and they were voting off
2 62 in Gahanna. It was basically almost like a
3 ten-mile drive.

4 And we just did this, just went
5 driving around, just seeing it in person. I
6 just think that I would prefer we really went
7 through each one of these and really thought
8 them out.

9 And I appreciate the staff and all
10 their work on this, but, I mean, there were
11 some more; there's one on the south side.
12 There was 104 like split the precinct, so
13 people were going to have to drive all the way
14 to Marion Village, and they live all the way
15 down south at 104 or something.

16 I see where we're saving money at
17 times, and I think that our goal as a board
18 should be to get rid of, you know, I think the
19 less LID ones, with single precinct voting
20 locations that we have, I think that's better,
21 I prefer the super precinct then at voting
22 locations, where it saves a lot of money.

23 But I would prefer that we wait a
24 little bit, maybe have some meetings or

1 hearings and just maybe even talk to residents
2 and just kind of see, with some of these, you
3 know, what we're doing and whether it makes
4 sense. It's just my personal take.

5 I appreciate all you guys' hard work
6 on this. I know, just looking through this,
7 it definitely took some time to put together.
8 So I appreciate all that you guys did.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: When I look at
10 Mifflin, I'm looking at what I believe is the
11 only Mifflin sheet in Exhibit B, the pink dots
12 with an X through it, is that the --

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Those
14 are the two locations.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: One that's
16 eliminated with an X through it?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yes.
18 So basically -- and Mifflin is a perfect
19 example. Also Plain Township is listed in
20 here, as is Madison Township. When we deal
21 with the townships over time, as the city of
22 Columbus and other suburbs like Gahanna have
23 annexed away from Mifflin, it becomes an
24 amalgamation of discontiguous parcels across,

1 I think the township is 10 square miles, and
2 so because of the annexation strategies of the
3 municipalities, that's where we're left with
4 townships.

5 And so the question then becomes,
6 well, should we establish a precinct for the
7 200 voters up in the northwest corner of
8 Mifflin and another precinct for the 13, you
9 know, and another -- so that what we thought
10 was, and it was in this recommendation, to
11 have all the voters in Mifflin Township vote
12 at the Mifflin Township Hall, the core of
13 their local government, as opposed to have
14 them vote at two different locations.

15 In fact, I think, if I'm not
16 mistaken, the one out by 62 is actually not
17 even in Mifflin, it's in Gahanna, but it's the
18 closest location we could find to that
19 precinct of Mifflin.

20 So that was some of the strategy
21 behind some of those things. And again, you
22 know, we're locked into situations where, you
23 know, because we don't control ward
24 boundaries, we have to draw precinct

1 boundaries within those following census
2 tracts, and often we have to take people
3 outside of their precinct, outside of their
4 ward to the nearest possible voting location
5 that we can find, whether it be a public
6 building or a church that's willing to lease
7 its space.

8 So I appreciate your comments. It's
9 possible that further review or delay could
10 result in something better, but I'm not
11 certain that it would result in something
12 substantively different than what's presented
13 here today.

14 MR. COLLEY: I don't know what the
15 distance is between those two is; Zach, you've
16 mentioned it.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: A concern about
18 distance, I don't know if that's 10 miles or
19 not.

20 MR. MANIFOLD: That one is not --
21 you know, I thought the move with this one
22 when we looked at it, I thought it was
23 Cleveland. It was up here, basically.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Oh, there's Morse

1 Road. You mentioned Morse Road.

2 MR. MANIFOLD: That it went all the
3 way up to here, and they were essentially
4 going to 62. Although it looks like -- so you
5 guys decided on this one, which would be a
6 better location.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah,
8 everything would be consolidated on Agler at
9 the township hall as opposed to over off
10 Johnson Road.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: How did you
12 approach each of these to consolidate them?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Well,
14 generally speaking, the two guiding principles
15 were to move the fewest number of voters
16 possible. So if you had a precinct that was,
17 let's say, 300 people, 300 active registered
18 voters that proposed to be in line with
19 another precinct that had 700 voters, that
20 we'd move the three to the seven as opposed
21 to the seven to the three.

22 However, in other cases, in talking
23 with them, with Harold Fielder, there were
24 instances where the voting location for the

