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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, Director William  
A. Anthony, Jr., Deputy Director Dana Walch, and  
Board Members Zachary E. Manifold, Kimberly E.  
Marinello, and Bradley K. Sinnott, at the Franklin  
County Board of Elections, 280 East Broad Street,  
Columbus, Ohio, called at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday,  
November 27, 2012.

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ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.  
222 East Town Street, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201  
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481  
Fax - (614) 224-5724

- - -

1 APPEARANCES:

2 Franklin County Prosecutor's Office  
3 By Harold J. Anderson, III  
4 Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
5 373 South High Street, 13th Floor  
6 Columbus, Ohio 43215

7 On behalf of the Board.

8 ALSO PRESENT:

9 Ms. Suzanne Brown,  
10 Executive Assistant to the Board

11 Ms. Karen Cotton,  
12 Operations Manager,  
13 Franklin County Board of Elections

14 Mr. Jeffrey Mackey,  
15 Petitions and Financial Filings Clerk,  
16 Franklin County Board of Elections

17 Mr. Ben Piscitelli,  
18 Public Information Officer,  
19 Franklin County Board of Elections

20 Ms. Renee Klco,  
21 Manager of Voter Services,  
22 Franklin County Board of Elections

23 Mr. Todd Wedekind,  
24 Manager of the Absentee Department  
Franklin County Board of Elections

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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

Kimberly Marinello?

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Zachary Manifold?

BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Here.

BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Douglas Preisse?

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Brad Sinnott?

BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All here and accounted  
for, Mr. Chairman.

The first item on the agenda is the  
official certification of the provisional ballots.  
We voted on this earlier in the day and we had a  
clerical error. We were off 50 due to a clerical  
error, so the number, the provisional ballot  
certification sheet you have in front of you is the  
corrected one, and that number ends up being 23,711.

1 I think this morning it was 50 less.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: It was  
3 twenty-three thousand, six hundred and --

4 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Sixty-one.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: -- sixty-one.

6 Thank you.

7 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: So take a look at the  
8 sheet, and once we vote on it I'll pass it around for  
9 Doug and I to sign, and we'll submit it to the  
10 Secretary of State's office.

11 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Bill, do you need  
12 a revised motion on a provisional ballot number?

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yes, sir.

14 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Mr. Chairman, I  
15 move that the Board approve the Official  
16 Certification for provisional ballots reported to the  
17 Secretary of State compiled by -- compiled by the  
18 Staff which shows the counting of 23,711 provisional  
19 ballots and the rejection of 6,096 provisional  
20 ballots and that all provisional ballots deemed valid  
21 have been counted and included in the official  
22 canvass of results for the 2012 General Election.

23 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

24 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.

1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All in favor, say aye.

2 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And I'll sign this  
4 and, Doug, you have to sign this.

5 The next item on the agenda is we have to  
6 certify the results of the November 6th General  
7 Election. And you have in your packet the official  
8 results of the November 6th, 2012 General Election.  
9 Noteworthy on this is that it ended up being  
10 71 percent -- 71.6 percent turnout which Ben advised  
11 me or showed me that that is a record, so we -- I  
12 think in '08 it was --

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: 67, I think.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: About 67, I  
15 think.

16 MR. PISCITELLI: Yeah.

17 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And so we had more  
18 people, 574,000 people came out and voted, out of a  
19 base of 808, so we broke a record, so I think that is  
20 pretty good for this county.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: It's not only a  
22 record for the percentage, but also the total number  
23 of who voted. We had about 565,000 in 2008, I think,  
24 is what we found. Ben, is that correct?

1 MR. PISCITELLI: Yeah, it was just under  
2 565 and went up to about more than 574 this time.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What was the total  
4 vote in Cuyahoga County? Do you know?

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I don't know.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think they're still  
7 number one, but I think by the next census we're  
8 going to be the biggest county in the state.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We're catching  
10 them, Mr. Chairman, we're catching them.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: So we need a motion  
12 for that.

13 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
14 move that the Board certify and declare as final the  
15 official canvass of votes cast at the November 6th,  
16 2012 General Election submitted by the staff.

17 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

18 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor,  
20 say aye.

21 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

22 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And then I'll send  
23 this around and we need everybody to sign one of  
24 these.

1                   DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Karen, do we have  
2 a few copies of those we need signed?

3                   MS. COTTON: There is three.

4                   DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah, three of them.

5                   The next item on the agenda is we have to  
6 do a post-election audit. Karen Cotton is here to  
7 walk us through the procedure to do the post-election  
8 audit. We're looking at having the audit start on  
9 December the 17th, so we have to make that motion and  
10 then we have to roll the dice and pick -- roll the  
11 dice on locations and pick which county offices that  
12 we're going to include in the audit, but I'll let  
13 Karen walk us through that. Karen Cotton.

14                   MS. COTTON: More noteworthy than the  
15 official audit is the fact that we have no official  
16 recounts, mandated recounts where the percentage of  
17 win or loss is within one-half of 1 percent. So  
18 that's one of the reasons we were kind of going for  
19 the 17th of December, anticipating that there was a  
20 possibility of having one or two recounts that were  
21 mandatory, but we do not have any; all of the results  
22 got greater in number.

23                   We have three ten-sided dice here and I'm  
24 going to throw the dice unless one of the Board

1 members would like to throw the dice. The red dice  
2 is the number 100, then the white is the second  
3 digit, and then the third dice. We have 475  
4 locations in Franklin County. So we have an Excel  
5 document on the computer here, we have the SMART  
6 Board hooked up.

7 As we throw the dice, anything between  
8 100 -- 1 and 475 is a valid throw. Jeff is going to  
9 input that number, it's going to give us the LID  
10 number that's associated with that precinct  
11 designation or that number designation, voting  
12 location designation that we have. It's going to  
13 bring up the public count in that precinct and it's  
14 going to give us a running total of the percent.

15 We have to do an audit of 5 percent of  
16 the total votes cast. Of course with the higher  
17 number of votes being cast at this election, we audit  
18 a higher number of these.

19 So would you like to throw the dice or --

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: If I might  
21 interrupt just for a second, Karen. I'm sorry. We  
22 should go ahead and do the date. We need a motion on  
23 the date.

24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: For the date.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: And we need to  
2 pass that we're going to do it by voting location  
3 prior to doing that. I'm sorry to interrupt, Karen.

4 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Do we still want  
5 to delay the start of the post-election audit to  
6 December 17th?

7 MS. COTTON: I'm on jury duty this next  
8 week.

9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah.

10 MS. COTTON: We've got some people on  
11 vacation the following week, so.

12 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Okay. Well,  
13 Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board set the  
14 post-election audit to begin December 17 until  
15 completed and that the audit be conducted in  
16 accordance with Secretary of State Directive 2012-56  
17 and be held simultaneously at both 280 East Broad  
18 Street and 1719 Alum Creek Drive.

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

20 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor,  
22 say aye.

23 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Now we're going to

1 move to the selection of voting locations for the  
2 audit.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We need a motion  
4 on that too. We need a motion to go ahead and do it  
5 by voting location.

6 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
7 move that the Board conduct the post-election audit  
8 by voting location, using the Location Identification  
9 Number for each of our 475 voting locations.

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

11 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Second.

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

14 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Now we can proceed.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Now we can start  
17 rolling.

18 MS. COTTON: Does someone wish to roll  
19 the dice or do you want me to go ahead and do it?

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think you should do  
21 it.

22 MS. COTTON: Okay. The red is a 9, it's  
23 too high, so we're going to throw it again. And  
24 that's a 6; that's too high. 6 again. And it's 6

1 again.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: It really does  
3 get better, we promise.

4 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Karen, you don't  
5 spend any time in the casinos, do you?

6 (Laughter.)

7 MS. COTTON: Maybe in my retirement I  
8 will.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MS. COTTON: 307 is the precinct and you  
11 can see on that chart that it says that the precinct  
12 designation that it brought in, it's 2063, is it?

13 MR. MACKEY: Yeah.

14 MS. COTTON: And it's 1,371 persons  
15 voted, so that's where it's going to be updating  
16 here.

17 Okay. And it's 408. No, I'm sorry.  
18 It's 488.

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: It's too high.

20 MS. COTTON: That's not valid. That's  
21 right. Sorry. 108. 471.

22 MR. MACKEY: Is that too high also?

23 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: No.

24 MS. COTTON: 475 is the highest.

1                   446. 426. That's too high. That's too  
2 high. 365. 77. 460. 412. 204. 320. That's too  
3 high. 251. 62.

4                   BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Anybody close to a  
5 bingo yet?

6                   (Laughter.)

7                   MS. COTTON: 90. Nine-zero. We're at  
8 what percentage now?

9                   MR. MACKEY: 3.99.

10                  MS. COTTON: Pardon?

11                  MR. MACKEY: 3.99.

12                  MS. COTTON: 349. 213. 17. I can't  
13 seem to get them to roll right. 32. 323. 126.  
14 We're there.

15                  DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I was going to  
16 say we've got to be getting close.

17                  MS. COTTON: We're there. It turned  
18 yellow.

19                  DIRECTOR ANTHONY: It turned yellow.

20                  MS. COTTON: It's our indicator that we  
21 hit our 5 percent.

22                  DIRECTOR ANTHONY: You know, that is  
23 really neat.

24                  BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I know.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Who came up with that?

2 MS. COTTON: Carolyn Gorup came up with  
3 it.

4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Technology, it's  
5 great. It's great. All right. So should we read  
6 those for the record or have you been taking it down  
7 so we know which LIDs they are?

8 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't see which  
9 LIDs they are.

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: She can't see it, so  
11 somebody should read that.

12 MS. BROWN: We can print it and make it  
13 an exhibit, can't we?

14 MS. COTTON: I can't print it from here,  
15 we're not connected to a printer, but we can save it  
16 and get it for you.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Just read it.

18 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah, just read it off  
19 real quick.

20 MR. MACKEY: LID 2063, LID 1120, 5004,  
21 3046, 3019, 2126, 1087, 4006, 3005, 1232, 2078, 2005,  
22 1071, 1100, 2110, 1247, 1020, 1038, 2081, and 1141.

23 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The next item on the  
24 agenda would be we would have to select the

1 countywide offices to include in the audit. The  
2 possible ones would be the County Commissioner Race,  
3 County Recorder, County Sheriff, County Treasurer,  
4 Common Pleas Court General Division, Common Pleas  
5 Domestic Relations Division, and Issue 56. And Karen  
6 will put those in a beautifully-designed container.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We do these  
8 things randomly.

9 MS. COTTON: We have seven slips of  
10 paper, each listing one of the races that Bill  
11 listed, those are the seven contested races that are  
12 countywide in Franklin County. So I'm going to drop  
13 those in the bucket here in the basket and we're  
14 going to give it a little shake and we're going to  
15 let someone choose the race that has to be audited.  
16 So we're going to mix it up really well.

17 Mr. Chairman, would you please make a  
18 choice.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All right. There you  
20 go.

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: First choice.

22 MS. COTTON: I did the post-it notes  
23 inside-out so that they would hopefully not stick  
24 together. Judge for the Court of Common Pleas,

1 full-term, commencing 1/6/13, the Brown-Hoover race  
2 will be the race that we include in the audit.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The next item on the  
5 agenda, as you all know, we've been looking for  
6 several years to consolidate our facility and move  
7 from this location which is getting awfully crowded  
8 for us. As you know, last year we rented out a  
9 building across the street for the PEO staff and we  
10 have a warehouse that we also rent over on Alum Creek  
11 Drive. This location, we've outgrown it.

12 Two years ago we had the Commissioners  
13 look into finding us a location where we could  
14 combine all of our operations. They put a bid out on  
15 the street if you guys recall. Three companies  
16 responded to the bids.

17 We have started running out of time. The  
18 2016 election is creeping on us pretty fast. So we  
19 changed the -- what we put the bid out for to just  
20 include the Early Vote Center. And so the Morse --  
21 1700 Morse Road site won the bid for the Early Vote  
22 Center and we put the Early Vote Center out at the  
23 Morse Road site. And that was one of the sites that  
24 was part of the original three sites that we had

1 looked at for the combined move if you all kind of  
2 recall.

3           What the next steps are, we still need a  
4 location and we probably -- and we should be looking  
5 to move before the next presidential election and the  
6 only way that can happen is for us to send a letter  
7 to the Commissioners, advising them that we are  
8 interested in moving, combining our operations and  
9 moving them into a better facility than this one.

10           Also, if you recall, the Commissioners  
11 did a usage study of all of their buildings and one  
12 of the things was that they wanted us out of this  
13 building as well because they wanted to expand the  
14 health department into this building.

15           And there was talk of us moving over into  
16 the new justice center, not the new one, but the old  
17 one, which is currently being renovated, it had a lot  
18 of asbestos and other stuff in it. And then that  
19 fell through because it would not be a good location  
20 for a vote place, the Board of Elections, because of  
21 our election cycle, we would pretty much tie up  
22 traffic, there would be nowhere to park, so we would  
23 have a lot of other issues, so that got thrown off  
24 the table too which is again why we started looking

1 for a facility.

2 And we chose the northeast corridor  
3 because we have done a lot of research and that  
4 corridor has about 60 percent of the voters in  
5 Franklin County, maybe a little bit more. And one of  
6 the things that we were looking at was what would  
7 be -- how it would be perceived as the Early Vote  
8 Center.

9 We all think it went pretty well up  
10 there. It had the parking. Of course we've seen  
11 75,000 folks come up there and the place did get  
12 packed, but had we -- had that been our facility, we  
13 would have rearranged stuff a lot differently. There  
14 was still a lot of space in the back of that place  
15 and on the side of it.

16 So, you know, we need to move on this.  
17 You know, now is the time to move on it. I fear that  
18 if we wait, then, you know, we will find ourselves in  
19 another position.

20 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: That's a long  
21 time for that building to be sitting there, waiting  
22 for us.

23 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: So we cannot enter  
24 into a lease. We cannot buy a building. So we have

1 to direct the Commissioners to do what we would like  
2 them to do. At least do a study on it or at least  
3 help us out on this, that we're still interested in  
4 combining our operations.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Based on your  
6 conversations with -- who was it down there?

7 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I spoke with Don Brown  
8 and Bill Flaherty.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: When we ask the  
10 Commissioners to study whether 1700 Morse Road would  
11 be a suitable location, what is your understanding  
12 that we're actually asking them to do? To commission  
13 an additional study that they, you know, on top of  
14 that facility's use plan or the study that we did a  
15 few years ago? I mean, what's your understanding of  
16 what kind of study they would pursue and what kind of  
17 ongoing input would we all have as that's developed  
18 and analyzed and digested?

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: You know, I would like  
20 for them to pursue it. I have no idea what that  
21 building costs, you know, if it was to be purchased.  
22 I have no idea how they would go about, you know,  
23 that whole process of how the county does capital  
24 improvements. I mean, currently we're not paying any

1 rent here; this is a county-owned building.

2 So my thinking was that the county would  
3 look into the feasibility of purchasing that building  
4 because of what they want to do with this building  
5 and what they would like to do with us in the future.  
6 And in that corridor they already have Job and Family  
7 Services across the street, so that facility lends  
8 itself to making that corridor like a county magnet.

9 So what I would like for them to do, and  
10 I don't know if "study" is the right word, but I  
11 would like for them to, it might be the right word,  
12 look into it and tell us if it's something that they  
13 want to do, if they want to pursue it. I mean, we  
14 cannot -- the most we can do is ask them to pursue it  
15 and then see where they stand on it.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Uh-huh.

17 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Bill, is there any  
18 other consolidation location under consideration?

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Not at this time.  
20 Back in 2009 or maybe 2010, when we started looking  
21 at this, there was three sites and I have no idea  
22 where these sites are now in the scheme of things.

23 I do know that based on what we've seen  
24 at the Early Vote Center, that that site on Morse

1 Road would work better than the other two sites  
2 would, because the one site was the old Max and  
3 Erma's site and had we chose that site I think we  
4 would have had major traffic backups because that's a  
5 dead-end road that goes down to that site. I mean,  
6 we already blocked Morse Road off at the Early Vote  
7 Center.

8 I think the same thing would have  
9 happened to the Sinclair site too. That site may or  
10 may not still be, you know, available, but that site,  
11 too, had a real narrow road that went down to it and  
12 I think that would pose a problem with the type of  
13 traffic we've seen on the 32 days, 35 days of early  
14 voting.

15 Now, will this place hold our facility  
16 and early voting and the warehouse? I believe it  
17 could. It would have to be retrofitted for our needs  
18 like they did this building. They came in and gutted  
19 this place and designed it for the things that we  
20 needed and that takes a while. It took us two years  
21 to move here from Mound Street, by the time we talked  
22 about it, to the time we moved.

23 So is it ready for us to move in  
24 tomorrow? No, it's not. We wouldn't take the place

1 like it is. They would have to do some design work  
2 and have to reconfigure that place to meet all of our  
3 needs.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I don't mean to  
5 interrupt, Bill. I think it would be tough just at  
6 the old Kohl's store location to do us, the  
7 warehouse, and an Early Vote Center. I'm not sure  
8 how I see that would work. But if they, you know, I  
9 don't know what the option is on the other parcels  
10 that are in that same, you know, little plaza there.  
11 You know, whether that's available to the county or  
12 not as additional space too.

13 I mean, the footprint of the Kohl's  
14 store, as it stands right now, I think we could  
15 probably fit us and the warehouse in, but I think the  
16 that the, you know, the Early Vote Center, doing it  
17 there also would be extremely difficult as it stands  
18 right now without any additional space on there. But  
19 I think it could work for our location and the  
20 warehouse, but with the Early Vote Center, I mean, we  
21 filled the Early Vote Center on its own a few days  
22 without our operation being up there at all, really.

23 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: I wonder if what  
24 we want to do is ask the Commissioners to study

1 venues that would allow for a consolidation of the  
2 Board's operations with consideration given to 1700  
3 Morse Road as well as any other site that would  
4 be --

5 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah, I think that  
6 will probably work. One of the things that concerns  
7 me is that if we make it, you know, we could be here  
8 in 2015 and still haven't done anything. I mean,  
9 we've been down that road already where we want to  
10 find a site to consolidate and then we had to change  
11 midstream because time started running out.

12 You know, the -- we're not sure what's  
13 going to happen with the election laws, whether we're  
14 going to be able to have multiple early vote centers.  
15 You know, there's some discussion that that could  
16 happen. If we could have multiple ones, that could  
17 be one site for early vote and then we could have a  
18 smaller site in another part of the city. So there's  
19 some stuff still up in the air that we don't have a  
20 crystal ball except we've been hearing it may or may  
21 not happen, but I don't know.

22 But what I know for sure is if we can't  
23 -- this place is not going to work for us because by  
24 2016 even, and during the gubernatorial election,

1 we're going to be busting out the seams and there's  
2 no place else for us to move here. Already the  
3 tenants here are getting, I mean, we take up every  
4 available space in this building for a whole year  
5 preparing for an election.

6 I mean, we just received something from  
7 PFM that wanted to know if we could let up some of  
8 the space that we gobble up every year to allow some  
9 of the other tenants to have meeting space and we  
10 can't. We need the space because the election is  
11 just, I mean, we use up every bit of the place. And  
12 once we move 340 Gay Street back over here, we're  
13 going to take up even more space.

14 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: When do you think  
15 that will happen, Bill?

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I'm hoping that -- I  
17 would love to see them, the Commissioners, vote on it  
18 or at least say okay, we like that site, we're going  
19 to make it happen, and even if that happens I don't  
20 see us moving in until maybe '14. I think it will  
21 take us two years to get moved into a location.

22 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: When do you think  
23 the current 340 East Gay operation can move back  
24 here?

1           DIRECTOR ANTHONY: They're moving back  
2 here January 1.

3           BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Okay.

4           DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We're in the  
5 process of doing that now.

6           DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We do -- we may or may  
7 not have an option on that property, but, you know,  
8 we may try to compress everyone here instead of  
9 leasing that again. But we still haven't, you guys  
10 have to make that determination if it looks like it's  
11 not going to work. We just need to take a -- we need  
12 to, you know, get it started.

13           CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I agree with that. I  
14 became convinced, a couple years -- three years ago  
15 when we first talked about it, it made sense to try  
16 to pull those three operations together.

17           The only thing I think we maybe ought to  
18 do though is I would recommend we amend this to say  
19 1700 Morse Road and/or other locations. I think we  
20 ought to, you know, I could conceive in my head that  
21 that place, it seemed to me it did work for early  
22 voting quite well, traffic jams and all the other, we  
23 already had a post-election meeting about the site  
24 and how to improve logistics, et cetera.

1                   But also, you know, it seems to me we  
2 need to take a very serious critical look at it but  
3 not rule out any other locations necessarily. There  
4 may be a place we haven't thought of half a mile or  
5 so up or down either side of Morse Road that is even  
6 better because there are a lot of empty spaces up  
7 there. So that's what I would recommend, just so  
8 it's --

9                   DIRECTOR ANTHONY: It leaves some  
10 options.

11                  CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah.

12                  DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I have no problem. I  
13 just want to get it all -- I just want to get it  
14 moving --

15                  BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yeah.

16                  CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Me too.

17                  DIRECTOR ANTHONY: -- the process.

18                  BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
19 move that the Board authorize the Director and Deputy  
20 Director to request that the County Commissioners  
21 study the 1700 Morse Road location and/or other  
22 locations for a suitable location for moving the  
23 board office.

24                  DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Put an "s" on it.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah, "board offices."

2 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: "Offices."

3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

4 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.

5 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor?

6 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

7 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And what I'll do, I'll  
8 draft a letter and let you guys take a look at it and  
9 get it over to them ASAP --

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: -- and get the process  
12 moving.

13 The next item on the agenda, we have a  
14 few folks that just don't want to work for us  
15 anymore.

16 (Laughter.)

17 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: They took a look at  
18 their options in life and decided they have something  
19 they would much rather be doing instead of coming  
20 here working on elections.

21 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: They'll miss it.

22 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah. The first one  
23 that we have is Karen Cotton. And I'm going to tell  
24 you, she's been a godsend to this agency, and I know

1 I'm going to miss her.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: You bet.

3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And I'd like to thank  
4 her for her, it says over 33 years of service, that's  
5 a long time. Karen has been our go-to person  
6 whenever we want to know how something happened and  
7 how we did it before, we all go to Karen, and she's  
8 had just about every job here at the Board of  
9 Elections since she's been here for 33 years. And  
10 we're going to, I'm going to tell you, you're going  
11 to be sorely missed.

12 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Absolutely.

13 MS. COTTON: Thank you.

14 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Thank you,  
15 Karen.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Karen, I probably met  
17 you in the summer or fall of 1983 when I was a  
18 seasonal worker at the old shop, that's my first  
19 recollection, maybe I met you at a Central Committee  
20 meeting or something before that. I had met Charlie  
21 before that. That wasn't quite 33 years ago, but  
22 that was 30 years ago next year.

23 And you've written a lovely letter, even  
24 so considerate as thanking folks who aren't even with

1 us anymore, not with us on earth, but certainly in  
2 spirit, and that shows, I think, a demonstration of  
3 the class and commitment that you have had for better  
4 than three decades around here.

5 You've really been a big part of the glue  
6 that's held this institution together through many  
7 board members and changes of staff and a lot of tough  
8 elections. On behalf of the whole board and the  
9 citizens of Franklin County, we thank you very, very  
10 much and quite sincerely.

11 So with mixed emotions, I will move --

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Change it to  
13 "retirement."

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What's that?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: On the motion,  
16 make it "retirement" instead of "resignation."

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Right. I move that  
18 the Board accept the retirement of Karen Cotton,  
19 effective December 31st, 2012, and thank Karen for  
20 her 33 years of service to the Franklin County Board  
21 of Elections and the citizens of Franklin County.

22 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: I second it.

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

1 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I think we ought to  
3 give Karen a round of applause.

4 (Applause.)

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I tried as hard  
6 as I could to keep her around, everybody. And I'll  
7 say this again when we get to the next one, too,  
8 but, you know, we wish Karen the best of luck, she's  
9 done a great job, she's been great to me in my time  
10 here and so thank you for that.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The second retirement,  
12 and she's already taken advantage of it, she took the  
13 day off. She took a vacation and she may be down in  
14 Florida again.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: No. She's having  
16 foot surgery.

17 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Oh.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Surgery on her  
19 foot.

20 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: She's taking care of  
21 all the stuff she needs to take care of then.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: She got her knee  
23 fixed, you know, a couple of months ago, but then  
24 during all that time she had been overcompensating

1 for it then she messed her foot up, so now she's  
2 getting her foot fixed.

3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: So she's going to be  
4 the bionic Mary. It's Mary Hackett. Mary has had  
5 over 20 years of service on the Board, but she's been  
6 around here, she's been around for much longer than  
7 that 20 years. I've known Mary a long, long, long  
8 time, too, and she's had several different jobs here  
9 as well.

10 And she's -- her last job here was the  
11 PEO section which she did just one hell of a great  
12 job. I mean, we have a training that is  
13 second-to-none in the country and a lot of it started  
14 under her and Renee Klco. They've made us a great  
15 model for other counties to look at. I mean, we  
16 produce a book, a training manual, every election, at  
17 least for the primary and the general, and every  
18 election, after we get them printed, we have about  
19 five or six pages that need to be changed. And she  
20 trains, you know, upwards over 5,000 people in the  
21 election cycle for each election.

22 So she's going to be sorely missed as  
23 well. And if she was here, I would tell her, and I  
24 hope her surgery goes well. She might want to be out

1 there golfing with her husband or at least shopping.

2 (Laughter.)

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I tried, I know  
4 Bill did this too, we both tried our best, as we said  
5 with Karen, but both with Karen and Mary to keep them  
6 around. We both think you're always better with good  
7 people. And Mary and Karen both are terrific. I  
8 even joked with Mary on Election Day, the numerous  
9 times I called over, Harold was probably in my office  
10 when he heard some of this.

11 MR. ANDERSON: Yup.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Every time I  
13 called over to bug her about something out at one of  
14 the polling locations that we were hearing something,  
15 I would always say, "You're going to miss this,  
16 aren't you?" I think she will, but she's, you know,  
17 she's looking forward to the next chapter; she'll do  
18 great in it too. She's been another great mentor for  
19 a lot of us here at the office.

20 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
21 move the Board accept the retirement of Mary Hackett,  
22 effective December 31st, 2012, and thank Mary for her  
23 20 years of service to the Franklin County Board of  
24 Elections, 30 years of total public service.

1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

2 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.

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

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And we have Lisa See.  
7 Is she here? Where is Lisa at?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: She's not.

9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Lisa is probably the  
10 quietest person you ever want to meet. Sometimes  
11 when she talks, she talks like this.

12 (Laughter.)

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I mean, you can hardly  
14 hear her talk because she's just that kind of shy  
15 person. But I tell you what, Lisa has again been one  
16 of those workers, stalworth, that come here, you  
17 know, just working her tail off and making sure that  
18 all the information that we provide to you guys when  
19 it comes to voter registration and checking on  
20 people's files and all that, making sure that the  
21 voter files are updated the correct way and just so  
22 much more.

23 And Lisa will be really missed. I wish  
24 she was here so I can tell her. I will tell her that

1 in person, but she will be missed. Guys, we're  
2 losing a lot of great people here.

3 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yeah.

4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And a lot of  
5 experience and Lisa is just again one of those.

6 MS. BROWN: She buys our birthday cakes.

7 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Oh, yeah. Lisa puts  
8 it on her herself to make sure that once, at the end  
9 of every month, we celebrate all the staff who had a  
10 birthday that month, and she buys ice cream and cake.  
11 And once a month -- I'm lactose intolerant --

12 (Laughter.)

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I eat a bunch of ice  
14 cream and cake and get sick as a dog and go sit in my  
15 office and just moan.

16 (Laughter.)

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: He does do that,  
18 actually. That is a 100-percent true story. And we  
19 yell at him every month that he shouldn't be doing  
20 that because he knows that, but he does it anyway.

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: She gets some of the  
22 best ice cream. She makes sure she gets different  
23 kinds.

24 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: You're excited

1 for this month, right?

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I just eat it because  
3 I love ice cream.

4 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, there are  
5 few workers who provide 30 years of service to any  
6 employer and Lisa's service has been distinguished  
7 here. She has been an effective supervisor.

8 With reluctance, I move that the Board  
9 accept the retirement of Lisa See, effective  
10 January 31 of 2013, and thank Lisa for her 30 years  
11 of service to the Franklin County Board of Elections  
12 and the citizens of Franklin County.

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

14 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.

15 MR. MACKEY: Should it be 2012?

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

18 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

19 MR. MACKEY: Should it be 2012?

20 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Huh?

21 MR. MACKEY: Should it be 2012?

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: No. It's January  
23 31.

24 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: January 31.

1           DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah, she leaves  
2 January 31.

3           And, finally, is Barbara here?

4           All these shy people.

5           Barbara works at her desk and, I mean,  
6 nose to the grindstone, calling folks. She has a  
7 heart as big as gold. I mean, I'll just give one  
8 example. We have an employee that was -- had a lot  
9 of illness and unfortunately he had to have a leg  
10 amputated. And Barbara would take it upon herself to  
11 assist him, you know, help him go home, help him buy  
12 food, I mean, all kinds of stuff. And nobody would  
13 even know that she was doing all of this because she  
14 doesn't seek out any kind of gratitude or at-a-girls  
15 or nothing like that because that's the kind of  
16 person that Barbara is.

17           Barbara also does a walk every year, you  
18 know, gets us all involved in helping some of the  
19 causes that she does outside of work. So she's  
20 actively involved in her community and it shows in  
21 her work. She, I mean, she's just a sweetheart and  
22 I'm going to miss Barbara.

23           DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: She's been by far  
24 one of the best folks we've had answering the phone.

1 When there's a problem of some sort and people come  
2 in, you can just hear Barbara talking them through  
3 everything. She's just such a pleasant voice to talk  
4 to when people are having trouble with something or  
5 whatever, and I think, Renee, you would back me up on  
6 this.

7 MS. KLCO: 100 percent.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Barbara, she  
9 stays calm with everybody, even some of those folks  
10 who aren't necessarily always real calm with us,  
11 Barbara stays with them and talks them through it.

12 And we've gotten many -- in my time here,  
13 I seen many e-mails that we've gotten from members of  
14 the public that have e-mailed us or called us saying  
15 how pleasant it was to have talked to Barbara on the  
16 phone. She's been terrific.

17 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, Barbara has  
18 done a difficult job well for a long time. 17 years  
19 of service is formidable. So it is with regret that  
20 I move that the Board accept the retirement of  
21 Barbara Burns, effective December 21, 2012, and thank  
22 Barbara for her 17 years of service to the Franklin  
23 County Board of Elections and the citizens of  
24 Franklin County.

1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

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

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: That was the hard part  
7 of the agenda. Hard for me to get through that part  
8 of the agenda.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We're accepting  
10 no additional resignation letters or retirement  
11 letters any time soon.

12 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The next five years.

13 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: They will all be  
14 missed. I think we definitely, all the board members  
15 thank them for hanging on --

16 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Through this.

17 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: -- through this  
18 election. I don't think we could have made it  
19 through this presidential election without them.  
20 They were a big help.

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All right. The next  
22 item on the agenda, I'm going to let Dana walk us  
23 through this. We want to give our -- our employees  
24 spent a lot of time these probably last three or four

1 months. You know, elections don't happen on just  
2 November the 6th; they happen many, many months ahead  
3 of November the 6th. And we've had employees  
4 that, you know, some of them have put in, you know,  
5 14-, 15-, 18-hour days; on Election Day it's almost  
6 21 hours or longer. And since the election we've had  
7 folks almost here round the clock working to try to  
8 just get it all done.

9 We've had a lot of seasonal employees,  
10 too, that we couldn't have done it without all the  
11 seasonal employees, but it's those full-time  
12 employees who are here every day, you know, working  
13 every day and that just step up to the plate each  
14 election cycle and are able to selflessly make these  
15 elections work. We could not do it without the  
16 employees of this agency. And, with that said, Dana  
17 and I are proposing the following.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Bill and I talked  
19 about it, and it has been past practice of this Board  
20 in like election years in the past, past practice has  
21 been to authorize some additional leave for those  
22 employees.

23 Our recommendation to the Board would be  
24 that the Board office close on December 31st which is

1 New Year's Eve, and then also grant each employee 24  
2 hours of additional personal leave to be used any  
3 time between December 26th and January 25th of 2013.  
4 And that we would discuss -- we put it upon and  
5 communicate with every manager that during that time  
6 the Board will not be closed except for that  
7 December 31st date, but the managers ensure that we  
8 have ample coverage of every department during this  
9 allotted time frame. So that would be the  
10 recommendation of the Director and I.

11 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: So the 24 hours of  
12 personal leave would be with supervisor approval?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Correct.

14 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: We might want to  
15 work that into the motion. After personal leave  
16 maybe, comma, "subject to supervisor approval."

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: That makes sense.

18 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I think it's  
19 well deserved.

20 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Yeah, I agree. I  
21 think, you know, the families here of employees, they  
22 haven't seen their families in a couple months, so I  
23 think it's a great thing to do. I know I talked to  
24 employees, you know, they were like "I was here until

1 3:00 a.m." They worked a lot of 20-some hour days  
2 the last few weeks and the last couple months. So  
3 it's well deserved.

4 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
5 move that the Franklin County Board of Elections be  
6 closed on Monday, December 31st, 2012, and that the  
7 Board authorize each full-time employee 24 hours of  
8 personal leave, subject to supervisor approval, to be  
9 used by the employees any time between Wednesday,  
10 December 26th, 2012, and Friday, January 25th, 2013.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

12 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.

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

15 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Before we adjourn, our  
17 regularly-scheduled meeting is Monday, December the  
18 3rd, which is next Monday, this coming Monday. So if  
19 you all think we've met a whole lot, we could move  
20 that meeting to a date that would better fit your  
21 calendar. We were looking at maybe even since we're  
22 doing the audit December the 17th -- how long do you  
23 think that will take, Karen?

24 MS. COTTON: Usually takes about a week.

1           DIRECTOR ANTHONY: About a week. So, I  
2 mean, we could get back with you and try to determine  
3 another date or we can meet on the 3rd as we have  
4 prescribed. It's up to you guys.

5           DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We -- as Bill and  
6 I talked today, we did not necessarily know of  
7 anything pressing to have that we needed to have a  
8 meeting again next Monday. You know, my suggestion  
9 would be that we look at what we have coming before  
10 us and then would be to cancel the 3rd --

11          DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Right.

12          DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: -- and then work  
13 on a special meeting in the week or so after that if  
14 we deem we need to have it, if that would be --

15          BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: What if we have an  
16 e-mail that circulates with a suggestion of topics to  
17 be considered and a date so that we can check our  
18 calendars.

19          DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Sure.

20          CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That's a good  
21 recommendation.

22          DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All right. And that's  
23 all we have. Is there a motion to adjourn?

24          BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I

1 move to adjourn.

2 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.

3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor?

4 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

5 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We stand adjourned.

6 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at  
7 4:06 p.m.)

8 - - -

9

10 CERTIFICATE

11 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a  
12 true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken  
13 by me in this matter on Tuesday, November 27, 2012,  
14 and carefully compared with my original stenographic  
15 notes.

16

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Carolyn M. Burke, Registered  
19 Professional Reporter, and  
20 Notary Public in and for the  
21 State of Ohio.

22 My commission expires July 17, 2013.

23 - - -

24