

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2024**

Call to Order – 6:30pm.

Invocation – Pastor Brian Ford

Pledge – Ben Norton

Roll Call by Tina Shirshun – Present: County Commissioner Lewis Squires, Verna Chavalia, Bill Chye, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Margaret Greiner, Cynthia Johnson, Jason Kirkpatrick, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Kirk Chavalia, Duane Hobart, Eric Juers.

Guests: Frank VandeVoorde, Rich Rouwhorst, Kelly Crocker, Randy Williams, Carole Johnson, Alan Neushwander, Jennifer Nuehwander, Lyla McClelland, Jake Davenport, Shaun Shoemate, Daniel Jensen, Brittany Carsten.

Treasury Report –

Margaret Greiner reported donations received from individuals designated to purchase more yard signs totaled \$2110.00 this month. Safety Decals was paid \$3060.75 for ordered yard signs, leaving a balance at \$719.23 in the Admin Account. The State Account expenses for October were \$650.00 for HQ and \$30.00 for Quickbooks totaling \$680.00, and income came from 2 new supporting memberships totaling \$50.00, which now leaves the State Account balance at \$6079.74.

***Motion** made by Jason Kirkpatrick to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by Nicole Norton. Some discussion. Chair put motion to the floor. Motion carried.

Reports from Committee Members –

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Sheila gave a final report on the Annual Fall Picnic. We had approximately 65 people in attendance out of 72 RSVP's to enjoy a table full of homemade dishes and desserts, along with shredded pork, brats and sloppy joes for the entrees. US Senate Candidate, Mike Rogers and his wife were present. Mike provided an encouraging and motivating speech and talked about putting Michigan families first and understanding the real challenges facing our state and is "committed" to finding real solutions. The team of Mike Rogers is having a Super Saturday door knocking event this Saturday, October 5th. Volunteers should meet at the MCR HQ's at 9:00am where additional instructions will be provided by his team. Senator Bumstead and Representative Vanderwall also spoke at the picnic as well as Sheriff Cole, Beth Hand, Mike Shaw, running for 5th Ward City Councilor, and Quinn Gabriel from Trump Force 47. Many people left the picnic well fed and with a variety of yard signs and a better understanding of who is Mike Rogers and what he represents.
- 2) Sheila provided an update on where we are with Trump signage. To date, 1,575 yard signs were made for us by Safety Decals since May and 425 Trump Force yard signs were provided to us by our Trump Force Representative, Quinn, totaling 2,000 yard signs. That total does not include 66 4x8 signs, 20 4x5 signs and 20 3x4 signs. Currently on hand we have 95 Trump/Vance signs, 80 Yes signs and 178 Trump Force signs. As of 10/1 the total spent on signs is \$11,675.90. We have received many individual donations designated to purchase Trump signs from May through October 1, in the amount of \$9,616. MCR out-of-pocket expense was \$2,059.90.
- 3) Volunteers met on Thursday 9/26, due to rain on Tuesday, to complete our last Adopt-a-Highway pick-up for the year. Seven volunteers (Loretta Anderson, Shaun Shoemate, Charlie Robinson, Nicole Norton, Kirk & Verna Chavalia, Sheila Genter) showed up and 10 bags of garbage were picked up.

- 4) Rebecca Robinson with D2 gave report on training coming up through the Trump people (Mt. Pleasant and online) for Poll Challengers which you would be in person at the polls watching and monitoring activity. These are volunteer positions mostly in other counties and need to contact Rebecca to sign up.
- 5) Sheila reported an update on Trump Force 47 door knocking. Our county's goal is to complete 40 door knocks per week. Sheila went around group to see how everyone was doing so far.
- 6) Door Knocking event October 5th with US Senator Candidate Mike Rogers – See Announcements.

New Business:

- 1) Sheila reported she has completed a Voter's Guide for Mason County and presented a copy for committee to view. It's a 29 page report and can be viewed on FB Mason County Republican page and on our webpage and at the MCR HQ's. Sheila reviewed highlights throughout the guide.
- 2) Sheila reported on and provided printed material on HB 5503 and Substitute for HB 5503. The Substitute for HB 5503 is a bill to amend PA 94, entitled the "The state school aid act of 1979", by amending sections 11 and 31aa (MCL 388.1611 and 388.1631aa), as amended by 2024 PA 120, and by adding section 97h. Sheila reviewed areas of this bill which led to good discussion among committee members.

Reports from State Elected Officials –

- Jake Davenport with the Mike Rogers team reported the Detroit News endorsed Mike Rogers. Jake also shared a poll that came out a couple of days ago that showed Mike Rogers ahead of Elissa Slotkins by 4 points. Jake reported this Saturday, October 5th, he and Team Rogers are planning a Super Saturday here in Ludington. We are meeting at 9:00am this Saturday at the MCGOP HQ's at 305 S. James St, so if you are available to help along with 22-23 people that have already signed up to help, there will be cider and donuts to start. Team Rogers is also targeting a different group of voters, independent and soft Democrats while still including everyone. Jake will go over the app "Advantage Mobile" on Saturday morning and will answer any questions after the meeting. Jake also shared that next Tuesday, Mike Rogers will be debating Elissa Slotkins at 5:00pm at Wood TV Studios.
- Sheila read report from Congressman Moolenaar (See Attached)
- Sheila read report from Senator Bumstead (See Attached)

Reports from County Elected Officials –

- Lewis Squires thanked everyone that supported him during the election and is looking forward to serving another 4 years on the County Board. Lewis shared that the meeting last night was a work session at finalizing the 2025 Budget of approximately 17 million dollars. The next meeting is October 8th at 7:00pm and we are thankful for the GOP representatives that show up at the meeting. Some issues we are working on include the remodeling on the Courthouse with \$200,000.00 allocated to do so, the commitment of over \$5,000,000.00 to resolving some of the housing issues on affordable housing, the zoning board is working on potential zoning changes especially because of solar development issues, changes in some of the draining development fees, also still working on the school resource officers cost, the Trail Development, the \$500,000.00 received for housing improvements, the Junk Ordinance, and a few more.

Announcements –

- Join Mike Rogers Team for door knocking, meet at HQ's, 305 S. James St. at 9:00am on Saturday, October 5th. Volunteers are needed.
- Margaret Greiner reported on letters that someone else at her residence received containing filled out absentee ballot applications from the Whitmer group paid for by the "Voter Project Michigan."

Public Comments – Randy Williams commented on traits of a Democrat, some articles from residents in the Ludington Daily News, and some reports from the Epoch Times; Alan Neushwander introduced himself as a candidate running for the Ludington School Board and talked about some of his accomplishments and goals; an unidentified female commented on attending the presentation on the southern border presented by Sheriff Kim Cole; Kelly Crocker introduced herself and is running for Sheridan Twp Supervisor; Rich Rouwhorst introduced himself and is running for Trustee in Sheridan Twp; Lyla McClelland shared some info from discussion with 3 of her great-granddaughters and a grand-daughter who are in the service industry regarding tips and wages; Daniel Jensen commented on an article in Detroit Free Press regarding bribes with Congressman, prayers for all in the hurricane storm areas, and mention of lithium mines.

Adjournment –

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Nicole Norton. No discussion. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held November 12, 2024, 6:30pm at Hamlin Town Hall.