

1 FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
2 MEETING

3 1700 Morse Road
4 Columbus, Ohio 43229

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7

8 Monday, December 1, 2025

9 3:00 p.m.

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12

13 BEFORE:

14 Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman

15 Michael E. Sexton

16 Jamie Shumaker

17 Antone White, Director

18 Erin Gibbons, Executive Manager

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21 Higgins & Associates
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1 APPEARANCES:

2 ON BEHALF OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF
3 ELECTIONS:

4

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

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

4 Jamie Shumaker?

5 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Here.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

7 MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
9 Preisse?

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Meredith
12 Freedhoff.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We have a
14 quorum, Mr. Chairman.

15 The first item on the agenda is the
16 approval of the minutes of October 6 and
17 November 3. I believe that Erin sent those to all
18 of the members.

19 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Any questions?
20 Anybody? Chairman, hearing no questions, Jamie
21 Shumaker, I move that the Board accept the minutes
22 from the October 6, 2025 and the November 3, 2025,
23 meetings of the Franklin County Board of Elections.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,

1 second the motion.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTORY PAYNE: It's moved
3 and seconded.

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

6 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
7 saying aye.)

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

10 Motion carries.

11 The next item on the agenda is the
12 recount for the two races, the Jonathan Alder Bond
13 Levy as well as the Truro Township Trustee.

14 I'll call on Carla Patton, who's the
15 manager of operations to go over the recounts.

16 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon. At the
17 December -- I'm sorry -- the November 19 meeting,
18 when we certified the results, you guys had
19 selected some precincts for hand counting for
20 recounts for Truro Township Trustee.

21 For the recount, we have the hand
22 count. 5 percent of the ballots cast in the race
23 and scan those, match those up with what was
24 counted, provided everything matched up, then we

1 were able to proceed with scanning.

2 So on October -- or November 25,
3 2025, we conducted the recount that was ordered by
4 you, as the Board, for the Truro Township Trustee
5 race. The two precincts that were selected to hand
6 count were Reynoldsburg 1E and Reynoldsburg 2F.

7 After hand counting the ballots,
8 which was a total of 517 ballots that were hand
9 counted, they then were processed through the
10 scanning equipment and tabulated; and the results
11 matched what we hand counted.

12 Therefore, we took the remaining
13 ballots for that entire race and scanned those in.

14 In addition to the Truro Township
15 result recount, we also conducted the Truro -- or
16 the Jonathan Alder Local School District Bond Issue
17 recount that was ordered by the Secretary of
18 State's office, and that recount consisted of hand
19 counting three ballots. There was no scanning
20 since that's all the ballots that were cast for
21 that race in Franklin County.

22 So before you, you have the recount
23 results for the Truro Township Trustee and the
24 Jonathan Alder Local School District Bond Issue.

1 As a result of the full recount of
2 both of these races, there are no changes that
3 resulted in this recount. The recount stands as it
4 was certified originally with Dennis Nicodemus
5 being the winner, and Toni Kleckley being the
6 second winner; and Chris Long and Kirby Reed
7 Samuell, II, are losers.

8 For the Jonathan Alder, the results
9 remain the same with two votes for the bond issue
10 and one vote against the bond issue.

11 We would ask at this time that you
12 would certify the results of the recount as they
13 appear before you on the report.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any questions?
15 Then I move that the Board certify as final the
16 results of the recount in the races for Truro
17 Township Trustee and Jonathan Alder Bond Levy.

18 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
19 Michael Sexton, I second.

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

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

24 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by

1 saying aye.)

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

4 Motion carries.

5 And, thank you, Carla.

6 The next item on the agenda are the
7 Bluecrest items. I believe there are four of
8 those. I'll call on Matt Kelly, the Manager of the
9 Absentee Department, to go over those.

10 MR. KELLY: Good afternoon,
11 Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. I'm glad I'm
12 going first. We've got a couple of expenditure
13 items I see on the agenda. So the wallet must be
14 full right now.

15 There are four items before you
16 associated with Bluecrest. Bluecrest is our vendor
17 for our ReliaVote system that includes an inserter
18 machine, which puts the ballots together. The
19 sorter, Vantage Sorter machine, is the machine that
20 accepts incoming ballots and verifies outgoing
21 ballots with images that we scan as the ballots are
22 going out and coming back in.

23 So there's four related pieces here
24 that I will walk you through.

1 The first piece is a payment of
2 \$108,378. Now, this is a renewal of our ballot
3 management software. This is a contract for three
4 years, not a single year, but three years. This is
5 the ballot management software we use to connect
6 with the post office. It is the operating software
7 for our -- that helps us with our mail rates to get
8 the price break on mail rates. It adds in the zip
9 plus four. It adds in an intelligent bar code so
10 the post office can scan in the bar code and
11 basically track the ballot through their system.
12 It's IMB smart bar code for tracking that they use.

13 So this contract is the renewal for
14 three years of that software system. I will take
15 any questions or if you want me to dive deeper into
16 that software, I can walk you through things.

17 MEMBER SEXTON: How does this
18 three-year license compare to what we've paid for
19 in the past?

20 MR. KELLY: If you remember, a few
21 years ago, probably two and a half, three years,
22 when we first upgraded to this new software, I
23 think the price at that point was around \$33,000 a
24 year. This works out to 36,125 each year average.

1 MEMBER SEXTON: So It's gone from
2 about three years from 100,000 to 108,000, roughly?

3 MR. KELLY: Roughly, yes.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Is there,
5 like this and other contracts, is there an option
6 to renew after three years, or how does the term of
7 it work?

8 MR. KELLY: We can -- yes. We have
9 our renewal come up in December each year. There
10 will be one coming after that. That's our renewal
11 for the entire system.

12 This three-year contract, I believe,
13 there is an out. We can cancel at any time if the
14 machine -- if we would not -- if we would break
15 ties with that vendor, at any time we can cancel
16 the contract.

17 MEMBER SEXTON: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any other
19 questions? Okay. Are we satisfied?

20 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
21 Michael Sexton, I move the Board authorize the
22 payment of \$108,378 to Bluecrest for the three-year
23 renewal of BMS software for the ReliaVote machine.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,

1 second the motion.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
3 moved and seconded. All of those in favor of the
4 motion, signify by saying aye.

5 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
6 saying aye.)

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

9 Motion carries.

10 MR. KELLY: Thank you.

11 The second item, I believe it's
12 called Schedule A and B. This represents our
13 annual -- this is not a three-year, but this is an
14 annual renewal for basically what we know as -- or
15 call -- the operating system for the operating
16 license for the ReliaVote and Vantage Sorter
17 System. This is what the system runs on. It's the
18 engine that drives this system. This also includes
19 annual parts coverage for preventative maintenance
20 items, preventative maintenance items would include
21 things like all of the belts and rings and rollers
22 on all of the parts of the machine. That is up to
23 \$15,594 worth of those things. We usually have
24 preventative maintenance on the machine between

1 elections, and this -- this annual contract also
2 includes our service technician that comes in from
3 20 to 30 hours each election or 20 to 30 hours just
4 on-call hours at our discretion and also 20 to
5 30 hours as part of our testing and setup for each
6 election and around 20 or 30 hours for our
7 preventative maintenance, or God forbid, a machine
8 repair when we have the machine break down.

9 So this includes all of those
10 things, the annual license, the parts coverage and
11 the labor coverage involved with having this
12 machine; and this is an annual renewal.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: On-call service
14 coverage parts run Monday through Friday 8 to 5,
15 excluding Bluecrest observed holidays.

16 If we need them in a crunch, we had
17 them before at midnight or after hours, election
18 periods. We've asked this before. We have been
19 satisfied with that service; is that correct?

20 MR. KELLY: Yes. They've been very
21 good with the hours, even weekend hours if we are
22 fulfilling ballots on a weekend, they're available.
23 Those go above and beyond the Monday through
24 Friday, obviously, that he has been on-call for

1 that. There's been times where we've used them on
2 the weekend by taking a picture of something that
3 looks like it may need an adjustment at some point
4 and they've been good about just answering that
5 over the phone or over, you know, sending us a
6 picture back or advising us how to things fix
7 things ourselves; but, yeah, we've been very, very
8 thankful that we have our technician with all of
9 his knowledge.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. I don't
11 have any other questions.

12 Doug Preisse, I move that the Board
13 approve an on-call equipment maintenance equipment
14 with Bluecrest in the amount of \$105,786.09.

15 MEMBER SEXTON: Michael Sexton, I
16 second the motion.

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

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

21 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
22 saying aye.)

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

1 Motion carries.

2 MR. KELLY: Okay. The third item
3 and the fourth item are both related to the same
4 vendor, Bluecrest. We have been asking Bluecrest
5 for, I guess, it's been the last 12 months or so,
6 Jeff, about an upgrade to the software so it is
7 compliant with Windows 11. Since that time, we've
8 actually had a number of conversations with the
9 company about how they're going to roll out the
10 Windows 10 platform for us; and they have since
11 contacted us back, and they do have a software
12 upgrade for us at this time for the Vantage Sorter
13 to get us fully compliant with Windows 11 and our
14 reliable inserter machine to have a Windows 10 plus
15 extended life. I don't know the correct
16 terminology, Jeff. Extended support for Windows
17 10. The one machine is not fully up to Windows 11
18 just yet.

19 So these two last items with
20 Bluecrest represent that software upgrade.
21 Unfortunately, with the software upgrade, there's
22 some machinery that needs to be swapped out as
23 well, computers. There's been four computers that
24 are imbedded in these machines, and there's

1 workstations involved as well that includes two
2 servers, a server for the sorter and the server for
3 the inserter machine.

4 So the company split up the invoices
5 or the quotes I should say, by machines. So the
6 first quote is for \$57,389.03. That includes the
7 Windows 11 upgrade and ReliaVote Site Server to get
8 us to Windows 11 compliance with all of the stuff
9 that runs our Vantage Sorter System. That's the
10 first one.

11 Then the second one after that
12 speaks to more of the inserter side. That is a
13 \$30,804.95 request. That would upgrade the InSite
14 Workstations involved with the inserter machine.

15 I know it's kind of odd how these
16 are presented since they broke up the quotes by
17 machine, but that's exactly how they presented them
18 to us, so we will present them to you in the same
19 way.

20 Any questions about this upgrade and
21 what that entails?

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What's the RDSE
23 again? System engineer labor per day, 10.

24 MR. KELLY: Right. So system

1 engineers, this is a complete software swap out, if
2 I could call it that, Jeff. That includes
3 technicians in Danbury, Connecticut, where the
4 company is headquartered, an onsite technician and
5 some people coming from Danbury, Connecticut to
6 work on the software, installing the software on
7 both machines and making sure the software is fully
8 tested and integrated with the operating system on
9 the machines.

10 So there will be a lot of hours
11 spent on the ground here with people that normally
12 would not be here to make sure that the systems are
13 talking to each other and they're in compliance,
14 and we fully test them.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think I see
16 Jeff nodding his head so that gives us some
17 comfort, not that we don't have full confidence in
18 you.

19 MR. KELLY: I don't know all the
20 terminology specifically. I'm not an IT person,
21 but that's my understanding.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. KELLY: In fact, just in
24 layman's terms for me, I think of it as if we had a

1 home computer that was upgrading for Windows 10
2 Windows 11, and you did the diagnostic on that
3 computer at home, you may get a message from
4 Microsoft saying "you can't upgrade to Windows 11
5 because your intel processor is two grades below
6 what we require for the Windows 11 to operate on.
7 That's kind of how I think of it in my mind only on
8 a much, much larger scale.

9 MR. PREISSE: Okay. I don't have
10 any questions.

11 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
12 Michael Sexton, I move the Board approve the
13 purchase of a Vantage ReliaVote Mail Sorter from
14 Bluecrest in the amount of \$57,389.03.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse
16 second the motion.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
18 properly moved and seconded. All of those in favor
19 of motion, signify by saying aye.

20 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
21 saying aye.)

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

24 Motion carries.

1 Is there any further explanation on
2 that?

3 MR. KELLY: No. It's just if you
4 have any other questions on the second quote here.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You covered it.

6 Doug Preisse, I move that the Board
7 approve the purchase and update of InSite
8 Workstations from Bluecrest in the amount of
9 \$30,804.95.

10 MEMBER SEXTON: Michael Sexton, I'll
11 second the motion.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
13 moved and seconded. All of those in favor of the
14 motion, signify by saying aye.

15 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
16 saying aye.)

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

19 Motion carries.

20 MR. KELLY: Thank you.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
22 item on the agenda is the Campus View lease
23 agreement for poll worker training. I'll turn that
24 over to Antone White.

1 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, David.

2 Today we're asking the
3 Board to approve an additional six-month lease
4 beginning January 1, 2026, for our offsite poll
5 worker training center. This is a continuation of
6 the lease that the Board approved in 2025 with no
7 increases to our base rent.

8 As you are aware, the deputy
9 director and I have been working closely with
10 county administration to permanently relocate our
11 poll working training to our Morse Road office.

12 Our county administration committed
13 to providing a permanent poll worker training
14 station here onsite for our nearly 5,000 poll
15 workers that we train for each election.

16 As a part of the commitment, the
17 county secured the former HomeBuys' location, which
18 is just to the west of us and they continue to work
19 with our team here at the Board of Elections to
20 ensure that the design and the build out meets our
21 standards.

22 While the design phase was underway
23 in 2025, the county needed to take some time to
24 ensure that the funding was available to continue

1 to construction phase.

2 The county is not ready to proceed.
3 However, that will necessitate that we continue
4 using our offsite poll worker training space while
5 the construction process continues here at Morse
6 Road.

7 I just wanted to take a minute just
8 to thank our county commissioners, our county
9 administrator, Kim Wilson, and deputy county
10 administrator, Kris Long, for the continued support
11 of the Board of Elections and this project.

12 We worked with them in 2024 to
13 expand our early vote center and our election
14 operation into the former Pay Less and GameStop
15 spaces which was very successful. We were able to
16 efficiently vote 128,000, a record 128,000 voters
17 in our early vote center in 2024. We look forward
18 to continuing to work with county administration to
19 add poll worker training to our office here at
20 Morse Road.

21 So pending any questions, I would
22 ask that the Board approve the additional six-month
23 lease agreement at a cost of \$151,496.98.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We're

1 anticipating this to be the last?

2 DIRECTOR WHITE: We're anticipating
3 this will be last approval and agreement like this.
4 We built this lease agreement so that there's an
5 optional six-month renewal should we need it. And
6 working with county administration, they asked that
7 we look at six-month lease with an option. And so
8 that just gives us the opportunity to have an
9 option if construction doesn't get completed in the
10 time they believe they will be completed.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All right.

12 MEMBER SEXTON: So we'll plan to be
13 here until the primary, and then if we need to, you
14 know, be here for the election for November
15 election, if not, maybe stay in Worthington?

16 DIRECTOR WHITE: Well, the plan
17 would be to hopefully be done within the six months
18 so that we can bring poll worker training onsite
19 here for the November election.

20 If not, if the construction doesn't
21 or if the schedule gets behind, then we would have
22 an option to renew and stay in Worthington through
23 the November election.

24 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Thank you.

1 MEMBER SHUMAKER: That was going to
2 be my question. Any other questions?

3 Mr. Chairman, Jamie Shumaker, I move
4 the Board enter into the six-month lease agreement
5 with Three Crosswoods for the Campus View location
6 for the purpose training poll workers. The lease
7 would be in the amount of \$151,496.98 for the
8 six-month period.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
10 second the motion.

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

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

15 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
16 saying aye.)

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

19 Motion carries.

20 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
22 item on the agenda, there are two items regarding
23 10X, and I'll turn those over to our IT Director,
24 Jeff Gatwood.

1 MR. GATWOOD: Good afternoon, Board
2 Members, Mr. Chairman.

3 The first item on the list here is
4 the annual renewal for the 10X voter registration
5 system.

6 10X is our vendor that supplies our
7 voter registration system along with other modules
8 that make up the entire application known as TED.

9 So I'm looking for the Board's
10 approval for an annual renewal of \$663,000.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You're fully
12 satisfied?

13 MR. GATWOOD: Yes. They're actually
14 a very good vendor.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: They're a very
16 good vendor.

17 MEMBER SEXTON: What's the time
18 frame on this?

19 MR. GATWOOD: It's an annual lease.

20 MEMBER SEXTON: Annual?

21 MR. GATWOOD: Yep. Not annual
22 lease. It's an annual license renewal.

23 MEMBER SEXTON: What was the price
24 last year?

1 MR. GATWOOD: It would have been
2 equivalent. It's based on modules. So the entire
3 system is composed of a handful of modules,
4 probably about ten different modules. If we add a
5 module, it adds to --

6 MEMBER SEXTON: To the price?

7 MR. GATWOOD: -- to the price. But
8 I believe we have not added any additional modules
9 this past year, so it should be the same as it was.

10 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Good. Good with
12 me.

13 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
14 Michael Sexton, I move the Board of Elections
15 authorize the payment of 663,000 to 10X for the
16 annual renewal for license and support for the TED
17 Voter Registration.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
19 second the motion.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
21 properly moved and seconded. All of those in favor
22 of the motion, signify by saying aye.

23 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
24 saying aye.)

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

3 Motion carries.

4 Next item on the agenda is, again,
5 it involves the 10X Precinct Central.

6 Again, I'll let Jeff handle that.

7 MR. GATWOOD: This is another
8 product from 10X and 10X Precinct Central is the
9 platform that manages all of our touchpads.

10 Our touchpads are electronic poll
11 books that we take out to all of our polling
12 locations. This is the platform that manages all
13 of those devices.

14 It's also an annual license, and it
15 should be no different than it was before. It's in
16 the amount of 216,000.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: While we've had
18 various challenges with touchpads, we've had none
19 dealing with this aspect. Is that right?

20 MR. GATWOOD: Correct.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All right. I
22 don't have any other questions.

23 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Mr. Chairman,
24 Jamie Shumaker, I move that the Board authorize the

1 annual license and support agreement with 10X in
2 the amount of \$216,000 for operation of our 1,600
3 touchpads.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
5 second the motion.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
7 properly moved and seconded.

8 All of those in favor of the motion,
9 signify by saying aye.

10 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
11 saying aye.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
13 same sign.

14 Motion carries.

15 The next item on -- actually, the
16 next two items on the agenda refer to our
17 Cradlepoint.

18 And, again, I'll let Jeff Gatwood
19 talk about those.

20 MR. GATWOOD: For the PMC wireless
21 Cradle Point purchase, this is kind of related to
22 our 10X Precinct Central.

23 The Cradle Point device is a device
24 that is sent out to all of the polling locations

1 for polling day, and allows for the monitoring of
2 our touchpads and for Election Day early vote --
3 not early vote -- Election Day turnout statistics.

4 Our current devices are end of life,
5 so they need to be replaced; and this is for the
6 purchase of that replacement for \$616,816.02 for
7 341 devices.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And you're happy?

9 MR. GATWOOD: Yes. This is actually
10 a new vendor for us, but they have a specialization
11 in providing the service for elections. So they
12 actually have a network operation center that
13 supports Election Day activities. So if there's
14 anything wrong with the device, they actually have
15 experts on hand that are all certified Cradle Point
16 engineers.

17 MEMBER SEXTON: Is this the one we
18 just went to in the last election?

19 MR. GATWOOD: No. This would be a
20 new device.

21 DIRECTOR WHITE: Yeah. Our current
22 devices we purchased in 2021 from our previous
23 electronic poll vote vendor. We're no longer with
24 that vendor, but we've maintained those devices,

1 and we use them with our current electronic poll
2 votes through 10X.

3 Our IT Director, Jeff Gatwood, has
4 done an outstanding job maintaining those devices;
5 but they're at the end of life. They're no longer
6 going to be supported. So that necessitates the
7 purchase for us to go out and purchase new devices
8 from a separate company that specializes in these
9 types of devices for elections.

10 And so this is what we're asking the
11 Board to approve today.

12 MEMBER SHUMAKER: How long do they
13 normally last?

14 MR. GATWOOD: The Cradlepoint
15 lifecycle is about seven years.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. I don't
17 have any other questions.

18 Doug Preisse, I move that the Board
19 purchase 341 Cradle Point devices from PMC Wireless
20 in the amount of \$616,816.02 for use at our polling
21 locations to monitor touchpad connectivity and to
22 monitor turnout.

23 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
24 Michael Sexton, I'll second the motion.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
2 moved and seconded. All of those in favor of the
3 motion, signify by say aye.

4 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
5 saying aye.)

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

8 Motion carries.

9 MR. GATWOOD: Would you like me to
10 do the next part?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Yes, please.

12 MR. GATWOOD: The next item is also
13 for PMC Wireless and that is for the Cradlepoint
14 licensing. This is an annual renewal and should be
15 the same as it was last year for licensing of the
16 Cradlepoint devices. This includes the operating
17 system and all of the security software that they
18 provide for it as well.

19 It's in the amount of \$127,778.56.

20 DIRECTOR WHITE: And, Jeff, just for
21 point of clarification, the license also holds our
22 warranty --

23 MR. GATWOOD: Correct.

24 DIRECTOR WHITE: -- for the devices?

1 MR. GATWOOD: Correct.

2 DIRECTOR WHITE: If we have a
3 problem with the device, the license covers the
4 warranty of all of those devices --

5 MR. GATWOOD: Correct.

6 DIRECTOR WHITE: -- for placement
7 and maintenance.

8 MR. GATWOOD: Correct.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: No questions
10 here.

11 MEMBER SEXTON: All right. Seeing
12 none, Michael Sexton, Mr. Chairman, I move the
13 board approve the expenditure of \$127,778.56 with
14 PMC Wireless for the recurring operating and
15 security licenses for our 341 Cradlepoint polling
16 devices.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
18 second the motion.

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

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

23 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
24 saying aye.)

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

3 Motions carries.

4 Thank you, Jeff.

5 MR. GATWOOD: Thank you.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
7 item on the agenda is concerning Whitestone
8 Security, and I'll turn that over to our Admin
9 Executive Assistant, Erin Gibbons.

10 MS. GIBBONS: Good afternoon,
11 Mr. Chairman, Board Members, you have before you a
12 contract with Whitestone for security services for
13 one year with optional one-year extensions.

14 About a year ago, we began
15 researching security vendors in response to many of
16 the increased security challenges we were facing as
17 an agency.

18 We interviewed and visited several
19 other agencies including Franklin County Children
20 Services, the Franklin County Dog Shelter, the
21 Franklin County Coroner's office and Franklin
22 County Title Agency.

23 All agencies indicated that they
24 were satisfied with the level of communication,

1 professionalism, reliability and service they
2 received from Whitestone Security.

3 We also met with Whitestone and
4 researched their company. Whitestone security
5 guards have a high level of training and standards
6 including Ohio Peace Officer Certification, less
7 than lethal weaponry training, active shooter
8 training, verbal judo and de-escalation training.

9 Additionally, Whitestone guards must
10 pass the background check and a drug test.

11 Some other agencies that contract
12 with Whitestone include the US Environmental
13 Protection Agency, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency,
14 the Social Security Administration, the CDC, US
15 Department of Interior, US Department of Homeland
16 Security, FEMA, and the list goes on.

17 In conclusion, we recommend
18 approving the proposed contract with Whitestone to
19 improve the security of voters, staff and elections
20 to decrease the number of incidents, to reset
21 security expectations and to support consistency
22 among county agencies.

23 Any questions?

24 DIRECTOR WHITE: Erin, I think we

1 outrank all of those other governmental agencies.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'm glad to see
3 that they're not contracting with any country that
4 the United States is not at war with. That's the
5 first time I've seen that in a contract. Maybe
6 that's common, but I've never seen it. Have you
7 guys seen it?

8 MR. ZAGROCKI: I don't believe I
9 have.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. That's
11 reassuring.

12 We've discussed this a little bit
13 before, and I think it was some time ago that we
14 were resolved to make this next move. So I'm glad
15 you guys have done -- described to me prior to this
16 meeting as well, pretty thorough job of research
17 and analysis. So I have no questions.

18 MEMBER SHUMAKER: You answered all
19 of my questions beforehand, so I'm good.

20 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Mr. Chairman,
21 Jamie Shumaker, I move the Board to enter into a
22 contract with The Whitestone Group to provide armed
23 guards to oversee security of the Franklin County
24 Board of Elections, building and staff, at an

1 annual cost of \$330,475.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
3 second the motion.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
5 properly moved and seconded.

6 All of those in favor of the motion,
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
9 saying aye.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
11 same sign.

12 Motion carries.

13 Thank you, Erin.

14 The next item on the agenda is in
15 regard to holiday hours, and the Board in the past
16 has seen fit to give each full-time employee at the
17 Board of Elections 32 hours of personal leave
18 during the holiday season; and we would ask that
19 the Board consider that same option again and
20 allowing full-time employees to take 32 hours of
21 leave in between the dates of Monday, December 22,
22 and Friday, January 2, 2026.

23 And we would make sure that all of
24 the departments here are manned because our offices

1 would be open during those hours, so each
2 department would have to make sure that they are
3 properly staffed during those periods of time.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: So in these --
5 during these hours, would have a crew here, just
6 small enough to deal with any public needs we might
7 have?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Yes, sir.

9 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Mr. Chairman,
10 Michael Sexton, I move the Franklin County Board of
11 Elections authorize each full-time employee
12 32 hours, four days of personal leave be used by
13 the employee any time between Monday, December 22,
14 2025 and Friday, January 2, 2026.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
16 second the motion.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
18 moved and seconded. All of those in favor of the
19 motion, signify by say aye.

20 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
21 saying aye.

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

24 Motion carries.

1 Thank you very much.

2 The next item on the agenda is the
3 Administrative Leave Accrual Policy, and I'll turn
4 that over to our IT Director, Chris Walter.

5 MR. WALTER: Human Resources.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: IT, HR.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Was that a
8 promotion or demotion?

9 MR. WALTER: Good afternoon, Board
10 Members. My name is Chris Walter. I serve as the
11 Human Resources Administrator.

12 Before you today is a proposal to
13 revise our employee handbook policy number
14 BOE-44.01, overtime, compensatory time and
15 administrative leave.

16 The purpose of this revision is to
17 align our policy with the county commissioners
18 administrative leave policy.

19 Currently, the Director and Deputy
20 Director may accrue a maximum of 80 hours of
21 administrative leave per calendar year.

22 I'm proposing to increase this limit
23 to 100 hours consistent with the county
24 commissioners' policy which was updated in 2024.

1 In addition, the commissioners'
2 policy includes language allowing overtime in
3 eligible exempt employees to convert 24 hours of
4 administrative leave to a cash payment in December.

5 I recommend incorporating this same
6 provision into our policy.

7 These changes would apply only to
8 the director, deputy director and IT director.

9 I respectfully request your
10 consideration and approval of these updates to our
11 employee handbook.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.
13 Questions?

14 Appreciate your succinct but clear
15 description.

16 MR. WALTER: Thank you for the kind
17 words.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So, therefore, I
19 move that the Board update the Administrative Leave
20 Accrual Policy as presented.

21 MEMBER SEXTON: Michael Sexton, I'll
22 second.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
24 moved and seconded. All of those in favor of the

1 motion, signify by saying aye.

2 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
3 saying aye.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
5 same sign.

6 Motion carries.

7 Thank you very much.

8 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Seeing no
10 business to come before us, I move to adjourn.

11 (Thereupon the meeting was concluded at 3:45 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 THE STATE OF OHIO:

4 SS:

5 COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

6
7 I, Jeanine Fansler, Professional
8 Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of
9 Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a
10 true and accurate transcript of the proceedings
11 hereinbefore set forth, as reported in stenotype by
12 me and transcribed by me or under my supervision.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
14 my hand and official seal of office at Columbus,
15 Ohio, this 3rd day of January, 2026.

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23 /s/Jeanine Fansler_____

24 Notary Public, State of Ohio

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26 My Commission Expires: November 28, 2028.

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