

Mason County Republican Executive Committee Minutes
July 14, 2022

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

Invocation – John Beckett

Pledge – Kim Cole

Roll Call – Tina Shirshun Present: Prosecutor Lauren Kreinbrink, Sheriff Kim Cole, Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Treasurer Andrew Kmetz IV, Susan Boes, Gary Castonia, John Beckett, Dick Boes, Verna Chavalía, Sheila Genter, Wayne Kelly, John Kreinbrink, Lyla McClelland, Cindy Muzzo, Ed Bear Schuitema, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Jim Bachelder, Cynthia Johnson, Tim Muldoon, Heather VanderVest, and Diane VanderWall.

Guests: Frank Vande Voorde, Keila Lankton, Kirk Chavalía, Loretta Anderson, Donita Farmer, and Brenda Freeman.

Approval of the July meeting minutes -

***Motion** made by Gary Castonia to approve meeting minutes of July 14, 2022. Dick Boes seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – John Kreinbrink displayed and reviewed expense details, budget, and balance sheet. No questions on report.

***Motion** made by Andrew Kmetz to approve Treasurer's report. John Beckett seconded. Motion carried.

Reports from State Elected Officials – none.

Reports from County Elected Officials –

Prosecutor Lauren Kreinbrink reported office has been very busy. Some interesting cases coming up end of July, so keep an eye on the media or come to the Courthouse and watch those cases unfold. A lot of 2019 and 2020 cases that were put on hold during Covid have gotten convictions.

Sheriff Kim Cole reported also very busy with a lot of court stuff going on, still playing catch-up from Covid. We are going to be really tight on budget but good thing is County Board gives us a nice budget with a lot of wiggle room. But what we tend to do is we get a really nice fuel budget. In 2018 the voters voted 64% to

put more deputies on the road so the mileage was approved for four additional deputies and I am going to honor that. We're not shorting our road patrol or doubling cars up, we are going to continue to do the things the public expects us to do. I am confident the County Board through the year will continue to give us the budget we need to be successful, they have always done so in the past. After the Lincoln Day Dinner, the Daily News did a story on my presentation and they changed two words. I am a "Claremont Fellow" of Claremont Institute of Orange County California, they are a "conservative thinktank" and in 2021 they started a "Sheriff's Fellowship Program", they picked eight sheriffs across America to be part of their Inaugural Sheriff's Fellowship and I was honored to be one of them. The Ludington Daily News changed the words "conservative thinktank" to "right wing."

County Clerk Cheryl Kelly reported they were really busy at clerk's office. We have done about three weeks of election inspector training classes with about one more week to go. Everyone should know the process, know the candidates, and get out to vote.

Treasurer Andrew Metz reported they are finishing up the hiring process for a taxable adjustment deputy. We started collecting taxes, we are collecting this year on behalf of Amber twp., and the other townships will be turning over their collections throughout the year.

Commissioner Gary Castonia – no report.

Reports from Committee Members

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Sheila gave update that pins have arrived. They came to \$195.80 for 250 pins and we had a budget approval of \$300 for pins, bags & pens. The bag quote was \$222.77 and the pen quote was \$200.54 both with a minimum order of 250. I went with ordering the pins first since we were accepting donations for them. So far we have collected \$70 in donations. I am asking for a motion tonight that the committee approve me ordering the bags 250 for \$222.77, which is the minimum order with the best cost-effective price, so with shipping and tax, maybe round that up to \$250. There are 30 bags in storage for Lyla to start with at the fair.

***Motion** made by Wayne Kelly to order the bags with a maximum expenditure of \$250. Susan Boes seconded. Motion carried.

- 2) Sheila reported on volunteers for the Headquarters. We've had 11 people sign up for July. Shifts are 10-noon, 1-3:30, and 3:30-6, Monday through Saturday. Calendar is here tonight and volunteer if you can.
- 3) Sheila reminded, Adopt a Highway cleanup is scheduled for Monday, July 17th at 6:00 pm. Meet at PM township parking lot. John Kreinbrink gave update with info that US 31 south is closed and gave directions to pick up northbound on US 31. Rain day is July 20th. Sheila also reported on the great turnout of volunteers for the July 4th Parade.
- 4) Lyla indicated that she played around and played around with trying to get a meet and greet but not finding buildings available. We have rented Concordia Hall at St. John's Lutheran Church for July 28th where we had meetings during Covid. Passed around flyers for everyone to post on face book and share with friends. Reported she has no confirmation yet on candidates but just got the hall 2-3 days ago.

Lyla reported on fair August 10-14, setup would be Sunday August 7 where you can drive right in. Hours at fair are Noon-10:00 pm, most important time being 4:00 pm through evening.

New Business:

- 1) Sheila read an email from Derek Wilson respectfully submitting his resignation from the MCGOP Executive Committee. The resignation was accepted and as a result, we have an opening to fill on the Executive Committee. Cindy Muzzo nominated Margaret Greiner with Margaret accepting. Ed Bear Schuitema nominated Loretta Anderson with Loretta accepting. Both nominees introduced and provided some information about themselves. Paper ballots were passed out to committee members to vote for 1 and Cheryl Kelly counted the ballots. Ballot count showed Margaret Greiner having the majority of votes. The new member of the MCGOP Executive Committee is Margaret Greiner.
- 2) Sheila reported the County Convention is scheduled for August 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Notices were mailed out on June 17th. State Convention will be held in Lansing on August 27.
- 3) Sheila requested to move the monthly MCGOP meeting to August 18th as a result of the county convention on August 11th.
***Motion** made by Susan Boes to move MCGOP monthly meeting to August 18th. Verna Chavalia seconded. Motion carried.

4) John Kreinbrink suggested September 18th to be the annual picnic date so we can reserve the site at Sutton's Landing Park with fee of \$40-\$50.

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalía to have annual picnic date set for September 18th. Wayne Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

***Motion** made by Verna Chavalía to approve up to \$50 for reserving annual picnic site. Wayne Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements

A Primary Election Candidate Forum will be held on Thursday, July 21st, from 7pm to 8:30pm sponsored by the Ludington Daily News and the Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce. However, the location has changed. It's now moved to the Waterfront Park and not at the Rotary Park. In today's paper you will see it at the Rotary Park which I contacted the Chamber and they said the newspaper reported it wrong and will be putting a correction in there. It's at the Waterfront Park. I've got it posted all over face book but just in case you are not a face book person, it's at the Waterfront Park. Meet the candidates who are challenged on the August 2nd Primary Election Ballot. This forum is not including Governor candidates.

Public Comments

Wayne Gort introduced himself. Kirk Chavalía introduced himself. Donita Farmer introduced herself. Brenda Freeman introduced herself. Frank Vande Voorde introduced himself and came to find how to become a poll watcher or challenger. Loretta Anderson signed up to become a delegate and become more involved. Keila Lankton introduced herself, she is younger generation and knows little about this stuff, need more knowledge and to spread the word. Margaret Greiner shared difficulty communicating with candidate. Cathy Ingraham shared an update on signatures with Secure My Vote and problem with candidates/events.

Adjournment

***Motion** made by John Beckett to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Andrew Kmetz. Motion carried.

Next meeting scheduled for August 18, 2022, 6:30 pm at the Lakeshore Resource Network Building, 920 E. Tinkham Ave, Ludington.