

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes - February 7, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**Invocation** – Pastor Brian Ford

**Pledge** – Cynthia Johnson

**Roll Call** – Tina Shirshun. Present: State Rep. Curt VanderWall-(via zoom), County Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Kirk Chavalía, Verna Chavalía, Bill Chye, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Eric Juers, Margaret Greiner, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: None.

Guests: Randy Williams, Carole Johnson, Paul McCrath, Ed Schuitema, Edmund Zynda, Aldon Maleckas, Jameson Tomaski, Karie Bleau, Gerald Bleau, Daniel Jensen, Dick Boes, Lyla McClelland, Jason Kirkpatrick, Eric Jackson, Jim Bachelder, Carolyn Cater.

**Approval of January 12 Meeting Minutes** –

\***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to approve the meeting minutes of January 12, 2023.

Nicole Norton seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

**Treasury Report** – Margaret Greiner reported no real changes, have a couple deposits to make and didn't have any bills to pay in January. Quickbook and checkbook balances were the same at the end of January as were reported from the audit. Financials will be available at the next meeting.

**Reports from State Elected Officials** –

-State Rep Curt VanderWall gave his report via zoom call. Just got done with a lengthy meeting in Lansing. One of the highlight bills "EITC" (Earned Income Tax Credit) is one he supported, let's get people off unemployment and back to work. Another bill is "4007" which zeros the budget from last year, which he did support, and then explained how that works. Tomorrow we have another budget bill "4001" coming which has gone through the House and the Senate and now the two chambers meet and they put a finalized bill together. This bill is on retirement pension tax and EITC, and may now include private pensions and 401Ks. Details to follow. Also rumor out there they may try to put language in there that would stop the trigger of the state income tax falling from 4.25% to 4.05% and I can't support that, I feel that tax relief needs to go to all people. Curt then took questions from committee members.

**Reports from County Elected Officials** –

-County Clerk Cheryl Kelly reported that if you reside in the Mason County Central School District, there will be an election held in May asking voters from that District for the second time to vote on a school bond. The multi-million dollar bond is aimed at generating funds for district-wide improvements. Also, the audits that were held a week ago in three of our jurisdictions from the November elections were spot on. Cheryl then answered questions from committee members.

**Reports from Committee Members** –

Unfinished Business: Sheila reported on County Convention held 1/26/23. Delegates elected to attend the State Convention are Rebecca Robinson, Charles Robinson, Eric Juers, Verna Chavalía, Kirk Chavalía, Tina Shirshun, Nicole Norton, Ben Norton, and Sheila Genter. Alternates elected are Margaret Greiner, Pastor Brian Ford, Duane Hobart, and Daniel Jensen. District 2 Caucus is 2/17/23 and State Convention is 2/18/23. Also one vacant precinct delegate position in Ludington Precinct 6 got filled by Jason Kirkpatrick.

## New Business:

1-) Sheila reported that she received a resignation by Susan Boes per email and read the email to committee members. Susan's resignation was accepted with regret, indicating she was quite an asset. Now we have a vacancy we need to fill and per the by-laws nominations will be accepted by the committee. Eric Juers nominated Jason Kirkpatrick. Jason Kirkpatrick accepted nomination. Any other nominations were asked 3 times. No other nominations and closed.

**\*Motion** made by Nicole Norton to elect nominee Jason Kirkpatrick to fill vacant position on Executive Committee. Seconded by Cynthia Johnson. Discussion held by Eric Juers providing information on Jason Kirkpatrick and what he can bring to the group. No other discussion. Motion carried. Jason Kirkpatrick introduced himself and shared information about himself.

2-) Sheila made appointments to Sub-committees. The (leader) of each Sub-committee will be referred to as (captain) instead of a (chair).

**Membership:** Verna Chavalia (captain), Kirk Chavalia, Bill Chye, and Margaret Greiner.

**Communications:** Pastor Brian Ford (captain), and Eric Juers.

**Scholarship:** Nicole Norton (captain), Cynthia Johnson, and Ben Norton.

**Events/Fundraisers:** Rebecca Robinson (captain), Charles Robinson, Tina Shirshun, and Cindy Muzzo.

**Young Conservatives:** Duane Hobart (captain), and Ben Norton.

**Electronic Media:** Sheila Genter

**\*Motion** made by Verna Chavalia to approve members appointed to Sub-committees listed. Seconded by Pastor Brian Ford. No discussion. Motion carried.

Sheila also shared the Chair and Vice Chair shall be ex-officio members of all Sub-committees per Article IV, 2 of our Mason County Republican Committee By-Laws.

3-) Sheila reported she is looking into adding an online payment tab to our website so memberships and donations can be made via Square, cc/dc. While checks are becoming more obsolete and the Treasurer isn't always available to accept payments, we need to have an alternate payment system available for members and contributors to be able to access at any time.

## **Guest Speaker –**

Ed Schuitema reported that everything they do in congress ends up in a House Journal or online. In this presentation, Ed showed the committee how to navigate the Legislature website at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov). Ed covered many areas of the website and answered questions along the way. Lots of information covered.

## **Public Comments**

Cathy Ingraham shared her experience going to a closed caucus; Carole Johnson shared she is a precinct delegate; Alan Maleckas shared not to discourage cash or check payments and shared view on the 12 man jury; Lyla McClelland, stated she had 2 points to make. She said that this afternoon US Congressman Moolenaar was in town, it would have been nice to see someone from the committee there. Sheila indicated she was not aware he was in town. Lyla responded, at any rate to continue, he was there, it would have been nice, but just a reminder, this is how we get things done. This is how we hold them accountable. If we want something done we got to speak up and we got to be there. Secondly, I would like to do a little better on information so the school bus trip doesn't get forgotten. Please don't let that go by the wayside. Lyla was informed that we stated on the record we would revisit the school bus trip next year. Lyla was asked where Moolenaar was by a committee member and Lyla replied his "representative" was at City Hall. Sheila to follow up with Damon Jordan, Moolenaar's representative. Eric Jackson

introduced himself from Amber Twp; Jason Kirkpatrick shared an experience/conversation he had with another person about why we need to step up and do something; Jameson Tomaski shared he's originally from Ludington and moved back and saw this meeting on the community calendar so here he is and he is not disappointed; Daniel Jensen shared thoughts on Soros funding; Edmund Zynda shared from Sheridan Twp; Gerald Bleau from Pere Marquette Twp thanked Committee members for their support at his hearing; Karie Bleau shared info on petitions and thanked everyone for their support; Paul McCrath is here looking for solutions; Randy Williams here mostly getting an idea of what can be done as part of the group; Jim Bachelder just enjoying sitting back here and watching this all go on; Dick Boes shared the price of freedom is constant vigilance, which led into great conversation.

**Announcement:** Sheila informed all in attendance that 102<sup>nd</sup> State Representative Curt VanderWall is starting his coffee hours next Monday, 2/13/23, in Scottville at the Government Center from 10am to 11am.

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

Next meeting is March 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, at Lakeshore Resource Network, 920 E. Tinkham Avenue, Ludington.