

BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- - -

In Re: :  
: Regular Meeting :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Director William A. Anthony, Jr., Deputy Director Dana Walch, and Board Members Kimberly E. Marinello, Bradley K. Sinnott, and Gregory K. Haas at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio, called at 4:09 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2014.

- - -

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

- - -

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

APPEARANCES:

Franklin County Prosecutor's Office  
By Mr. Harold J. Anderson, III.  
Mr. Tim Lecklider  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
373 South High Street, 13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the Board.

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Suzanne Brown,  
Executive Assistant to the Board  
  
Mr. Ben Piscitelli,  
Public Information Officer,  
Franklin County Board of Elections

- - -

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

INDEX

- - -

ITEM	PAGE
Approval of Minutes	4
New Computerized Timekeeping Procedure	5
Upper Arlington Ward Changes	21
Provisional Ballot Approval	23
Veterans Day Office Closing	24
Adjourn	37

- - -

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

- - - - -

P R O C E E D I N G S

- - - - -

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: 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: Gregory Haas.

BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Douglas Preisse.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And Bradley Sinnott.

BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Mr. Chairman, we have a full contingency of everybody present. The first item on the agenda will be the approval of the minutes of the September 8th meeting.

BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: I move that the Board approve the minutes of the September 8th, 2014 meeting of the Franklin County Board of Elections as submitted.

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor?

1 (All eyes heard.)

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Motion carries. Kim  
3 has the document you guys need to sign.

4 The next item on the agenda is the new  
5 computerized timekeeping procedure. Dana, do you  
6 want to --

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Per the request  
8 of the Board, I drafted up a draft policy here for  
9 using the new computerized check-in/check-out system  
10 that we demonstrated for you last time. You have  
11 that before you.

12 Basically, what will happen is this is  
13 requiring each employee, whether they be a full-time  
14 permanent or a seasonal employee to use the system.  
15 The employees will use their county-issued  
16 identification badge that is given to everybody to  
17 activate the system. We felt that was a better use  
18 of it so there couldn't be sharing of codes and  
19 things of that sort with other people, et cetera.

20 Once in the system, the system will  
21 provide each employee with a button to click in, or  
22 there are three "out" options if they are leaving the  
23 office. The "out" options were, you know, if they  
24 were out for the remainder of the day, out for lunch,

1 or out for some other purpose that they were out of  
2 the office but still at work such as we do have  
3 employees that do go down to pick up absentee mail,  
4 do make trips out to the warehouse, that will end at  
5 some point obviously with us moving the warehouse up  
6 here, but there is a notation that the employees can  
7 make if they are out of the office but engaged in  
8 some sort of Board responsibility.

9 We will provide new employees with an  
10 alternate identification number until they get their  
11 card because that can take a few days to get that.

12 The policy strictly prohibits employees  
13 from having anybody else check them in or out. It  
14 does require the employees to check out for their  
15 lunch hour whether or not they leave the building or  
16 not. We do have a lunch room here that a lot of  
17 employees do go and use for their lunch period  
18 instead of leaving. Whether they stay here or leave,  
19 the recommended course here was that they still check  
20 out.

21 We did provide for one grace period per  
22 month if an employee does mistakenly forget to check  
23 in or check out. Employees that are chronic  
24 abusers -- it says that employees who are chronic

1 abusers of this are subject to not being paid for any  
2 time in question and possible discipline.

3 The first weekday after a pay period, the  
4 managers and the director and deputy director will be  
5 sent a report detailing the accounting of the time on  
6 the system. The instruction in this policy would be  
7 for managers and the director and deputy director to  
8 match that against the time sheets submitted, the  
9 biweekly time sheets submitted by each employee.

10 If there is some discrepancy, the  
11 employee will be required to submit a written  
12 explanation for any shortage of time claimed, and  
13 then the manager or the director and deputy director  
14 may require the employee to amend their biweekly time  
15 sheet.

16 Again, there is some explanation of what  
17 I call the "out other" option on here and that  
18 employees should be specific in what they are doing,  
19 and that just saying "going to the warehouse" was not  
20 enough, but giving purpose to it: Going to the  
21 warehouse to work on supply pickup or going to the  
22 post office to drop off absentee ballots.

23 Per the recommendation at the last  
24 meeting, and it does reference this in here, we have

1 adjusted it to include a camera, when an employee  
2 puts their badge in, the camera will snap a photo of  
3 it, of the person using it. We do say they can  
4 adjust the camera if needed to make sure it's right,  
5 but in no way are they permitted to purposely move  
6 the camera so it takes a picture of the back of the  
7 computer or the wall or something like that.

8 So that's what's before you today. What  
9 questions might you all have?

10 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, I think  
11 we're all reading it for the first time right now.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Okay.

13 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: There are a couple  
14 of things that struck me, giving it a read, as you  
15 were talking. In Paragraph 6 are we saying that if  
16 you forget to check in or out, you're forgiven once a  
17 month and then subsequent times you're not forgiven  
18 and your pay will be adjusted accordingly?

19 I think it's hard to write an employment  
20 policy that uses the phrase "chronic abuser" because  
21 of the ambiguity associated with that, but I think  
22 what we're saying, because we're allowing one mistake  
23 a month without consequence, that mistakes two and  
24 beyond will have a consequence. Is that right?



1           DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I didn't clarify  
2     that in it, but I could certainly try to take another  
3     shot at that to provide some clarification to it. My  
4     feeling on it was that was a conversation, then, for  
5     the manager or Bill or myself to have with the  
6     employee to provide us with some sort of written  
7     explanation as to why, perhaps there was another  
8     instance, instance two or three or whatever of it, to  
9     provide us some explanation of that to make a  
10    determination on whether a change needs to be made to  
11    the time sheet according to such a problem.

12           BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Maybe we want to  
13    say something like that.

14           DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Okay. Add some  
15    detail to that point.

16           BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, yeah,  
17    because it's still not clear to me how this works  
18    where expressly saying that you get one bite without  
19    consequence, I'm not sure what happens on the  
20    subsequent bites.

21           BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: What about  
22    breaks, too, do they have to --

23           DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I had not  
24    envisioned them having to check out for a break. One

1 of the things we, you know, in discussing this that  
2 Bill and I talked about was we wanted to create a  
3 system that did what we wanted it to do which was  
4 properly monitor the employees' time without them  
5 spending a ton of time tracking their time, you know.  
6 So we want to make it comprehensive but easy and  
7 quick so they're not spending an undue amount of time  
8 charting their times, that's just counterproductive  
9 to the purpose of such a system in our minds. We did  
10 not envision them clocking out for breaks, but that's  
11 up to you all as to how you want to handle dealing  
12 with it.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: My question kind of  
14 gets to that point. Are there a lot of employees who  
15 don't go to lunch or who eat lunch at their desk or  
16 who bring in food and eat internally?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Especially when  
18 we have a lot of seasonal employees, yes, there are a  
19 lot of folks who do bring their lunch and eat it in  
20 the lunchroom. When we have the warehouse here at  
21 our facility, there is a lunch space back there also.  
22 and a number of those employees would eat in the  
23 lunch area back in the warehouse too.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is it important that

1 employees check out for lunch and check back in, that  
2 they go to the front of the building and do the check  
3 out --

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Our thought --

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: -- spend 49 minutes or  
6 63 minutes or 58 minutes and they walk back, what  
7 would be the consequences if they didn't do that?  
8 They haven't left the premises, they're not getting  
9 paid for a lunch hour anyway, right?

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Right. That's  
11 correct.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So it's not as if --  
13 now, I suppose the other side of the argument could  
14 be, well, so and so keeps taking two-and-a-half-hour  
15 lunches even in the break room, but, I mean, that's  
16 something the managers will see.

17 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: That's a management  
18 issue, yeah.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'm wondering if that  
20 -- if making employees, who are not leaving, check in  
21 and out, even though they never leave for lunch, if  
22 that isn't piling on extra --

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: The reason I  
24 included it in there was for the purposes of when

1 phone calls come in or -- mainly it was phone calls,  
2 that whoever was at the front desk or whoever might  
3 be answering the phones would know Employee A is at  
4 lunch right now, whether they be in the lunch room or  
5 out somewhere off premises, that they knew that  
6 person's not at their desk, didn't go looking for  
7 them, that person's at lunch, leave them alone.

8 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: To me it seems more  
9 like an issue of whether they're in the building or  
10 not. Because, I mean, even if they're here having  
11 lunch in the lunch room and it's an emergency or  
12 something like that, it would be good that the people  
13 know they're in the building or not in the building,  
14 you know. I understand not bothering people at  
15 lunch, but I think this should be about whether  
16 they're in the building or not, and when they're in  
17 the building it's the manager's job to kind of  
18 oversee whether they're working or not.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I can certainly  
20 amend that part in paragraph, what is it, five.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I just wonder if that  
22 is recordkeeping that is chasing a problem that  
23 doesn't exist, maybe.

24 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Yeah.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Could be.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: It just struck me as  
3 that way.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Okay. I'll take  
5 a shot at modifying that.

6 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: And my other  
7 on-the-fly thought is in the last paragraph, because  
8 we all have such history with this, I think we know  
9 what you're getting at and what you mean. You give  
10 an example encouraging people to be elaborate in  
11 their explanation as to why they're leaving, but  
12 let's describe that explanation as being sufficient  
13 to explain the length of the absence.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Right. Yeah. We  
15 really don't want a paragraph because then we're  
16 getting into what we talked about, I don't want  
17 somebody up at this machine typing, to give us some  
18 reason, you went to the warehouse for X.

19 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: I'm not concerned  
20 about somebody being too elaborate as opposed to  
21 checking themselves out for three hours by noting  
22 "going to post office."

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Yes.

24 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: So the phrase I

1 jotted down here was "sufficient to explain the  
2 length of the absence." I think the examples are  
3 good, but let's specifically say that we want enough  
4 explanation there to understand why somebody is gone  
5 as long as he is.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That sounds smart.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: That makes  
8 perfect sense. I can add that language in.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So explain again the  
10 access to the record. Employees would have access to  
11 their own record for the purpose of filling out their  
12 time sheets, but not access to anybody else's record,  
13 but the managers would have access to everybody's  
14 records?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Well, the  
16 employees would know because, again, part of this  
17 was, as it relates to folks up front answering  
18 phones, knowing if somebody is here or not here.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I guess I meant  
20 looking back. The pay period is two weeks, right?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: That's correct.

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So when I fill out my  
23 time sheet at the end of two weeks looking back, do I  
24 have access to the electronic records so I can say

1 oh, yeah, that's that day I --

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. I can see mine,  
4 but no one else's, and the managers can see  
5 everybody's.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I'll have to  
7 doublecheck that with Carolyn.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Which?

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: The part of if  
10 you can see somebody else's or not. Because there is  
11 a function to the system, again it was designed for  
12 people answering the phones to know is Employee A  
13 here, I got a phone call for them, and do I know if  
14 they're here or not.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah, that's on a  
16 real-time basis for the up front office personnel,  
17 but looking back, I mean, are these personnel  
18 records, is this --

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: It will not, for  
20 example, fill out your time sheet for you, that is  
21 still what the employee must do. And when the  
22 biweekly report gets sent to the managers and to Bill  
23 and myself then this presumably, you know, instructs  
24 the manager then to take a look at that to make

1       sure, you know, if the employee put down that they  
2       worked eight hours that day, does the time-accounting  
3       procedure that was sent to them match that, you know,  
4       accordingly so that, you know, eight hours of work,  
5       they were here for eight hours.

6                 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: One of the things we  
7       were trying to do is this is not a time clock in the  
8       tradition of what you expect a time clock to be. We  
9       had wanted to make it, you know, not quite like a  
10       time clock, but at least a tracking of folks' time  
11       when they would leave the building for any specific  
12       reason. So that's part of it. That's what we're  
13       trying to track here. We're not trying to say, hey,  
14       this is, you know, your traditional time clock.

15                And that makes it a little more difficult  
16       than, you know, to put a system in here. So this is  
17       a system that we created in-house, it's not an  
18       off-the-shelf item that we purchased to be a time  
19       clock. I think that's probably the biggest  
20       difference with this, which is why some of the stuff  
21       you would normally see with a time clock is not  
22       there. Normally a time clock you got to go in, no  
23       matter what you do, you got to click in and click out  
24       and know your whereabouts for that whole hour.



1                   BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Yeah, this actually  
2 seems a lot more sophisticated in some ways than a  
3 time clock.

4                   DIRECTOR ANTHONY: In some ways it is,  
5 because we're tracking, and the camera features on  
6 there is more complicated than a time clock.

7                   BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Right.

8                   BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Well,  
9 congratulations on taking the initiative and being  
10 creative and using all the resources available to  
11 you. By the way, I think the scope is excellent  
12 because you made this something that applies to all  
13 employees and it seems proper and probably reassuring  
14 to the public.

15                   Could you do a redraft that reflects the  
16 comments today and get that out in a week or so, so  
17 that we have a chance to read it quietly before we  
18 show up for the next board meeting?

19                   DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: You bet. I'd be  
20 happy to.

21                   DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah. Along that  
22 line, we also have another policy for you guys to  
23 take a look at. It's not on the agenda because I  
24 forgot. This is a draft of a flex-time policy that

1 will go along with the policy on the accounting  
2 procedures for employees. That's just a draft again.  
3 I don't expect you guys to read it all right now, but  
4 in your leisure to go through it. This is something  
5 that we prepared actually a while back, 2010, to be  
6 exact.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I'd say this goes  
8 back to your days of being on the Board, wasn't it,  
9 Bill, maybe?

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: No. Prior to that. I  
11 came off the Board when I first started as the  
12 Director. We thought there was a need to look at  
13 flex-time, particularly during our off-season or when  
14 there was no election going on, to allow the managers  
15 the ability to let their employees flex some of their  
16 time based on need.

17 And so, we were going to do a pilot  
18 program on this, but time kind of got away from us  
19 and we never did a pilot project on this, but all the  
20 managers have had an opportunity to kind of look at  
21 it. It's been sitting on the shelf since 2010, and I  
22 haven't really gone back through to take a real close  
23 look at it.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All the current

1 managers have waited on this or --

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Probably except for  
3 Steve Bulen is probably the only one who has not.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I seem to remember,  
5 Bill, that we, as a board, at least on one or two  
6 occasions, denied employees' requests --

7 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: -- because it didn't  
9 really comport with the responsibilities of an  
10 impending election or something like that.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Well, and that's what  
12 this policy would address. If a person -- you know,  
13 it allows the manager to give it and take it away.

14 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: You could change  
15 your hours every week or --

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Not every week, but  
17 during the election cycle, let's say, after -- after  
18 June there may not be a need in your department to  
19 have everybody here at 7:00, there may be a better  
20 need for some folks to come in at, you know, and then  
21 we give a range of hours so it wouldn't be  
22 helter-skelter, so it's still an eight-hour period,  
23 but it would go from 7:00 to, I think, 9:00 or  
24 something like that.

1 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Yeah.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The whole purpose was  
3 to allow some flexibility for the managers, but still  
4 address all the needs. So let's say if you wanted  
5 flex time but you're on the phones and I need you  
6 there, then you may not get to come in at 9:00, your  
7 schedule may say, sorry, you have to be here at  
8 7:30 every day because you got to answer the phones,  
9 so it addresses that. I'm not asking for you all to  
10 do anything with this now. Just kind of take it with  
11 you and I'll e-mail it to you again so you guys will  
12 have it on your e-mails too.

13 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: So are we talking  
14 about maybe taking action on both of these items at  
15 the same time after we've looked at them?

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: It's your decision.

17 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: So, right now, we  
18 have no employees who are working a flex-time  
19 schedule?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Yes, we do have  
21 some. We have a few.

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: But we don't have a  
23 policy.

24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We don't have a

1 policy.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is there precedent in  
3 other Franklin County agencies and/or other boards of  
4 elections that you're aware of?

5 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I know the State of  
6 Ohio allows flex time. I don't know of any county  
7 employees, if the county does, but I can check that,  
8 too, and see. I did some checking, but I forgot who  
9 I --

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, it's been four  
11 years, so I agree.

12 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The next item on the  
13 agenda would be the ward changes in Upper Arlington.  
14 You guys have a nice map in front of you.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Our staff here at  
16 the Board of Elections -- we had been contacted by  
17 the City of Upper Arlington about some ward boundary  
18 changes they wanted to make. Our staff worked with  
19 them to make sure the boundaries met all census  
20 geography requirements that we have for them setting  
21 precincts within wards.

22 So it was a very good process of us  
23 working with the City of Upper Arlington on it, so we  
24 didn't run into a situation like we did, if you

1 remember, a year or so ago, with Gahanna, who had  
2 made some ward boundary changes that then we couldn't  
3 make match up to census geography as we're required  
4 to do. This one was a good collaborative effort on  
5 this and all these match census geography. As you  
6 can see, there's a "before" and "after" map here. It  
7 did not change things dramatically in any of these  
8 wards.

9 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Are there any  
10 Central Committee Members affected?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: There are no  
12 Central Committee Members affected for either party  
13 on this.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What's the story with  
15 that little isolated piece of Ward 2 hanging down  
16 into Ward 1?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: As you can see  
18 that was in the old one and it stayed in this one.

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I have no idea.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I don't know,  
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Whose house sits  
23 in the island?

24 (Laughter.)

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Maybe the Ward 2  
2 council member.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: I leave that to  
4 the fine members of the Upper Arlington City Council.

5 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Or somebody the  
6 Ward 1 councilman doesn't want in his ward.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: For some reason. It's  
8 his mother-in-law.

9 (Laughter.)

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Or maybe an addition  
11 to the house.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: These would be  
13 effective January 1 of 2015, I forgot to mention  
14 that.

15 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
16 move the Board approve the ward boundary changes  
17 effective January 1st, 2015, submitted to our office  
18 by the City of Upper Arlington.

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

20 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Second.

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor?

22 (All ayes heard.)

23 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Motion carries.

24 The next item on the agenda would be the

1 provisional ballots. Every year we need you guys to  
2 give us the authority to examine and categorize the  
3 provisional ballots as they come in and then we  
4 always bring those that we think need your eyes on  
5 them so we can take a look at them and vote on them.  
6 This is no different than we have done in past  
7 elections.

8 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Then I move that  
9 the Board allow the staff to examine and categorize  
10 provisional ballot envelopes for the November 4th,  
11 2014, General Election before bringing them to the  
12 Board for final approval and that the staff may only  
13 begin to count the provisional ballots after the  
14 Board officially votes to determine the validity of  
15 the ballots.

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

17 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

18 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor?

19 (All ayes heard.)

20 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Motion carries.

21 The next item on the agenda would be  
22 traditionally we keep our office open on Veterans  
23 Day, you know, to try to continue to do work.

24 Normally we don't know if we're going to be in a



1 recount or we're trying to, you know, get --

2 MS. BROWN: Provisionals.

3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: -- provisionals --  
4 thank you -- provisional ballots and also to do --  
5 boy --

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Just all the  
7 post-election activity.

8 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah. Thanks, Dana.

9 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: It's so much  
10 you're overwhelmed.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I'm overwhelmed.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: If I might, just  
13 one clarification, the office is actually closed to  
14 the public --

15 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Closed, right.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: -- but we do ask  
17 employees to come in because of the myriad of  
18 post-election activities that we do.

19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I couldn't think of  
20 those words, Dana. Thank you so much.

21 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I move the Board  
22 office -- sorry.

23 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I was going to say we  
24 will take that holiday and move it to the day after

1 Christmas.

2 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: And I bet  
3 everybody loves that anyway. I move that the Board  
4 office be closed to the public on Tuesday, November  
5 11th, 2014, in observance of Veterans Day, but that  
6 employees come to work for their regular work  
7 schedule. For working a holiday, the Board office  
8 instead will close on Friday, December 26th.

9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

10 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Second.

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor?

12 (All ayes heard.)

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Motion carries.

14 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: I got one quick  
15 question I'd just like to raise, and Doug made me  
16 think about it when he asked about the line in the  
17 parking lot. What is our policy on the people  
18 parking in the lot with signs and that kind of stuff,  
19 what are we doing about that?

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Good point.

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: That's a good point.  
22 Right now we're still working with -- we don't own  
23 the building and so we're having the owner of the  
24 building prepare a parking policy, a parking lot

1 policy that we will run by the prosecutor's office.

2 But right now our thought is that we  
3 just -- that we designate areas in the parking lot  
4 for specific parking, like bus parking, where if a  
5 person wants to leave a vehicle here with signs on  
6 it, that they don't leave it in the prime areas for  
7 parking at all, they don't put anything in that prime  
8 area around the 100-foot line, and that if they're  
9 left, that they be parked away from the main  
10 building.

11 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: There's no way we can  
12 avoid this, I mean what will evolve into a conflict,  
13 you know, it's going to take one candidate to do  
14 it --

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah.

16 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: -- and then everybody  
17 else is going to take off. So it's like is there any  
18 way we can put a time limit on the parking spots --  
19 or, I mean, the owner.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The parking lot exists  
21 for people to come here for the purpose of voting  
22 early or other business and then leave. I don't know  
23 if it's unconstitutional for us to say the parking  
24 lot does not exist for people to come and park a van

1       there for, you know, 10 days or even all day  
2       7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. But, I mean, it's probably  
3       not going to be a big deal this year, but the  
4       precedent we set may help guide us for those of us  
5       who may be around this table in about two years when  
6       it will be a free-for-all again.

7                 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We have had this  
8       discussion with counsel. We went through this in  
9       2012. It is a little bit of a delicate situation,  
10      legally, because of First Amendment issues and our  
11      not owning the parking lot --

12                BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Yeah, but any owner  
13      of land can set a policy for his land, I mean, right,  
14      I mean, his or her land, I mean, they can --

15                DIRECTOR ANTHONY: But there's just a  
16      caveat to that. During an election season, and  
17      there's land being used for a public purpose, that's  
18      our concern. So we don't want to just say, you know,  
19      kick everybody off the lot and nobody's on the lot  
20      unless you come to vote. Before we do anything like  
21      that, we just want to make sure we can say that, even  
22      a private owner that they can actually say that. And  
23      I don't -- I'm not a --

24                CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You're not a

1 constitutional lawyer?

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Not really.

3 (Laughter.)

4 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Given when we're  
5 having this conversation relative to the election, I  
6 think this is a matter of some urgency because it's  
7 probably not going to become like '16 will be, but  
8 this is a gubernatorial election year, there's a lot  
9 on the local ballot, I think people are going to be  
10 vying for sign spots in our parking lot.

11 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Right.

12 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We don't disagree.

13 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: But it sounds as  
14 though our process on the 6th of October is to look  
15 to get some draft from the owner of the building and  
16 the parking lot and then that's going to be reviewed  
17 by the prosecutor's office and, at some point, then,  
18 I presume, we, as the policymakers, are going to be  
19 asked for our opinion. This is kind of sounding  
20 elaborate and slow.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, as early as,  
22 what, tomorrow morning, we may have an issue.

23 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Yeah.

24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: It is slow. Right now

1 I've asked the owner, we've sat down and I've said  
2 can we have a policy, and we don't have it. In 2012  
3 they wrote a -- not a policy, but a statement that  
4 basically took everything off the lot with some  
5 enforcement on it and we really didn't want to go  
6 back that route this time. So we'll do it posthaste.

7 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: We don't lease a  
8 particular number of spaces out here, do we?

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We do. They are  
10 the spaces that are down along the east side of the  
11 parking lot, sort of down toward Value City Furniture  
12 and then go around back. Those are our spots.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We don't have any more  
14 say on the spaces outside the semicircle than does  
15 the pizza shop or Kroger or anybody else.

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: That's correct.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That, of course, will  
18 be where the people are concentrated.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: We certainly do  
20 have authority under that 100-foot-semicircle, if  
21 there's anything going on inside of that, that  
22 absolutely, as a polling location, is our turf.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So we could have a  
24 policy for outside that semicircle that is completely

1 unenforceable.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: That's correct.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So that's what led you  
4 to say let's talk to the people that do own those  
5 spaces. Now I'm understanding that a little better;  
6 whether it works or not.

7 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: My guess is what I've  
8 heard in previous meetings is so much got thrown at  
9 the owner in terms of time to get this done because  
10 of earlier delays, that we probably, you know, that  
11 was probably the last on our list of things to take  
12 care of, but we're right up against it.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Will a Sheriff be here  
14 as a matter of course?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Starting tomorrow?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Starting tomorrow  
18 morning, we will have a Deputy Sheriff here 24/7,  
19 through the entire early vote period.

20 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: But, again, this is  
21 not county property.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Right.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: But in terms of safety  
24 issues.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Absolutely.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah, if there's a  
3 confrontation about people parking.

4 Now, we are looking at putting  
5 handicapped parking on some of the areas up in the  
6 front to make those handicapped parking, to put a  
7 little more handicapped parking in than we normally  
8 would need just to keep those spaces.

9 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Do you have the  
10 roadside voting?

11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Oh, curbside voting.

12 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Curbside voting.

13 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yes, we do have that  
14 here.

15 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Oh, you're the  
16 best.

17 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Then the last thing  
18 on that, now that it appears we're going to have some  
19 late last weekend early voting, obviously we're not  
20 going to have the kind of turnout we had in '12, but  
21 on that last day, the traffic, until the Sheriff's  
22 office got involved, was a disaster. I remember it  
23 got backed way up.

24 If I remember right, they stepped in and



1 created a turn lane which sped everything up and kind  
2 of did a pretty good job of correcting the problem,  
3 but it was one of those things that the problem had  
4 already started. And so, I mean, it would be, while  
5 we've got some time, but maybe before those final few  
6 days, meeting with the Sheriff's office and talking  
7 about how to control traffic.

8 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We have.

9 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Okay. Good.

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We have had a meeting  
11 with the Sheriff's Department and the Columbus Police  
12 Department. That's Columbus Police Department  
13 jurisdiction on the road --

14 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Okay.

15 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: -- and they will be  
16 out on that last, that last weekend, directing  
17 traffic. If you noticed in the parking lot, we have  
18 a walkway kind of designed in the parking lot from  
19 the street. So if you come off of Morse Road,  
20 there's designated lines in there for a walking path.  
21 The idea is if it's too crowded, the Columbus Police  
22 will park some cars over in that lot across the  
23 street and that will control traffic to allow people  
24 to walk across busy Morse Road.

1                   BOARD MEMBER HAAS: That could take a  
2 away a lot of the problem.

3                   DEPUTY DIRECTOR WALCH: Having both the  
4 Sheriff and Columbus police assisting us as much as  
5 they did in 2012, they are keenly aware of the  
6 obstacles and the potential problems in front of us.  
7 We had a few discussions with them about their  
8 availability to help us.

9                   BOARD MEMBER HAAS: In addition to other  
10 things, it became a real safety issue.

11                   DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And on that last  
12 Sunday, you know, we expect buses, maybe church buses  
13 or other buses to come in great numbers, and we're  
14 going to have a designated spot where they can unload  
15 and then go and park away from -- they can unload the  
16 passengers and then go park on that part of the lot.

17                   So we'll be working, and that's part of  
18 our two managers' jobs out there to keep that kind of  
19 craziness from slowing up or impeding folks from  
20 being able to get into this building to come and  
21 vote. So we've put some thought in that or a lot of  
22 thought into that.

23                   BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Carole, did you have  
24 a point?

1 MS. DEPAOLA: Yeah, I did have a point,  
2 because I was out there.

3 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Right.

4 MS. DEPAOLA: When the sheriff, when they  
5 changed the pattern, that led to more confusion. So  
6 it would be helpful if the pattern were established  
7 now, do you understand what I'm saying? Because  
8 people had gotten used to a certain pattern --

9 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Right.

10 MS. DEPAOLA: -- and all of sudden the  
11 flow --

12 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: And that was  
13 internally to the light you're talking about with the  
14 stop sign and --

15 MS. DEPAOLA: And the one place wasn't  
16 even being used anymore, so I wanted you to be aware  
17 of that, if you establish it right away.

18 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: One of the things that  
19 they did was stop all traffic from coming in off of  
20 Morse Road --

21 MS. DEPAOLA: Yeah.

22 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: -- that's the first  
23 thing that the Columbus PD did because it was  
24 creating too much of a backup --

1 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Yeah.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: -- and then they were  
3 making traffic just go someplace else, they didn't  
4 care how far they went up Morse Road, and that  
5 changed how folks were coming in here. We don't know  
6 what the PD is going to do. We've had a long  
7 discussion about that after the 2012 election and  
8 those same folks were at the table and we sat down  
9 and they assured us that we're going to have a better  
10 handle on it for this election and we'll see how that  
11 works. If that doesn't work, we'll go back to the  
12 drawing board and figure something else out.

13 Because you're not going to have -- the  
14 only time where we may have that kind of similar  
15 traffic will probably be on that last weekend, so  
16 that will be a good indication if it works or not.

17 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Good questions. I'm  
19 glad you brought them up, especially the outside  
20 issues, they are very timely.

21 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And you all know we  
22 open up tomorrow, bright and early, early in-person  
23 voting begins tomorrow morning.

24 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: I read that in the

1 newspaper.

2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: So that's all before  
3 the Board.

4 BOARD MEMBER HAAS: I saw it on TV.

5 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Congratulations to  
6 our on-camera talent.

7 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I've gotten a lot of  
8 comments about that, Doug.

9 BOARD MEMBER SINNOTT: Any of it good?

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: They thought Doug  
11 looked pretty good.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Move to adjourn.

13 (Laughter.)

14 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

15 (All ayes heard.)

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We stand adjourned.

17 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at  
18 4:47 p.m.)

19 - - -

20

21

22

23

24

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Monday, October 6, 2014, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

---

Carolyn M. Burke, Registered Professional Reporter, and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio.

My commission expires July 17, 2018.

- - -