

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2025**

Call to Order – 6:30pm

Invocation – Verna Chavalia

Pledge – Charles Robinson

Roll Call by Tina Shirshun – Present: Sheriff Kim Cole, County Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Treasurer Andrew Kmetz IV, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Bill Chye, Sheila Genter, Margaret Greiner, Jason Kirkpatrick, Cindy Muzzo, Shaun Shoemate, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Pastor Brian Ford, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson, Tom Johnson.

Guests: Dan Fulton, Carole Johnson, Richard Boes, Randy Williams, Lyla McClelland, Linda Kurnz, Emmah Coker, Edmund Zynda II, Daniel Jensen, Cathy Ingraham, Brittany Carsten, Aldon Maleckas, Joe Hastings, Peg Hastings.

Approval of the April 8, 2025 Minutes –

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalia to approve the April 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasury Report – Margaret Greiner reported the income and expenses of the State acct followed by the remaining balance. The Admin acct balance, having no income or expenses, remains the same.

***Motion** made by Jason Kirkpatrick to approve the financial report. Seconded by Bill Chye. Some discussion. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried.

Official Business – Reports from Committee Members –

Unfinished Business:

A1)Sheila read the final report from Nicole Norton on the April 23rd bus trip to Lansing which consisted of 15 students and 14 chaperones. Sheila then went through their agenda for the trip and everything the kids got to see and experience.

A2)An update on the LDD set for May 19th with starting time, silent auction, appetizers and a breakdown of the menu adding that dessert and beverages included, was given by Sheila.

A3)Sheila reported on Sponsor ad info and deadline of the 14th to appear in the program and reminded everyone what to do regarding silent auction items with Rebecca.

A4)Charlie reported that we missed April but the next Adopt-a-Highway dates are July 12th- 20th. The monthly meeting is July 1st so a date should be set at that meeting. Need a minimum of 6 volunteers.

New Business:

B1)Sheila reported she registered on line to enter the July 4th Parade before deadline pending a motion to continue which led to discussion on ideas and preparation for parade.

***Motion** made by Kirk Chavalia to approve entry for the 4th of July Parade. Seconded by Verna Chavalia. Some discussion. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried.

B2)Sheila reported she contacted the person in charge of fair booths for the Western Michigan Fair taking place August 5-9. Will update.

B3)Sheila reminded everyone Membership cost remains the same and has forms available to get new members signed up. Next big election coming in 2026.

B4)A review of all the information available on our website www.masoncountygop.org was given by Sheila.

Reports from Federal & State Elected Officials –

- Emmah Coker from Moolenaar's team reported that on Monday, June 2nd, from 5:30 to 7:30pm, that Congressman Moolenaar is hosting a picnic at Lakeside Park in Caledonia. There will be food, games and good times for friends and families and you can rsvp Emmah for this event. Emmah also shared that on April 4th, the Congressman along with the rest of the GOP Michigan Delegation, sent a letter to SOS Benson discussing the Chinese National vote along with the 15 individuals that should not have voted in our last election. No response as of yet but will update. Emmah then entertained questions.
- Sheila reported on the Meet-n-Greet in Hart with Senator Aric Nesbitt who's running for governor.

Reports from County Elected Officials & D-2 Member –

- Co Clerk Cheryl Kelly spoke on "Ranked Choice Voting" which is done in other states and our Legislative Committee will be meeting with a group that will be proposing this. Also spoke on Jeff Duncan with the State Registrar proposing that "male" and "female" be removed off of Birth Records and shared her idea that adding another box "other" might be a better choice.
- Co Treasurer Andrew Kmetz IV spoke on the Tax Allocation Board meeting and the questions out to local units were responded to promptly. Preliminary Hearing will be coming up to set millage rates for the county, townships and educational service districts. The county also purchased approximately 2.79 million in outstanding 2024 property taxes which is up 11% from last year. We are going to reach out to property owners to work with them over the next 2 years to avoid foreclosure. Andrew went over different foreclosure situations which led to questions and discussion with committee members.
- Sheriff Kim Cole reported on caseloads being up this year. Marine Patrol is up and running. Sheriff Cole also spoke on recent CPL class, the May 1st National Day of Prayer, the Bumstead/Nesbitt event in Hart, the upcoming American Jail Association Conference in Texas, the Sheriff Conference in Grand Rapids and the National Conference in Florida. Sheriff Cole then entertained questions from committee members.
- Brittany Carsten (D2) reported event "Freedom Friday", July 25th at Apple Valley Events in Sparta.

Announcements –

- LDD is Monday, May 19th, doors open at 5:30pm at Scotty's Restaurant. Last day to RSVP is May 15th. Last day for sponsor ad for \$30 is May 14th.
- Margaret announced she has started a parent support group for parents who have lost children. She is aiming at 2 times a month, one being tomorrow night May 7th at the Library from 6-7:30pm and again on May 28th 6-7:30pm in the West Shore room.

Public Comments – Aldon Maleckas provided a printout and spoke on Common Law Sheriffs and their duties and the definition of a citizen; Randy Williams spoke on the new program "Beyond the Forecast" appearing on 9&10, some article topics from the Ludington Daily News and one of his favorite authors "Thomas Sowell"; Cathy Ingraham spoke on her Remember Benghazi Rally and the Benghazi report on her FB page; Daniel Jensen spoke on an article with former Housing Official, Catherine Austin Fitts, and an interview she was in with Tucker Carlson about underground cities, bases and transportation systems; Linda Kurncz mentioned a video she received on the Michigan House Hearing today on Election Integrity but hasn't viewed it yet; Edmund Zynda commented on the reopening of the prison facility in Lake Co; Brittany Carsten mentioned a petition involving millages, will bring next meeting.

Adjournment –

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

Next meeting will be held June 3, 2025, 6:30pm, at Hamlin Town Hall.