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THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re: :
:
Board Meeting. :

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May 15, 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Director Antone White, Deputy Director David Payne, and Board Members Kimberly E. Marinello, Michael Sexton, and Josh Jaffe, on Monday, May 15, 2023, beginning at approximately 10:11 a.m., and concluding at approximately 10:24 a.m.

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Higgins & Associates
Court Reporting - Legal Video - Videoconference
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APPEARANCES:

**JEANINE HUMMER, Esquire
FRANKLIN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
373 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215,**

On behalf of the Board.

ALSO PRESENT:

**Matt Kelly
Thu Nguyen
Carla Patton**

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Monday Morning Session
May 15, 2023
10:11 a.m.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I'll go
ahead and take roll.

Kim Marinello.

MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
Preisse.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Josh Jaffe.

MEMBER JAFFE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We have a
quorum.

The first item on the agenda is the
approval of minutes from December 19th, 2022, and
May 1, 2023. And I believe you sent the Board
members the minutes there.

MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, I move
the Board approve the minutes of the December 19th,
2022 and the May 1st, 2023 meeting of the Franklin
County Board of Elections as submitted.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
3 properly moved and seconded.

4 All those in favor of the motion
5 signify by saying aye.

6 (Vote taken.)

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
8 same sign.

9 (No response.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
11 carries.

12 The next item on the agenda is the
13 certification of the May 2nd, 2023 special primary
14 election. And I'll turn that over to Carla Patton,
15 our Director of Operations.

16 MS. PATTON: Good morning. In front
17 of you you have two copies of results. One is the
18 summary and the other is the group detail. The
19 numbers are the same on those.

20 After a bipartisan review of all the
21 ballots cast for the May 2nd, 2023 special primary
22 election, we put forth to you the results that we
23 ask that you certify. All eligible ballots have
24 been counted -- that were cast have been counted

1 and included on the results summary that you see in
2 front of you. There was a total of 36,876 voters
3 that were eligible to vote this election. Of
4 those, 1,822 voters cast a ballot, for a total
5 turnout of 4.94 percent. We have no recounts as a
6 result of any of the races that were on the ballot
7 this election.

8 Therefore, we ask that you certify
9 the results as they are presented before you.

10 MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
11 move the Board certify and declare as final the
12 official canvass of the votes cast in the May 2nd,
13 2023 special primary election as submitted by
14 staff.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
17 properly moved and seconded.

18 All those in favor of the motion
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Vote taken.)

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
22 same sign.

23 (No response.)

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion

1 carries.

2 The next item on the agenda is the
3 hiring of Elizabeth Coldiron as a clerk in Voter
4 Services. Elizabeth comes from sunny California.
5 She decided to move back to Ohio here because of
6 the weather. And she has a BS in sociology and
7 she's been on board for about a week, and by all
8 accounts she's doing a fabulous job. So I think
9 Elizabeth is here if you want to stand up,
10 Elizabeth.

11 MEMBER JAFFE: All right. I will
12 move that the Franklin County Board of Elections
13 hire Elizabeth Coldiron as a full-time clerk in
14 Voter Services beginning May 8th, 2023 at \$18.47
15 per hour.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
18 properly moved and seconded.

19 All those in favor of the motion
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Vote taken.)

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
23 same sign.

24 (No response.)

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
2 carries.

3 Congratulations, Elizabeth.

4 The next item on the agenda is the
5 hiring of Scott Miller as a warehouse clerk. Scott
6 has been working as a seasonal in our warehouse for
7 about two years, and by all accounts by everyone he
8 does a fabulous job. You cannot walk back in the
9 warehouse without seeing Scott working. I mean,
10 he's done a great job for us and we're excited to
11 have him on full time. I think Scott is here.

12 MEMBER JAFFE: I will move that the
13 Franklin County Board of Elections hire Scott
14 Miller as full-time warehouse clerk beginning
15 May 8th, 2023, at \$21.54 per hour.

16 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
18 properly moved and seconded.

19 All those in favor of the motion
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Vote taken.)

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
23 same sign.

24 (No response.)

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
2 carries.

3 Congratulation, Scott.

4 The next item on the agenda is the
5 promotion of Chris Cooper. And I'll turn that over
6 to our Director, Antone White, for comment.

7 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you. Good
8 morning.

9 Chris Cooper has been -- and he's
10 here -- he's been with us since May of last year,
11 actually, when we hired him on to a full-time
12 position. He served as our customer service
13 liaison. He's helped to manage and run our front
14 reception area and our call center. And so since
15 he's come on board, he's done a fabulous job.
16 We're proud of the work that he's done.

17 So we want to take the opportunity
18 to promote Chris into the Absentee Department,
19 where he'll work under Matt Kelly and he'll serve
20 as a full-time absentee clerk working with
21 specialized ballots, so our nursing homes, jail
22 voting, and also serve as Democrat counterpart in
23 our absentee area.

24 So pending any questions, we ask for

1 your approval to promote Chris.

2 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that the
3 Franklin County Board of Elections promote Chris
4 Cooper to the Absentee Department as a full-time
5 absentee clerk beginning May 8th, 2023, at \$22.13
6 per hour.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
8 motion.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
10 properly moved and seconded.

11 All those in favor of the motion
12 signify by saying aye.

13 (Vote taken.)

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
15 same sign.

16 (No response.)

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
18 carries.

19 Congratulations, Chris.

20 The next item on the agenda is the
21 hiring of Chad Fracker as a front desk clerk. And
22 I'll turn that over again to Antone White, our
23 Director.

24 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, David.

1 Chad Fracker, who is here, has been
2 with us seasonally since 2022 and he was a former
3 voting location manager and precinct election
4 official. He's worked seasonally. He's done a
5 tremendous job and he's helped out in our call
6 center area when we've had increased call volumes
7 and just been a great seasonal employee for the
8 Board.

9 And so now that we've taken the
10 chance to promote Chris, we need to backfill that
11 position with Chad, who will serve as our customer
12 service liaison, again, working and managing the
13 front reception area and manage our call center.

14 So pending any questions, we'd ask
15 that you approve the hire of Chad Fracker.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, I move
17 the Franklin County Board of Elections hire Chad
18 Fracker as a full-time front desk clerk beginning
19 May 8th, 2023, at \$19.95 per hour.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
22 properly moved and seconded.

23 All those in favor of the motion
24 signify by saying aye.

1 (Vote taken.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
3 same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
6 carries.

7 The next item on the agenda is the
8 adoption of a revised procurement policy. And I'll
9 call on our Fiscal Director, Thu Nguyen, to discuss
10 that.

11 MS. NGUYEN: Good morning, Chairman.
12 Good morning, Board members.

13 Presented to you is the updated
14 Board of Elections procurement policy for your
15 approval. Our current Board of Elections
16 procurement policy was last updated in 2009. This
17 updated procurement policy I present to you more
18 aligns with the county commissioner procurement
19 policy in terms of approval thresholds. This
20 policy has been reviewed by the purchasing
21 department and the prosecutor's office.

22 Pending any questions, we ask for
23 your approval of this updated procurement policy.

24 MEMBER JAFFE: Do you we know how

1 recently the commissioners updated their
2 thresholds, because these are significantly higher?

3 MS. NGUYEN: It's \$25,000 and that
4 requires three quotes. Currently, our Board of
5 Election procurement policy is \$5,000 and we
6 require three quotes. So we want to get that in
7 line with the purchasing department.

8 MR. JAFFE: Do we know when the
9 commissioners made the change to \$25,000?

10 MS. HUMMER: I think the policy that
11 is currently in place has been for a few years. I
12 think it mirrors inflation.

13 MEMBER SEXTON: If there's no other
14 questions, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board
15 adopt an updated procurement policy that is
16 consistent with and more closely aligned with the
17 Franklin County procurement policy.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
19 motion.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
21 properly moved and seconded.

22 All those in favor of the motion
23 signify by saying aye.

24 (Vote taken.)

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
2 same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
5 carries.

6 The next item is the approval of a
7 BlueCrest contract for our Relia-Vote machine. And
8 I'll turn that over to our Director of our Absentee
9 Department, Matt Kelly.

10 MR. KELLY: Mr. Chairman, members of
11 the Board, good morning.

12 I'm coming before you today to
13 request \$158,250.70 to cover an updated and new and
14 improved ballot management system software from our
15 vendor BlueCrest.

16 If you recall, back in I believe it
17 was the January meeting you approved an annual
18 contract with the BlueCrest company. That covers
19 all of our software and maintenance and licensing
20 agreement for this year.

21 The exhibit before you today
22 represents an upgrade to that software system. The
23 software system that we're currently using has been
24 in place since basically we purchased the machines.

1 It's been updated, obviously, with different
2 versions as we've been going along. However, that
3 system or that product was a product of the Pitney
4 Bowes company. And since the Pitney Bowes company
5 switched over to BlueCrest, BlueCrest has since
6 created their own proprietary software which better
7 aligns with our security needs and it better aligns
8 with our move to a server-based system rather than
9 having a computer that's dedicated as a work
10 station-based system.

11 So this software has been a long
12 time in development, and this software will
13 represent a three-year contract instead of the
14 current one-year contract. And it will cover all
15 installation, all training, training for six
16 absentee employees on the new software. And it has
17 been reviewed by the Franklin County Data Center
18 and the county prosecutor's office.

19 Thank you, Jeanine, for expediting
20 this.

21 So this, again, represents a
22 three-year contract rather than the single-year
23 contract we've currently been operating under. And
24 once we install this software, again, it will take

1 us away from this work station-based system that we
2 currently have to a server-based system and
3 eliminate the need for us to have a third computer
4 that quite frankly is still operating on technology
5 that is quickly moving out of date.

6 If that describes it is, Jeff
7 Gatwood.

8 So if you have any questions, I
9 could take those at this point.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Does the contract
11 speak to maintenance and emergency assistance
12 and --

13 MR. KELLY: It covers everything
14 that we covered back in the January meeting except
15 this is a three-year agreement for the software
16 rather than a one-year, the current agreement that
17 we're under.

18 And this agreement we'll reconcile
19 at the end of the year once we install this new
20 software. There is another system upgrade that
21 will be required once the software is developed for
22 our sorter, but that hasn't been developed as of
23 yet. So all of this stuff is starting to align
24 with the new BlueCrest software rather than the

1 Pitney Bowes software, if that makes sense.

2 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that the
3 Board authorize the Director and Deputy Director to
4 enter into a three-year Relia-Vote contract with
5 BlueCrest in the amount of \$158,250.70 for updates,
6 testing, and installation of the ballot management
7 software. The contract commences once installation
8 is complete.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
10 motion.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
12 properly moved and seconded.

13 All those in favor of the motion
14 signify by saying aye.

15 (Vote taken.)

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
17 same sign.

18 (No response.)

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
20 carries.

21 I don't have any other business to
22 go before the Board at this point.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I move to
24 adjourn.

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MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We're
adjourned.

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Thereupon, the proceedings were
adjourned at approximately 10:24 a.m.

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THE STATE OF OHIO:

SS:

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

I, Carla D. Castle, a Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct, and complete written transcript of the proceedings in this matter;

That the foregoing was taken by me stenographically and transcribed by me with computer-aided transcription;

That the foregoing occurred at the aforementioned time and place;

That I am not an attorney for or relative of any of the parties and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 3rd day of August, 2023.

/s/Carla D. Castle
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: September 29, 2026.

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