

**AMENDED**  
**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 7, 2024**

**Call to Order** – 6:30 pm

**Invocation** – Pastor Brian Ford

**Pledge** – Ben Norton

**Roll Call by Tina Shirshun** – Present: Jim Nordlund, Lewis Squires, Verna Chavalia, Kirk Chavalia, Bill Chye, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Margaret Greiner, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Juers, Jason Kirkpatrick, Ben Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Cindy Muzzo, Nicole Norton.

Guests: Phil Yarbrough, Randy Williams, Beth Hand, Jordan Miller, Marilyn Morse, Frank VandeVoorde, Lyla McClelland, Dan Fulton, Joe Hastings, Peg Hastings, Brittany Carsten, Larry Protasiewicz, Daniel Jensen, Richard Boes, Carole Johnson, Eileen Stam, Cathy Ingraham.

**Approval of April 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes** –

**\*Motion** made by Pastor Brian Ford to approve the meeting minutes of **April 2, 2024**. Seconded by Verna Chavalia. No discussion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Report** –

-Margaret Greiner reported the Admin acct has \$353.33 and had no activity for the month of April. The State acct had \$15,788.83. Deposits totaled \$7,087.13. Expenses included rent for the Headquarters \$650.00, QuickBooks \$30.00, Zoom \$169.49, Hamlin Town Hall \$125.00 for 4 months, and Voter Rolls through MIGOP District-2 for \$99.00.

**\*Motion** made by Bill Chye to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Motion carried.

**Reports from Committee Members** –

Unfinished Business:

1) Voter Integrity Sub-Committee: Cynthia reported at last meeting it was decided not to do a brochure and instead just do a rack card. Cynthia provided a completed rack card with good talking points to be used at Headquarters and door-knocking.

**\*Motion** made by Bill Chye to approve rack card to print. Seconded by Jim Nordland. Some discussion on different uses of rack card and the number of rack cards that were to be printed. The motion before the committee was therefore amended by Rebecca Robinson to add the number of rack cards to be printed.

**\*Amended Motion** made by Rebecca Robinson to approve the printing of the rack cards and that 10,000 rack cards be printed. The amended motion was Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No more discussion. Chair put the Amended Motion to the floor. Amended Motion carried.

2) LDD Sub-Committee report by Sheila. So far we have 110 solid for Dinner. Sheila met with Gail at the Stearns and completed the final table set-up. Cynthia reported there are so far over 40 contributions to the Silent Auction. Kim Cole will be picking up the guest speaker Ben Bergquam from the airport.

3) The key to our Headquarters at 305 S. James tomorrow and it is scheduled to open on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Looking for volunteers to work shifts and plans are to be running full-time Mon-Sat, 10-6, by June.

4) The MCRC purchased Mason County's Historic Voter File information from our District-2 and talked about sorting them into precincts/townships and then sorting again by low propensity voters. Sheila then talked about having Miguel Pillars from Turning Point at the June meeting so he can demonstrate their free app to use in pulling up addresses of low propensity voters within so many miles of where you are located.

5) The spring MDOT Adopt a Highway pick-up was completed on April 16<sup>th</sup> with 8 volunteers and 15 ½ bags of trash.

New Business:

1) Trump yard signs are being picked up tomorrow and we will have some at the LDD. Also reminded candidates to get their yard signs, rack cards, etc. to the Headquarters which should be open May 17<sup>th</sup>.

2) Volunteers are needed for Headquarters, door-knocking and forums, etc.

3) Election Inspectors and Election Challengers are needed for this election. Election inspectors are paid positions. Contact the County Clerk or the City Clerk to complete the Election inspector form.

4) The booth for the Western MI Fair is \$65.00. The dates are August 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and decorating the booth will be Sunday & Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Motion** made by Rebecca Robinson to approve the Fair booth fee of \$65.00. Seconded by Cynthia Johnson. No discussion. Motion carried.

**Reports from State Elected Officials –**

-Sheila read a report from Rep. Moolenaar (See Attached).

-Sheila read highlights from Senator Bumstead (See Attached).

-Ben Norton read report from Rep. Joe Fox (See Attached).

**Reports from County Elected Officials –**

Commissioner Lewis Squires stated the BOC had 13 resolutions on the agenda last month. They had an equalization report from Tony Maynard on an update with 2024. A 2023 annual report from John O'Connor at the Airport was presented advising of some of the expansions that are going on there. They had an update from Sheriff Kim Cole and we do appreciate what he is doing for public safety here. The budget for next year is \$16,995,000.00. The BOC approved doing \$180,000.00 worth of remodeling at the Courthouse trying to bring it up to date. Commissioner Squires also shared they are concentrating on affordable housing in Mason County. Commissioner Squires then entertained questions from committee members. Next County Commissioners meeting is next Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am and the next work session is May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Announcements –**

-Mason County Republicans Lincoln Day Dinner will be held on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Stearns Ballroom, doors open at 5:30 pm. Silent Auction 5:30pm-8:30pm. Guest Speaker is Ben Bergquam. Appetizers, Buffet Dinner, Dessert Table, and Cash Bar. \$75 per person. Sheila advised there are around 10 tickets left.

### **Public Comments –**

Eric Juers talked about conspiracies that have been proven true and his research he has done in military and government documents; Randy Williams talked about Curt VanderWall attending the Manistee Tea Party meeting and the Scottville Senior Center meeting and issues he discussed at them and Randy also shared quite a few other interesting subjects in the news; Beth Hand introduced herself as the current Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Mason County and is on the Republican ballot for the August Primary for Prosecuting Attorney as Lauren Kreinbrink has decided not to run. Beth also went through her previous accomplishments and her current endorsements for running for Prosecuting Attorney; Phil Yarbrough introduced himself and shared he is on the ballot for Precinct Delegate for Scottville; Jordan Miller introduced himself and shared his accomplishments and that he will also be running on the Republican ballot in the August Primary for Prosecuting Attorney; Eileen Stam introduced herself and shared her opinion and observation on the Hamlin Twp Planning Commission meeting she attended last night; Marilyn Morris introduced herself from Oceana Co Executive Committee and shared this is the first Mason Co Executive Committee meeting she has attended, also shared the OCGOP is reorganizing; Cathy Ingraham talked about an event with the Hospitality Inc and the “Walk the Appalachian Trail” fundraiser; Dick Boes requested both candidates running for Prosecuting Attorney to share what they stand for; Joe Hastings shared that he has filed the Precinct Delegate form for Free Soil Township with the County Clerk; Larry Protasiewicz shared his accomplishments and that he is running for the Mason Co Drain Commissioner seat as Dan Rohde is retiring; Daniel Jensen shared his support of Eric Juers and his research and then talked of some interesting historical data; Jason Kirkpatrick read a poem.

### **Adjournment –**

**\*Motion** made by Jason Kirkpatrick to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Pastor Brian Ford. No discussion. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30 pm at the Hamlin Town Hall, 3775 N Jebavy Dr, Ludington.