

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024**

Call to Order – 6:30 pm.

Invocation – Pastor Brian Ford.

Pledge – Ben Norton

Roll Call by Tina Shirshun – Present: Sheriff Kim Cole, County Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Jim Nordlund, Ron Bacon, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Margaret Greiner, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Juers, Jason Kirkpatrick, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Duane Hobart.

Guests: Shaun Shoemate, Lyla McClelland, Cathy Ingraham, Daniel Jensen, Brittany Carsten, Aaron Carsten, Dick Boes, Aldon Maleckas, Thomas Johnson, Karen Foster, Randy Williams, Dan Fulton, Bob Johnson, Mike ?, Jerry Skar, and Steve Opperman.

Approval of January 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes –

*Motion made by Cynthia Johnson to approve the meeting minutes of January 2, 2024. Seconded by Verna Chavalia. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasury Report –

Margaret Greiner reported the State Acct balance is \$7,935.77. Expenses were \$42.50 for Quickbooks, \$136.28 for office supplies, and \$66.00 for Post Office stamps. The Admin Acct balance is \$353.33. Margaret suggested that due to expense of printer cartridges she would like to look into a new printer that can print high volumes using less printer cartridges and will bring the information on that to the next meeting.

*Motion made by Nicole Norton to approve the Financial report. Seconded By Pastor Brian Ford. No discussion. Motion carried.

Reports from Committee Members –

Unfinished Business:

1)Sheila reported the County Convention Notices were mailed out January 11th to Precinct and At-Large Delegates. Sheila got 2 returns and then sent them out electronically. Convention rules were mailed on January 12th. The County Convention is at 7:00 pm on February 15th and try to arrive at least 15 minutes early for credentialing and be sure to bring your ID.

2)Sheila also went over County & Convention rules and how the temporary and permanent positions are appointed and their duties and how the ballot and voting process will work. Sheila also did a complete overview of County Convention and then what happens at the District Convention. Delegates will be voting for the Presidential candidate and then each District selects 3 Delegates and 3 Alternates to the National Republican Convention and also the election of 1 National Committeewoman and 1 National Committeeman. The National convention will be in Milwaukee, WI, in July.

3)Sheila went over supporting member and guest attendance and costs for 2 different locations (Hamlin Twp Hall and the Ludington Senior Center) for the MCGOP meetings along with a few other pros and cons from committee members.

*Motion made by Cynthia Johnson to have our MCGOP meetings at the Hamlin Twp Hall. Seconded by Nicole Norton.

***Motion** amended by Pastor Brian Ford to include that if there is a conflict with the Hamlin Twp Hall, that we use the Ludington Senior Center if it's available. Seconded by Nicole Norton. No discussion. Motion carried.

4)Sheila went over potential Headquarter information on 6 different locations.

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to move forward with location on 305 ½ James St, Suite 10, for \$650.00 per month on a six month lease. Seconded by Margaret Greiner. Some discussion. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried.

5)Sheila gave update on MIGOP Chair. The RNC is supposed to have a decision made by February 7th on who they recognize as the MIGOP Chair. Also on February 20th the 17th Circuit Court in Grand Rapids is hearing the case Melinda Pego filed (injunctive order) ruling if by-laws were filed at their January 6th state committee meeting. At the RNC Winter meeting in Las Vegas, neither Kristina or Pete were seated as the MI Chair but were invited as a guest. RNC then put together a special committee to review all the documents from Kristina and her administration and Melinda Pego and her team.

New Business:

1)Charlie Robinson was a guest of Rep Joe Fox at the "State of the State." Charlie shared his experience and stated it was an honor to be invited.

2)Sheila presented a proposed budget for 2024 and went over the differences between 2023 and 2024. Sheila went on to explain her proposed changes for 2024.

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalia to approve the proposed budget for 2024. Seconded by Pastor Brian Ford. Some discussion. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried.

3)Election Integrity, events, and Subcommittees. Sheila advised for the captains to look at their calendars, the week of February 19th, 26th, or March 4th to see when we can schedule a meeting to go over everything. Sheila also looking for someone to spearhead the Election Integrity.

4)Sheila talked about how she met a Kent CO executive member who owns a coin shop and he was engraving silver coins, half dollar coins with things like Abraham Lincoln, and an eagle, and another with Trump's head. They did this for a fundraiser and were selling them for a \$50 a piece with the original cost being \$28. Sheila shared it's another idea for fundraising.

5)Citizens for Local Choice has got together with petitions that have been approved by the Bureau of Elections. It's a bi-partisan petition to repeal part 8 as added by Public Act 223 of 2023 which stripped away local control of industrial scale green energy projects such as solar farms, wind farms, and battery storage facilities and gave the authority to the MI Public Service Commission. Local authorities will lose the ability to decide whether and where these utility developments are constructed in their community starting November of 2024. They need 550,000 signatures by May 29th.

6)Brittany Carsten made a PowerPoint going over responsibilities of Precinct Delegates such as going to school board meetings, getting to know neighbors and candidates, becoming poll workers, door-knocking, etc.

Reports from State Elected Officials –

-Sheila and Ben Norton read report from Damon Jordan, John Moolenaar's representative. (See Attached)

-Ben Norton read report from Curt VanderWall (See Attached)

Reports from County Elected Officials –

-County Clerk Cheryl Kelly talked about the article in the Ludington Daily news from a reporter who presented themselves to a training session on elections.

-Sheriff Kim Cole reported he just got back from the National Sheriff's Conference in DC. In January he was appointed to National Sheriff's Board of Directors and he's served on the Traffic Safety Committee on a national level and Saturday he was appointed to the Border Security Committee. He reported the

border is a mess, there has been over 85,000 children lost at the border, and over 100,000 Chinese are in America and their whereabouts are unknown. He shared this next election is critical. Sheriff Cole talked about news reporter working on the southern border that have been recognized by the Border Security Committee, Chris Van Cleave with CBS News, Melugin from Fox News, and Ben Bergquam. Sheriff Cole will be going back to the border in September and shared that he asked Senator Bumstead to go with him. Sheriff Cole then took questions which led to good discussion.

-Sheila read report from Andrew Kmetz IV, County Treasurer. (See Attached)

Announcements –

-District 2 is having a Chili Cook Off Event on Saturday, March 9th at 2:30pm at the Custer VFW. Tickets are \$10 and are available at www.migopd2.org/events. The D-2 meeting is following the Chili Cook Off at 4:00pm.

-The Mason County Republican Convention for Precinct and At-Large Delegates is 2/15/2024 at 7:00pm at the Ludington Senior Center, 308 S. Rowe. Please arrive 15 minutes early for credentialing and ID is required. The public can observe from the marked guest area.

Public Comments –

Randy Williams talked about his background provided printed material on “There is no climate emergency” and “Seizing Private Land is Next Step in Fight Against Climate Change” and talked about these issues too; Charlie Robinson spoke to the matter of civility and politics; Bob Johnson introduced himself; Dick Boes commented on starting a young republican group; Aldon Maleckas talked about and provided some printed material “The Sad Truth” and some other information on local government in the states, counties, and townships from “The Footprints of Time and a Complete Analysis of the American Government 1887”; Thomas Johnson commented on the corruption in politics; Daniel Jensen commented on some issues talked about at a coffee hour with Curt VanderWall; Cathy Ingraham shared that she would be happy to help out with petition drives and also shared what she learned on filling out info on petitions; Lyla McClelland had a question on By-Laws, talked about the meeting hosted at the library and the following meeting coming up, commented on the article in the Ludington News, and how important the bus trip to the Capital is for the kids; Shaun Shoemate also commented on the meeting at the library and having open dialogue with people; Mike ? commented on how good the cookies were at the meeting; Terry Skars commented on the border and shared views on Donald Trump and Nikki Haley; Steve Opperman challenged Randy to a debate on climate crisis.

Adjournment -

***Motion** made by Nicole Norton to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Pastor Brian Ford. No discussion. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held at the Hamlin Twp Hall, 3775 N Jebavy Dr, Ludington March 5th at 6:30pm.