

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2024**

Call to Order – 6:30 pm.

Invocation – Pastor Brian Ford

Pledge – Ben Norton

Roll Call by Tina Shirshun – Present: Appointed Prosecutor Beth Hand, Sheriff Kim Cole, County Commissioner Ron Bacon, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Margaret Greiner, Eric Juers, Jason Kirkpatrick, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Bill Chye, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson, and Charles Robinson.

Guests: Lyla McClelland, Randy Williams, Mark Gerbers, Joe Hastings, Peg Hastings, Jordan Miller, Brian Malokotsky, Brenda Malokotsky, Becky Lederer, Mike Shaw, Phil Yarbrough, Ernie Richardson, Shaun Shoemate, Frank VandeVoorde, Daniel Jensen, Brittany Carsten, Carolyn Cater, Elaine Cater.

Approval of the May 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes –

***Motion** made by Nicole Norton to approve the May 7, 2024 meeting minutes with the correction of the month in the motion to be April and not June. Motion to approve the minutes for April 2 meeting with correction as stated. Seconded by Ron Bacon. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report –

Margaret Greiner reported the MCR Committee bank account balance is \$10,687.43. Income in May totaled \$5,228.60. Sheila’s goal of making \$12,000 from the LDD fell short by .75 cents. Expenses for the May totaled \$680.00 for HQ rent and Quickbooks. The Admin acct received a donation of \$75 which now brings the balance to \$428.33.

***Motion** made by Jason Kirkpatrick to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by Pastor Brian Ford. No discussion. Motion carried.

Reports from Committee Members –

Unfinished Business:

A1-The Voter Integrity Subcommittee will be meeting sometime this month to determine dates of when we will be doing our door-knocking. Sheila presented the rack cards that will be used. Sheila talked about Miguel Pillars from Turning Point was trying to make it tonight to go over the app we could use while door-knocking. Sheila also added that the MIGOP has started a “Team Trump” campaign and the voter integrity subcommittee will all be captains. Quinn, the representative for our region, will be coming up to meet with the Voter Integrity Subcommittee to give more info, ideas and suggestions.

A2-Sheila reported on LDD final report, advised she was .75 cents short of making \$12k but received another donation after the fact which then brought the total income to \$12,188.00.

A3-Headquarters is open. Hours are Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm. Trump yard signs are there and although there is no charge for the signs we are asking for donations simply because MIGOP has not provided us any money or signs and we are paying for these signs out of our own budget. BUT a sign will go out the

door whether there is a donation or not. Verna has the HQ sign-up sheet here today so we are looking for volunteers for a 10-2 shift or a 2-6 shift or even if it's just a couple hours to help out.

New Business:

B1-The next meeting is scheduled for July 2nd and we have 3 candidate positions that have more than 1 candidate. Prosecutor's office, District-4 County Commissioner, and the Drain Commissioner which total 7 people. Sheila is looking at dedicating our next meeting to having an open forum here. Sheila explained the process.

***Motion** made by Nicole Norton to dedicate the July 2nd meeting to have an open forum for the candidates that are running for positions. Seconded by Cindy Muzzo. Some further discussion took place. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried. (Open forum for 7/2 cancelled due to being too close to the 4th.)

B2-The Ludington Jaycee 4th of July Parade float entry is \$33.85 and needs a motion to participate in the 4th of July Parade.

***Motion** made by Pastor Brian Ford to approve \$33.85 to participate in the 4th of July Parade. Seconded by Eric Juers. Some further discussion. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried.

-Sheila also reported that 6 individuals that live off the highway have come to her to allow large 4x8 foot Trump highway signs on their land. The 4x8 double-sided highway signs are \$65 a piece.

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalia to approve \$65 for 6 large 4x8 Trump highway signs. Seconded by Kirk Chavalia. Some further discussion. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried.

B3-Miquel Pillars from Turning Point Action was not able to attend and give his presentation.

Reports from State Elected Officials –

-Ben Norton read John Moolenaar report sent by Damon Jordan

-Sheila read report from Senator John Bumstead

-Sheila read report from Rep. Joe Fox

Reports from County Elected Officials –

-Appointed Prosecutor Beth Hand reported that she is looking to hire 1 Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and 1 Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Beth reported they have a very big docket tomorrow with 2 large drug cases that are up. The predecessor left some things to clean up so I am working hard to clean those up and move forward. Beth then entertained questions from committee members regarding back cases, court dates, etc.

-Sheriff Kim Cole commented on the good turnout for the LDD here and in Manistee the next night. He also shared that Ben Bergquam may come back for a vacation in June. Kim talked about the Press Conference planned for tomorrow morning at 10:00am on the steps of the Capitol about bipartisan legislation that would grant local law enforcement the authority to arrest and start the deportation process on illegals. He was invited to that event but cannot attend. Kim also reported last month he was in Israel. On a Sunday afternoon he got a call from the National Sheriff's Association (Kim's on the Board of Directors and he serves on the Border Security Committee) from Tim Woods and was told his name was submitted for a trip to Israel if he has a passport and he would probably leave on Friday. He arrived in Israel at 1:30 Saturday afternoon. Kim shared it was an incredible experience and he will be putting together a power point that he will be presenting Sunday at the State Conference up in Shanty Creek. Kim shared that the trip was all paid for by the Jewish Institute for the National Security of America and they are sending as many as they can over to learn about the terrorist attacks and the Israeli culture. Kim also shared some concerning moments from the trip and then entertained questions from committee and supporting members.

Announcements – The People’s Convention 3 day free event sponsored by Turning Point Action, 4:00pm Friday, June 14th to 12:00pm Sunday, June 16th, Huntington Place Convention Center in Detroit. Attendees are responsible for lodging. More info: tpaction.com. For a full list of speakers, go to TPAction.com/ActCon.

-Sheila discussed the Precinct Delegate list of names that will go on the ballot. The apportionment plan was for 90 Precinct Delegates. Two years ago we had 45 Precinct Delegates that were on the ballot and this year we lost 16 which came to 29 and we have 5 new ones which now total 34. After the Primary we will have some Precinct Delegate training.

Public Comments –

Becky Lederer introduced herself and that she is running for Mason Co Prosecuting Attorney. Becky went over her accomplishments and wanted to clear up the confusion as to why her sign appeared inside the Democrat Headquarters; Randy Williams read a quote from John Wesley and Thomas Sole and talked some on global warming and CO2; Frank VandeVoorde commented on vetting candidates; Cathy Ingraham commented on the MCRC banner being stolen and the possibility of something happening to the highways signs; Daniel Jensen provided some printed information and historical data and talked some on history to up to date events; Mike Shaw introduced himself and confirmed he is running for 5th Ward City Council, brought in some campaign material and is working on people getting to know him better, his previous accomplishments, and what he stands up for. Mike also shared that DTE was to provide info on solar farms at the Mason Co Planning Commission at the Airport July 2 at 7pm; Jordan Miller introduced himself and is running for Mason Co Prosecutor and talked about people getting to know him and his views and asking that you keep an open mind and consider him; Carolyn Cater commented on liking the idea of Sheriff Cole planning a presentation on his trip to Israel; Jason Kirkpatrick commented on Ryan Malinowski raid and how people need to be held accountable; Beth Hand commented and challenged Jordan Miller on a statement he had made about being a resident of Mason County and quoted a Michigan Rule of Professional Conduct; Eric Juers started with his comments are for entertainment purposes only and then covered a lot of info on Government websites and documents and that it doesn’t mean it’s factual or binding or meant to be of help. Eric talked about Executive Orders and Military and he ended with sharing that the US House just voted for broadcasting Guantanamo Bay proceedings online; Brian Malokotsky commented on an interview that took place with someone from the Soviet Government way back and talked about the 4 stages to communism and sees America in the 4th stage already; Lyla McClelland commented on a book about the Bidens called “ Profiles in Corruption” and it’s real good and an easy read.

Adjournment –

***Motion** made by Nicole Norton to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Motion carried.