

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes February 10, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation – John Beckett

Pledge – Paul McCrath

Roll Call by Cynthia Johnson

Present: Prosecutor Lauren Kreinbrink, Treasurer Andrew Kmetz IV, Commissioner Gary Castonia, Commissioner Jody Hartley, Susan Boes, Jim Bachelder, John Beckett, Dick Boes, Jim Dodson, Sheila Genter, Cynthia Johnson, John Kreinbrink, Lyla McClelland, Tim Muldoon, Ed Schuitema, Tina Shirshun, Heather VanderVest, and Derrek Wilson

Excused Absences: Sheriff Kim Cole, Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Commissioner Janet Andersen, Wayne Kelly, Cindy Muzzo, and Diane VanderWall

Approval of January Minutes: Motion made by Cynthia Johnson to accept the minutes from January 13th as written, supported by Ed Schuitema. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Financials presented by Treasurer John Kreinbrink. Motion to accept financial by Sue Boes, supported by Jim Bachelder. Motion carried.

Discussion: Paul McCrath inquired on annual letter to members which the Chair has completed and will be mailed out soon. Reminder that Annual dues are to be mailed to Treasurer by check or John will have cc machine here on meeting nights if you want to pay with credit card.

Jim Dodson offered to musically perform at no charge at a GOP fundraiser to increase revenue.

An inquiry was made as to the cost of paper and printing. Tom Johnson offered to provide printing for LDD programs at no cost, which was a very generous offer.

Reports from State Elected Officials: None

Reports from County Elected Officials: A report from Commissioner Janet Andersen was provided to the chair to share with the committee. Report was read by the chair and is attached.

Prosecutor Lauren Kreinbrink reported that all jury trials have been put on hold due to COVID challenges and requirements.

Treasurer Andrew Kmetz IV reported that homeowners can receive extensions for payments on their home foreclosures. Also, they have extended the date to obtain dog licenses without penalties until March 31, 2022. The Treasurer's office posted in the newspaper as well as sent out 221 reminder dog license postcards to dog owners that they have on file.

Sue Boes has no report.

Commissioner Jody Hartley reported that on 3-8-2022 the County Commission will vote on the City of Ludington's request to eliminate three of the five policies that the Board has in place for Brownfield Development and TIF (Tax Increment Financing). The Finance Committee's resolution to the full board is recommending, to keep, the current policies in place. This will be a single vote on all three requests. He further explained how a Brownfield project works, a Developer gets reimbursement for eligible Brownfield expenses. They pay their taxes to the appropriate jurisdiction, the jurisdiction sends the taxes to the Brownfield fund, the Brownfield authority sends a check to developer, equivalent to what they paid in taxes. Only paid for, eligible expenses, are covered. Once the eligible expenses are covered the taxes then go to the proper jurisdictions. There is no risk to taxpayers to remove any or all of these policies. The risk lies in a developer deciding to not proceed with development in Mason County and going elsewhere. No development no new taxes. The downside to removing any of the policies is the extending of the length of time to receive taxes on the developed property. The cost of construction has increased dramatically in the last two years due to the pandemic, inflation, material costs, labor rates and finding labor. We have a housing crisis in Mason County, especially affordable housing. The current projects do not address affordable housing; but are workforce housing projects. These policies are in addition to State requirements and are not mandated. If anyone has any comments on this, contact Commissioner Hartley. (See attached).

Commissioner Gary Castonia concurred with what Commissioner Hartley reported and also reiterated that there is no risk to taxpayers to remove any or all of these policies.

Old Business: Lyla read and submitted a written Event committee report indicating that the bus trip to the Capitol is canceled as school administrators advised it would be too difficult to comply with the Covid restrictions.

Susan Boes asked if there was an update on the Lincoln Day Dinner event.

Lyla did not have anything to report on LDD but Sheila did bring the committee up to date on what is known so far. The LDD will be held on 4/28. Two locations for the event are being looked into. Lincoln Hills and Crown & Cork. Prime rib is out of the question due to the cost. Lincoln Hills has quoted a price per plate of \$35.94 plus there is a cost of \$850 for the event room. Crown & Cork quoted a price of \$40 per plate plus 3 different appetizers during cocktail hour and a full dessert table. Crown & Cork will waive their event fee. Still waiting on guest speaker confirmation. More in-depth information will be provided by Lyla at the next committee meeting.

Update on Headquarters space: Sheila visited the City Center Building where we rented office space in the past and talked with the owner, Josh Wickham. Josh informed that the office space the Republican Party rented in the past was no longer available. The cost at that time was \$275 per month with one year lease requirement totaling \$3,300. He did advise that he has one office space that will be available in March on the second floor. Josh showed Sheila the office space which is about 10X10 but again it is on the second floor. The cost for the office space is \$350 a month but we would be required to sign and pay for a 1-year lease which would end up costing \$4,200. Quite costly especially when occupancy would be 6 months or less.

The Country View Bakery offered space on their parking lot for a GOP trailer at no fee (trailer would be a one-time GOP purchase). Lyla brought up the fact that a controversial group meets there and that might not be in the best interest of our party to be set up there. Discussion ensued on the group that meets at the Bakery. The chair advised that she would

look into it further and that she was just updating the committee on what she had found so far and that she was continuing to look at different possibilities.

New Business: Sheila presented plans for 3 new sub-committees for the Executive Committee's approval and vote. 1) Communications 2) Young Conservatives 3) Voter Awareness. Flow charts were provided listing purpose, action plan, and goal. Discussion ensued. Motion to accept the addition of the 3 sub-committees made by Cynthia Johnson, supported by Sue Boes. Motion carried.

Membership Application Form. Due to the rise in cost in so many areas, Sheila made a recommendation to change some things on the membership application form. 1) Increase Sustaining Membership fee from \$60 to \$75. 2) Increase the price of LDD tickets at the door from \$45 to \$55. 3) Add Young Conservative Membership fee at \$15. Discussion ensued. Lyla suggested that we remove the sustaining fee category altogether and just pay for Lincoln Day Dinner tickets at the door. The sustaining fee includes \$25 membership fee and \$50 for the Lincoln Day Dinner ticket. A motion was made to table the changes until the next meeting by Ed Schuitema, supported by Jim Dodson. Motion to table was carried. Further discussion came up that the membership application had to be included with the membership letter and tabling to the next meeting would be too late. Per Robert's Rules, a Motion to rescind the previous motion to table was made by Derrek Wilson and supported by Andrew Kmetz, motion to rescind was carried. Discussion ensued by the committee wherein it was determined that a motion be made to accept the 3 changes to the membership form as presented above by the chair. Derrick Wilson made a motion to support the 3 changes to the membership form as stated: Increase sustaining fee to \$75, Increase Lincoln Day Dinner ticket at the door to \$55 and add a Young Conservative membership fee of \$15 to the application form. The motion was supported by Andrew Kmetz. Motion carried with one nay vote noted.

Public Comments: Cathy Ingraham gave an update on MI GOP and Secure Mi Vote Petitions.

Dick Boes was recently given an award and Susan Boes was asked to tell us about it. Susan said her husband was recognized for receiving the Honored Eagle Scout Award. Dick has been dedicated to the Scouts since the 1940's. Our congratulations to Dick for not only receiving the award but for dedicating so many years to the Scouts.

Jerry Coon commented he is upset the GOP expressed negative commentary regarding the censure of Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger. Tom Johnson commented about what he saw and experienced on January 6th in DC. He saw many people praying in the streets and being kind.

Adjournment: Next Executive Committee meeting March 10th at 6:30 pm Lakeshore Resource Network, 920 N. Tinkham Ave., Ludington. Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. made by Jim Bachelder, supported by John Beckett. Motion carried.