

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024**

Call to Order – 6:30 pm

Invocation – Pastor Brian Ford

Pledge – Ben Norton

Roll Call by Tina Shirshun – Present: County Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Treasurer Andrew Kmetz IV, Jody Hartley, Lewis Squires, Ron Bacon, Verna Chavalía, Bill Chye, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Eric Juers, Jason Kirkpatrick, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Kirk Chavalía, Margaret Greiner, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson.

Guests: Beth Hand, Aldon Maleckas, Larry Protasiewicz, Lyla McClelland, Joe & Peggy Hastings, Shaun Shoemate, Carole Johnson, Richard Boes, Mike Shaw, Derek Eaton, Ron Soberalski, Dan Fulton, Cathy Adamcik, Cathy Ingraham, Daniel Jensen, Carolyn Cater, Mark Gerbers, Tom Johnson, Randy Williams, Brittany Carsten, Daniel Jensen.

Approval of March 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes –

***Motion** made by Jason Kirkpatrick to approve the meeting minutes of March 5, 2024. Seconded by Bill Chye. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasury Report –

Sheila gave report on Financials in Margaret’s absence. Sheila reported February EOM balance was \$8,576.76 for the State acct. After 3 expenses and 4 deposits, the March EOM balance is \$9,775.19. The Admin acct balance had no activity so the balance remains the same \$353.33.

***Motion** made by Bill Chye to approve the financial report. Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Motion carried.

Reports from Committee Members –

Unfinished Business:

1) Voter Integrity Sub-Committee – Nicole Norton reported they had a meeting on Sunday, March 10th, and presented a rough draft to the committee. A tri-fold brochure as a conversation starter for when we are door knocking as well as another hanger for the door that expresses some of our concerns and to also let people know where some volunteer opportunities are like headquarters, door knocking, signs, etc. Brittany has been working on the brochure and Tom will be printing everything once there is a final draft. Sheila advised if anyone has any suggestions for conversation with people to get them to Cynthia and/or Nicole. Another meeting will be planned in hopes for the final draft to be ready to be presented to the Executive Committee at the next meeting. Sheila also added she met with Miguel from Turning Point Action and talked about the free app to download for door knocking. She also met with Andy Sebolt, Chair from D2 and they recently purchased voter file histories and will be offering them to each county in their District for a small donation.

2) LDD Sub-Committee – Sheila shared update on number of items already received for the Silent Auction and reminded all that more are welcomed. Rebecca reported she has In-Kind forms for anyone donating to the auction, sponsor ads, flyers available and can also take payment today.

3) Yard Sale update – Verna requests motion to change date of the Yard Sale due to several conflicts. Verna advised people can bring items to the house a few days ahead (4/24 - 4/25) of the sale and to have items clean and priced. Verna suggested baked items and also reminded everyone that volunteers are welcome for help and clean-up.

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalia to move the dates of the Yard Sale to April 26-27. Seconded by Nicole Norton. No discussion. Motion carried.

4) Precinct Delegates – Sheila advised there are Affidavit of Identity Forms, Precinct Delegate Basics, and her Appropriation Plan on the table. Deadline is May 7th at 4:00 pm and be sure you do not sign without a notary. Check your form and make sure it is all filled out correctly as the Clerk’s office cannot tell you if it’s filled out accurately.

New Business:

1) RNC Filing of 2 Voter Integrity lawsuits against SOS Benson – Sheila reported on March 13th the RNC filed a voter roll maintenance lawsuit against the Michigan SOS. The National Voter Registration Act requires state officials to keep their rolls accurate and up to date. Joselyn Benson has failed to follow the NVRA leaving Michigan with inflated and inaccurate voter rolls ahead of the 2024 Election. 53 counties were reported to have more active registered voters than adult citizens over the age of 18. Mason was at 104%. County Clerk Cheryl Kelly indicated it is difficult to give any reasons why Mason is showing 104% more active registered active voters than adult citizens over 18, as we do not know how or what data was used to calculate the percentages. She did state that there are situations wherein someone may have died out of state and until their office is provided a certified copy of the death certificate, that person cannot be removed from the QVF. The same is for somebody who has moved out of state. Unless the person moving notifies the Clerk’s office that they are moving out of state, they cannot remove the person from the QVF. But, Cheryl cannot give the exact reason because she does not have the information needed to direct her on even where to look.

2) Public Act No. 195 was shared with committee members. PA 195, which was signed into law on 10/7/2022 by Governor Whitmer, with many requirements going into effect 1/1/2023, Sec. 510 states the frequency that County Clerk’s must update the QVF files. County Clerk, Cheryl Kelly explained everything that her office does in updating the QVF files. Cheryl indicated that her deputy clerk actually updates the QVF files daily which is more than what the requirements state in PA 195, Sec. 510.

3) Sheila reported on the Newcomer Rental Subsidy Program states that you would receive \$500 per month if you would house an immigrant. HB-4410 & SB-267 are both in committees scheduled to come out later this month, not passed yet. HB-4410 is sponsored by the floor leader Ash and that’s about allowing illegal immigrants to vote. This led to discussion on immigrants, state ID’s, driver license, and being able to vote.

4) Sheila reported on Voter history files that can be obtained through D2 for a donation of \$99. She thought this information would be helpful for identifying a particular group when door knocking. It will also be helpful for vetting candidates.

***Motion** made by Rebecca Robinson to approve \$99 donation to obtain the Voter File history for Mason County from District-2. Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Motion carried.

5) Sheila reported that MDOT sent us a Certificate of Completion for our participation in Adopt-A-Highway in 2023. The Adopt-A-Highway 2024 Spring Pickup week has been declared for the week of 4/13 – 4/21. Sheila stated we normally do Tuesday but any day can be picked.

***Motion** made by Charlie Robinson to approve Tuesday 4/16 for the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Spring Pickup with 4/17 as the rain date. Seconded by Andrew Kmetz IV. Some discussion. Chair put Motion to the floor. Motion carried.

6) Eric reported on Part 1, Law of War. Eric played some clips from videos and briefly talked on topics like the peaceful transition to military power, Marshall law, Executive Order 13848, continuity of government, The Articles of Confederation, Michigan Constitution, military law, Law of War Manuel, the Chase ambulance, Secret Service, the Seal of the President, UCMA, etc. Eric also shared that he has many videos and articles so people can do their own research and also talked about a book called the “Midnight Rider.”

Reports from State Elected Officials –

-Sheila read report from Congressman Moolenaar sent by Damon Jordan (See Attached).

Reports from County Elected Officials –

-Andrew Kmetz IV reported we completed tax settlement with all the local units and purchased approximately \$2.52 million of taxes which will allow the locals and voted millages to fund their operations wholly. Tax foreclosure was effective April 1st and we had 8 foreclosures, of which none were owner-occupied. Five were vacant lots, one was an oil well site, one house was abandoned, and one was a rental house that the owner did not want to pursue an extension or payment agreement. We have 25 extension agreements to avoid foreclosure and will work with those taxpayers to get caught up over the next year.

-Commissioner Lewis Squires reported that in their last meeting about 2 weeks ago they only had 12 resolutions that were presented to them to pass. Next meeting is next Tuesday night at 7pm. We were given a report from the MSU Extension by Jeff Kelly and what’s going on there, another good report from Jody Maloney on the Promise Zone (important asset for the WSCC students), and the West Michigan Shoreline Commission report from Erin Kuhn. Another bit of good news also is that we passed a resolution for \$1,100,000 for trails systems for Mason County. Courthouse security has been very good with excellent results. Lewis also shared Kaitlyn Szczyпка, the new Deputy Administrator, is working out very well and she will be taking over as County Administrator next year for us. Commissioner Squires reported they are working on the 2025 Budget, that they also purchased the church by the Sheriff’s Dept (a \$260,000 expenditure), and the Courthouse will be going through some renovations.

-Commissioner Jody Hartley reported on presenting to the board requests from 911 director who put together a request/proposal for millage for August or November. Jody shared that after their Finance meeting this would not be on the ballot anytime soon. Jody then answered questions from members.

Announcements –

-Sheila reported on the “Citizen for Local Choice”, a ballot initiative that would allow local units of government to determine standards for large scale solar & wind farms with community input instead of allowing the State Public Service Commission, fast tracking and accepting all applications, which will start 11/2024. Jody Hartley shared that this will be voted on in a resolution form at the next County Board meeting on April 9th.

-Sheila announced the “Focus on Life Dinner/Fundraiser” will be on April 25th at Lincoln Hills. Rebecca shared she brought information and gave a breakdown of the evening topics.

Public Comments –

Cathy Ingraham talked about the meeting she went to with Moolenaar, the petition she brought in to support Alexandria Taylor, also gave an update on Jim B, and commented on a video she viewed on RFK Jr; Beth Hand introduced herself, shared her accomplishments and announced that she is a Republican Candidate for the Mason Co Prosecutor position also sharing that Prosecutor Lauren Kreinbrink has announced she will not be running in this upcoming election; Randy Williams talked about life expectancy on windmills, climate change, the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse and the toxic chemicals that went into the water, lithium batteries; Aldon Maleckas provided a printout on some thoughts and talked briefly on “we” the people and levels of government; Dick Boes suggested a “7th Inning Stretch” and commented on some concerns in the Daily News; Peggy & Joe Hastings introduced themselves and wanted to get involved with election integrity; Tom Johnson shared Cindy sends her best as she is not feeling well and is at home resting; Charlie Robinson shared that Tom Johnson is very helpful to the MCGOP and he is our Representative going to the RNC Convention; Brittany Carsten shared comments on the Mason County registration rate coming up at 104% and concerns she had in Eric’s report under New Business and also asked Randy W if he could organize research on lithium batteries to be shared with other people; Carole Johnson commented on President Bill Johnson in Fremont with the American Decency Organization going to a voter’s summit in Sturgis where they had several conservative speakers and shared information from that event; Lyla McClelland commented the state is notorious for having totally false lists but we vote off the list in the precinct in which we live; Carolyn Cater shared her experience when the state showed she didn’t vote when she did and said she was not the only one; Derek Eaton introduced himself shared information on where the property tax monies go; Ron Soberalski introduced himself and shared concerns on property tax; Mike Shaw shared he is running for 5th Ward City Counsel in Ludington and needs support, his email is ludingtonservant@gmail.com.; Larry Protasiewicz introduced himself sharing that he is a Republican candidate running for County Drain Commissioner. Larry shared his accomplishments and would appreciate everyone’s support.; Mark Gerbers introduced himself as a concerned citizen wanting to help; Daniel Jensen commented on many issues going on in these times; Shaun Shoemate commented on the 2021 Inauguration and her research into our Republic.

Adjournment –

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalia to adjourn the meeting. Bill Chye seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held at the Hamlin Twp Hall, 3775 N Jebavy Dr, Ludington, May 7, 2024, 6:30pm.