

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2023**

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

Invocation – Pastor Brian Ford

Pledge – Sheriff Kim Cole

Roll Call by Tina Shirshun. Present: Sheriff Kim Cole, Commissioner Lewis Squires, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Bill Chye, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Juers, Jason Kirkpatrick, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Representatives Curt VanderWall & Joe Fox, Margaret Greiner and Cindy Muzzo.

Guests: Carol Broderick, Lyla McClelland, Paul McCrath, Jim Bachelder, Carl Cambridge, Shaun Shoemate, Cathy Ingraham, Dan Jensen, Carole Johnson, Aldon Maleckas.

Approval of June 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes –

\*Motion made by Verna Chavalia to approve the meeting minutes of June 6, 2023. Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report –

Sheila reported the State Account balance for the end of last month's report was \$6,266.41. After payments were made for the parade entry fee, float decorations, storage fee, QuickBooks, Chamber dues, plus one deposit, the end-of-the-month balance for June is \$6034.54. The Admin Account balance for the end of May was \$2,053.33. Another scholarship check was cashed in June for \$750.00 still leaving one check uncashed. End-of-the month balance for June is \$1,303.33. Both the State and Admin accounts balanced with the June bank statements.

\*Motion made by Nicole Norton to approve the Financial Reports for June. Seconded by Rebecca Robinson. No questions or discussion. Motion carried.

Reports from State Elected Officials –

- Sheila read a report sent in from Representative Joe Fox on Legislative Updates (see attached), and House Resolution 123 (see attached).
- Sheila reported John Moolenaar is in DC and read a report received from his representative Damon Jordan (see attached).
- Sheila reported Representative Curt VanderWall texted her and he is door-knocking in Detroit.
- Sheila read a portion of the District Update Newsletter from Senator Jon Bumstead, 6/30/2023 (see attached).

## Reports from County Elected Officials –

-Lewis Squires reported on the County Commissioner meeting today and commended the Republican leadership attending the meeting. He reported on the Broadband issue, they elected today and voted down \$168,000 to be spent on a survey to see how we would fund this and how it would be implemented within the county. We did get a proposal today for the hiring of new County Administrator. We have 6 bid proposals to help us do this and we have an opportunity on July 25<sup>th</sup> to determine one of those companies to help us look for a County Administrator. Fabian Knizacky will be officially leaving us February of next year. They approved an amended contribution request in the amount of \$25,000 from the Ludington/Scottville Chamber of Commerce to help fund economic development services. As many of you know we did away with the Council on Aging, there being a lot of conflicts between them and the individual Senior Centers and we are hiring help to work with each individual Senior Center. Lewis also reported the problems with filling beds at the Oakview MCF. Lewis shared there will be a work session on July 25<sup>th</sup> for the proposed budget of \$16,500,000 for the county for next year. We also passed a jail improvement project of \$285,000 and Sheriff Cole will talk on that and 6 millage requests (911, Soldiers and Sailors, Oakview, Mason Co Jail, Mason Co Road Patrol, and Senior Centers). We are working on the School Resource Officers and did vote today to hire the third one. We had an offer to sell a portion of land behind Lowe's for \$400,000 but the board voted it down. Lewis also reported that 68% of Mason County is getting assistance for food.

-Sheriff Kim Cole reported June was a busy month. He attended a Michigan Sheriff's Conference in Muskegon and a National Sheriff's Conference in Grand Rapids. He also talked about the \$285,000 jail project and issues that need to be addressed at the County Jail. The hard drives/computer systems on the security cameras will soon need to be replaced with the lowest quote received on these being \$220,000. He also reported their 24ft Whaler half sunk in Hamlin Lake so now a replacement boat is being looked into on next year's project. The National Sheriff's and Border Security Conference are having a meeting September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> in Texas and they have selected 1 Sheriff from each state (which I was lucky to get that invite) and I managed to get the Manistee and Oceana Sheriffs to come also. They are also wanting 1 State Elected official, and I have invited Senator Bumstead to come as well. Sheriff Cole also shared they are down 3 deputies on the road now and could be down 5 by the end of the year, however, they have started interviewing people. He also reported on 2 Civil Rights suits that have recently been dismissed.

Commissioner Squires and Sheriff Cole answered questions and provided good discussion with the committee and guests.

## Reports from Committee Members –

### Unfinished Business:

1) The Chair read the July 4<sup>th</sup> final report (see attached).

2) The Chair reported Western Michigan Fair booth has been secured for August 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. We need people to commit to man the booth. We also need volunteers to commit to set up and/or take down. Sheila will bring a sign-up calendar for volunteering to the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### New Business:

1) Sheila reported Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, is our MDOT Summer Highway Cleanup day. Supporting member, Paul McCrath, has graciously volunteered to be the Captain of the crew again. We need 10 commitments so please give your name to Paul to help. Paul then shared how volunteers will be assigned to certain sections of our assigned highway location.

2) The Chair started the initial Annual Fall Picnic discussion so everyone can bring thoughts/suggestions back to the table next month. Discussed September date, picnic site used in the past, what location we want, what type of annual picnic we want (catered or barbeque our own), any guest speakers we may want, and the possibility of a silent auction.

3) The Chair reported on the following bills; HB 4479, 4480 & SB 299, 300 Septic Code introduced 4/27; HB 4673 Agriculture Equipment Repair Act, introduced 5/25, referred to Committee on Agriculture; SB 14 Regulations, passed 6/28; HB 4437 Budget & SB 173 School Aid Budget, passed 6/28, over 81 billion; HB 4156 NPV Agreement, passed in the Committee on 6/6, no amendments, and is set for a second reading; HB 4474 Hate Speech, passed in the House on 6/20, no action in Senate; and HR 3599 Dignity Act of 2023, introduced in the US House on 5/23.

#### Announcements –

- True the Vote has launched a new informational website to address growing concerns over Foreign involvement in US elections. <https://stopccpelectionfraud.com>.

- Sound of Freedom, now playing at our local theatre through July 13<sup>th</sup>. Sheila shared an article that was submitted to the Manistee newspaper about the Sound of Freedom written by Manistee GOP member Paul Battiege. Copies available

- The Annual Right to Life “Focus on Life” benefit dinner will be held on 7/25, 5:30 pm at Lincoln Hills Golf Club. I have 3 tickets left, \$45 each.

- The location of our regular GOP meetings for August 1<sup>st</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup>, and October 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be held at the Hamlin Township Hall, 3775 N Jebavy, Ludington, at 6:30 pm.

#### Public Comments –

Carl Cambridge grew up in Mason County, was semi-active with the Republican party in Colorado for about 30 years, and shared his views on what’s going on; Lyla McClelland offered to help with any questions regarding the upcoming fair; Paul McCrath sharing we need 4 more walkers for the highway cleanup and we need our elected officials to fight; Jim Bachelder shared he used to be Vice Chair and shared some laughs; Aldon Maleckas shared his view on the No. 1 deterrent on crime is an armed citizen; Shaun Shoemate interested in how to become more pro-active and shared an event (Go Local Conference) coming up at Lakeside Family Church in Stevensville MI, July 29 from 9:00-4:00 pm (\$25 per person including lunch); Daniel Jensen shared ways to become more pro-active; Carole Johnson suggested we need to keep praying a lot; Cathy Ingraham commented on a veteran issue and also encouraged everyone to go see the “Sound of Freedom” and the Christian Broadcasting Network interview with Tom Ballard.

#### Adjournment –

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

Next meeting, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm, at the Hamlin Township Hall, 3775 N Jebavy Drive, Ludington.