

Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022

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

Invocation – John Beckett

Pledge – James Bacheldor

Roll Call – Sheila Genter Present: Senator VanderWall, Lauren Kreinbrink, Cheryl Kelly, Susan Boes, Janet Andersen, Ron Bacon, Jim Bacheldor, John Beckett, Dick Boes, Jim Dodson, Sheila Genter, Wayne Kelly, John Kreinbrink, Lyla McClland, Tim Muldoon, Cindy Muzzo, Ed Schuitema, Tina Shirshun, Heather VanderVest, Diane VanderWall, Derrek Wilson

Excused Absences – Sheriff Kim Cole, Andrew Kmetz, Gary Castonia, Cynthia Johnson

Approval of February 10th Minutes – Correction to the minutes by Lyla McClelland. She indicated in the discussion about the dues, it was her intent to remove the dinner ticket altogether from the dues structure but not to eliminate the sustaining membership. The minutes will be corrected as stated. Motion made by John Beckett to accept minutes with said corrections made by Lyla, seconded by James Bacheldor, motion carried.

The chair made reference to an article that was recently published in the local newspaper and wanted to Congratulate Senator VanderWall for receiving the Peter Pettalia Memorial Sunshine Award from the Michigan Press Association. Specifically, the MPA recognizes public servants working to promote and protect government openness. Senator VanderWall understands how important permanent legal notices of government activity is to Michigan taxpayers. Senate bill 258 allows for public notices to be seen on newspaper websites without a subscription. He is hoping Bill 258 will pass in the house soon and then will be sent to Governor Whitmer’s desk for her signature. The committee applauded Senator VanderWall for receiving this award and for his continued service for the people.

Treasurer’s Report – Financials presented by Treasurer John Kreinbrink. Motion to accept financials by Sue Boes, supported by Jim Bachelder. Motion carried.

Reports from State Elected Officials – Senator Curt VanderWall

Senator talked about seeing an article about 40 cent increase in gas prices. Pay attention to that. Got the PBM bill finally done for controlling prescription drugs and transparency that was a 10-month project that the Senator had dumped on his lap. The Bill passed unanimously in the Senate, with only 3 no votes in the House and the Governor signed it within 5 days. Hopefully, within a year we will see those savings in prescription drugs. Senate Bill 246 is in committee right now which will allow people to have tuition reimbursement if going into the medical field. That Bill got passed and is on the Governor's desk. Health care is being addressed. He has been very busy. We are going to continue putting pressure on the Governor as she is making decisions that do not benefit our state. Don't forget what has happened to our local businesses with the mask mandate, what has happened with the health of our seniors, what has happened to the mental health from children through seniors. We cannot ever forget!

Reports from County Elected Officials – None

Reports from County Commissioners – Janet Andersen. One of the things that was discussed at our Tuesday meeting that I felt was most important was about Brownfield housing rules. We are going to look at the rules to see if they are too restrictive for affordable housing. The average income of a family of 4 in the area is \$52,000 and average people cannot pay \$1,200 a month for rent. We need to attract developers to address the housing needs and we will have to partner with Ludington, Scottville and various townships to look at what we might be able to do for our residents because we are absolutely not addressing the needs that they have. One of the things Curt mentioned about being online and not in the newspapers anymore and some of the problems the pandemic has caused such as in a recent report by Jody Maloney and she talked about how the high school GPA rate had fallen during the pandemic because people didn't have the accessibility to school online or have internet and how this will affect students attending college. We contracted with a firm out of Wisconsin to determine the feasibility of county-wide broadband. Approved applying for a grant through the Trust fund for a covered arena at the fairgrounds. What that means is that we are applying as a County for a \$300,000 grant but if the Fair Association isn't able to raise the remaining funds of 1.8 million, we don't have to take the grant money. Housing, Childcare, Transportation, and Broadband are 4 of the biggest problems the community is facing. Curt informed that there are 4 new bills being introduced to the Senate right now

to help childcare. Address zoning on affordable housing, address childcare issues which the Senate is working on right now and transportation are the main issues we are battling.

Unfinished Business – The Chair advised she mailed out 171 membership letters & application/contribution forms on 2/28. Call to Convention Notices were mailed out on 3/3. New sub-committees that were approved in February will not likely be forming until May.

Lyla informed the committee of the 2 venues for consideration for the Lincoln Day Dinner. Attached please find Lyla's report on both venues and recommendations for the committee to consider when determining their vote. Discussion was heard from members Jim Dodson and Tim Muldoon. Lyla indicated that speakers are hard to hear at PM Steamers. Come to order. The Chair intervened and said basically what we are talking about is Lincoln Hills dinner being \$35.94 per person plus \$850 event space and Crown & Cork's dinner being \$40 and the pro's & con's that you mentioned. Lyla indicated that was correct and that there was just no wall space for PP and the floor plan was just not adequate to hear the speaker. John Kreinbrink interjected that he was County Chair when the Lincoln Day Dinner was held at PM Steamers, that there were only 4 people at a table and it was difficult to hear the speakers. The chair reported that she has had a few phone calls on this matter and as a result, we are going to do a written ballot and members will simply vote on which venue they want to have the Lincoln Day Dinner.

Ballots counted, Lincoln Hills received 11 votes, Crown & Cork received 9 votes. The Lincoln Day Dinner will be held at Lincoln Hills Golf Course. Chair indicated that she just thinks it's important though to note that Lincoln Hills only won by 2 votes so maybe next year we need to look at our community more and other venue areas to give local businesses a chance.

We will also be selling sponsor ads to be put into the program for \$25 as well as PowerPoint sponsors to candidates for \$50 so hopefully, we will be able to earn money to put towards the \$850.

Senator Ruth Johnson confirmed that she will be our speaker for the Lincoln Day Dinner. Lyla thanked Senator VanderWall's office for helping her jump through all the hoops to contact her.

Chair-Update on Headquarters' space, informational only, no vote needed at this time. The Chair contacted the managers of all the unoccupied buildings in

downtown Ludington. There were only 2 spaces that started renting at \$500 per month plus they required a one-year's lease. Also advised the committee that I did check with the Country View Bakery owners and there is one controversial group that meets on Thursday nights one time a month but that would not affect us as our Headquarters isn't open past 6:00 pm. I showed the committee a picture of where we could set up which is off to the south end of the bakery in their designated parking lot area. I will continue to look.

New Business: The chair informed the committee of the Secretary, Cynthia Johnson, having to resign effective 2/28 due to a change in her personal schedule. I am looking for nominations for secretary through the end of the year. Jim Dodson nominated Tina Shirshun for secretary. No other nominations. Nominations closed. Tina advised she would accept the nomination. Requested Motion to elect Tina as secretary. Jim Dodson made a motion to elect, Susan Boes seconded, motion carried.

Lyla – Other events to consider that we have done in the past: Friday night live, Scholarships, Fair, and a Candidate Meet N Greet. The deadline for candidate filing is 4/19 so we should be thinking about a Meet N Greet.

Added: D. Wayne Kelly brought up moving on the scholarships rather quickly. Lyla indicated we should start working on that now. Motion made by Wayne Kelly to proceed in getting scholarship applications to schools, second by Lyla McClelland, motion carried. Chair suggested that whoever is interested in working on this committee to meet with Lyla after this meeting.

Kristina Karamo, candidate for SOS, will be coming to Ludington on Saturday, 3/19 at 1:00 pm for a meet and greet. Location: Lakeshore Resource Network, 920 E. Tinkham, Ludington. Mason County Republicans will host.

Public Comments/No Debates: maximum of 3 minutes per person

Charles Robinson provided information from Marvin, Wanna Buy Sheds for a possibility of utilizing for Headquarters. The chair will meet with Charles after the meeting to get contact info. Charles indicated that he & Rebecca didn't receive his Call to Order Notice. I advised I would email the notice to them as well as resend by mail and to get with me after this meeting so I can get email addresses as well as check their mailing address against what we have.

Phil Morse, Christian Conservative introduced himself and announced he was running for 102nd State Representative. Has campaign event a week from this Saturday night in New Era. Email Phil and RSVP if you can attend. Asked to be put on email list.

Jim Dodson announced that there will be a charity event for Ukraine at Stix Bar on Monday, 3/14 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. There will be live music and Jim will also be playing.

Jerry Skar, from Hamlin Township. Said he was at the meeting last month about Liz Chaney & Adam Kissenger and left questions in his mind on where the Executive Committee stands on these issues. He doesn't agree with extremist viewpoints. Mr. Skar was advised that he can make comments but that we are not getting involved in a debate nor are we answering any questions.

Cathy Ingraham, announced that there was a meet n greet for Matt DePerno at the VFG hall in Hart next week. She did not have the exact date.

Tim Muldoon – Candidate Endorsements. Executive Committee Officers cannot endorse a candidate prior to the primary. Tim asked John Kreinbrink if he was the Treasurer for Andrew Sebolt. John replied that he hasn't openly endorsed him. Cathy added comments indicating that Carolyn was forced to resign for the same thing. Informed they were not for the same thing. Cathy asked why others were being treated differently. No additional comments.

Additional: Lyla requested that the committee approve paying for Senator Ruth Johnson's room. Motion made by Lyla to approve the committee to pay for Senator Johnson's overnight accommodation, seconded by James Bacheldor, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by John Beckett, seconded by James Bacheldor, motion carried, and meeting adjourned.

Next meeting April 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm, Lakeshore Resource Network, 920 E. Tinkham Avenue, Ludington.