

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023**

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

Invocation – Pastor Brian Ford

Pledge – Bill Chye

Roll Call by Ben Norton Present: 101st State Rep. Joseph Fox (via zoom), Damon Jordon, Representative for Congressman John Moolenaar, 2nd District (via zoom), Sheriff Kim Cole, County Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Bill Chye, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Margaret Greiner, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Juers, Jason Kirkpatrick, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson Rebecca Robinson.

Excused Absences: Cindy Muzzo, Tina Shirshun.

Guests: Aldon Maleckas, Lyla McClelland, Jim Bachelder, John Beckett, Shain Benz, Paul McCrath, Randy Williams, Daniel Jensen, Randy Guppy, Ron Soberalski, Tom Johnson, Frank VandeVoorde, Carolyn Cater, Gerald Bleau, Karie Bleau, and Tim Iteen.

Approval of February 7 Meeting Minutes:

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to approve the meeting minutes of February 7, 2023. Eric Juers seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Treasury Report:

Margaret Greiner reported that we paid the final phone bill and paid 2 months of storage fees. She also reported that we are beginning to receive some memberships and scholarship donations come in.

***Motion** made by Bill Chye to accept the financial reports as presented. Seconded by Pastor Brian Ford. No discussion. Motion carried.

Margaret reported that she had to spend 5 hours working on the desktop Quick Books. Had she known how time-consuming it was going to be, she would not have accepted the position. She would prefer to use the online version. She called Quick Books, and they offered us half off per month for 12 months at a rate of \$27.50 per month. She asked that we would consider making the change from desktop to online Quick Books.

***Motion** made by Charles Robinson to switch from the desktop version to the online version of Quick Books at a rate of \$27.50 per month for 12 months. Seconded by Cynthia Johnson. Discussion – Aldon Maleckas asked why the desktop version was different from the online version. Margaret said she is just not as familiar with the desktop, therefore, it is much more time-consuming and there are more steps that she is having to do for every entry. No other discussion.

Motion Carried.

Reports from State-Elected Officials:

State Rep Joseph Fox gave his report via zoom call. 1) HB 4001 will lower the state income tax from 4.25% to 4.05% which will save households about \$126 per year, every year, versus offering tax filers a one-time check for \$180. 2) HB 4006, the MI Legislature voted to repeal the 1931 pro-life law on abortion, 2 Republican Representatives, Steele & Kuhn voted with the Democrats. 3) SB 12 Repeal 3rd grade reading law requirements, 2 Republican Senators voted for this, Senators Bellino & Johnson, and one Republican Representative, Timothy Beson. 4) Anti-gun laws are trying to get pushed through by the Democrats and he will be voting against on all. 5) HB 4156 electing the President by National Popular vote instead of the Electoral College vote has not yet been introduced. Damon Jordan, Representative for Congressman John Moolenaar, advised he will be holding office hours on Thursday, March 9th at the Ludington City Municipal Building at 10:00 am. Congressman Moolenaar has been assigned to the House Appropriations

Committee, as well as the Select Committee on China. Any Covid 19 money that is left should go back to the Treasury. He has introduced a couple of bills – for education and veterans. Damon would like to know when we finalize the Lincoln Day Dinner plans, so he can attend.

Reports from County Elected Officials:

Sheriff Kim Cole reported about his time in Washington D.C. while attending the State of the Union Address.

County Clerk Cheryl Kelly reported on the fact that proposal 22-2 did pass this past fall, so there will now be 9 days of early voting in all upcoming elections. She spoke on the problems that will create for the outlying townships.

Reports from Committee Members:

Unfinished Business: Sub-committee updates

- 1) Verna Chavalía: Membership sub-committee – annual letter and membership forms were mailed out.
- 2) Rebecca Robertson: Events/Fundraising sub-committee – looking into setting a date and venue for the Lincoln Day Dinner as well as discussion on the silent auction. Also discussed having a yard sale fundraiser in April, more details to come.
- 3) Pastor Brian Ford: Communications sub-committee - he reported that he completed our first Newsletter and it was emailed out to those we have email addresses for. It has also been uploaded to our webpage at: www.masoncountygop.org. He will be creating a newsletter once a month.
- 4) Sheila Genter: Electronic Media sub-committee – Sheila reported that she has added a credit card payment option for memberships and contributions on our website through Square, which is a secure site. Sheila indicated this was an added payment option and that we still accept checks for payment.

New Business: 1) Firearm-related Bills in the House and Senate – Sheriff Cole spoke pertaining to his stance as our County Sheriff on these bills. 2) Mason County is not a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County. The Mason County Commissioners passed a Resolution on June 9, 2020, pledging support for the second amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Sheriff Cole stated that he talks to Senator Bumstead and Representative VanderWall weekly on the gun bills that are coming up and both will be voting against all of the gun bills.

Announcements:

Manistee Lincoln Day Dinner is scheduled for May 4th at the Little River Casino Grand Ballroom. Guest Speaker Mike Davis. Tickets are \$75. RSVP and ticket purchase at www.manisteerepublicans.com by April 14th.

Public Comments: Aldon Maleckas commented on how there are groups in some countries that are trying to get rid of the dollar; Lyla McClelland spoke on the bus trip to Lansing. Daniel Jensen spoke about the paper mill in Escanaba receiving funding from the State; Ron Soberalski, Trustee from PM Charter Twp. He just wanted to emphasize that the recall happening in PM Twp is a non-partisan issue. He shared that at the Democrat meeting and wanted to share it here as well. Randy Guppy, Newaygo County, State Committee Member of the 2nd District Executive Committee. Randy stated that he is trying to hit all of the county meetings to bring all 20 counties together; Tom Johnson wanted to express how lucky we are to have Sheriff Cole as our sheriff; Carolyn Cater saying thank you to the elected officials for coming and keeping us apprised of things going on; Gerald Bleau Supervisor of PM Twp, spoke about gun ownership. Disagrees with Mr. Sobanski. He thinks the recall is a partisan issue; Tim Iteen reported that he started the recall petition against the Bleau's in PM Twp. He's trying to figure out what the Democrats and Republicans are about. He also invited everyone to attend the PM township meetings where Mr. Bleau is the supervisor.

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Duane Hobart. No discussion. Motion carried.

By: Ben Norton, Vice Chair

Next meeting is April 4th, 6:30 pm, at Lakeshore Resource Network, 920 E. Tinkham Ave, Ludington.