

**Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Invocation – Verna Chavalia

Pledge – Ben Norton

Roll Call by Tina Shirshun – Present: County Clerk Cheryl Kelly, Jody Hartley, Lewis Squires, Ron Bacon, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Bill Chye, Sheila Genter, Cynthia Johnson, Eric Juers, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Pastor Brian Ford, Margaret Greiner, Duane Hobart, and Jason Kirkpatrick.

Guests: Jim Bachelder, Lyla McClelland, Loretta Anderson, Richard Boes, Shaun Shoemate, Jim Coleman, Cathy Coleman, Cathy Ingraham, Daniel Jensen, Brittany Carsten, Carolyn Cater, Aldon Maleckas, Connie Wade, Frank VanderVoorde, Pete Engblade, and Thomas Johnson.

Approval of September 5th Meeting Minutes –

Rebecca Robinson stated one correction to the minutes under Representative Joe Fox's report that the date for the Right to Life March should be November 8th instead of September 8th.

***Motion** made by Bill Chye to approve the meeting minutes of September 5th, 2023 with the correction of the date for the Right to Life March to be November 8th under Joe Fox's report. Seconded by Jody Hartley. Motion carried.

Treasury Report – Sheila gave the financial report due to Margaret Greiner's extended medical leave as a result of her surgery. The August end-of-the-month balance for the State Acct. was \$5,779.96. Expenses were as follows, printer cartridges \$77.38, picnic decorations \$49.29, storage \$42.00, Quickbooks \$42.50, Gloria Ann's Catering \$1,083.00, all totaling \$1,294.17. Deposits included 2 checks for t-shirts totaling \$140 and the Annual Picnic donations of \$611.25 totaling \$751.25. The September end-of-the-month balance for the State Acct. is \$5,237.04 and balances with the bank statement. The August end-of-the-month for the Admin Acct. was \$553.33 and with no activity on that account, the balance remains the same for the September end-of-the-month balance.

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to approve Treasury report. Seconded by Bill Chye. No discussion. Motion carried.

Reports from State Elected Officials –

- Sheila read report from Congressman Moolenaar (see attached).
- Sheila read report from Representative Curt VanderWall (see attached).
- Sheila read report from Representative Joe Fox (see attached).

Reports from County Elected Officials –

-Jody Hartley reported that Commissioner Gary Castonia has resigned from the Board of Commissioners as of October 1st due to health reasons. His resignation has been accepted with regret and he is no longer on the Executive Committee. We have 30 days to vote someone into that position or we go to a special election. You have to be a registered voter in District 2 and submit a letter of intent to the County by October 17th. There is a special meeting at 7:00 pm on October 24th and those who are interested will present themselves and there will be the opportunity for questions. Jody shared that one gentleman is here tonight who has shown interest, Jim Coleman, and he had Jim introduce himself and provide his experience and accomplishments.

-Lewis Squires reported that the major job right now is to get a new Administrator and that we (Board of Commissioner) have a few applications in and we would like to get that taken care of within 60-90 days. We also are working on a budget this year of almost 17 million dollars and want to make sure we are providing the services that are necessary. We are looking into affordable housing, resource officers, senior centers, and the Sheriff's department to make sure we are funding them to the best of our ability. Making sure officers are trained and well supplied with equipment. Our next meeting is October 10th at 7:00 pm.

-Cheryl Kelly reported we have a November election. Ludington Area School District has 1 proposal and MCC has 2 proposals. We do have a candidate opening in the City of Scottville for the Scottville City Commissioner and we have a recall election in the Pere Marquette Charter Twp for the Treasurer at this time. The Supervisor, Mr Bleau, has submitted his retirement effective October 1st. This means voters will see his name on the ballot because the ballots needed to go out due to deadlines but we will not be canvassing that section of the ballot. Determination of that supervisor seat has been turned over to the Pere Marquette Charter Twp Board and it's their decision to appoint within 45 days. The Twp meeting is October 10th at 4 or 6 pm.

-Sheila read a brief report from Sheriff Kim Cole, who was at a border control conference. He, Sheriff Mast from Oceana and Undersheriff Wilson were briefed by Border Patrol and then partnered with them to do a patrol on a large ranch. (Report attached) He forwarded some pictures of his patrols which we displayed on the overhead. Sheriff Cole will report more in depth upon his return.

-Sheila read a report from Janet Anderson (see attached).

Reports from Committee Members –

Unfinished Business:

1) A final written report was read and submitted by Sheila on the Annual Fall Picnic that was held on Sunday, September 17, at Sutton's Landing Park. We had 75 in attendance even after having 13 no-shows. Donations received totaled \$611.25. Gloria Ann's catering bill totaled \$1,083.00, \$975 for food, \$58 for tax, and \$54 for delivery. Desserts were homemade and donated by committee members Jason Kirkpatrick, Nicole Norton, Rebecca Robinson, Verna Chavalia, Pastor Ford, Margaret Greiner, and Cynthia Johnson. The Honorable Judge Mark T. Boonstra and Sheriff Kim Cole were speakers at the event. Sheila thanked all committee members and volunteers who helped with the event. After all the expenses and the donations, we had a net of \$521.00.

***Motion** made Nicole Norton to accept the Fall Annual Picnic final report. Seconded by Jody Hartley. No discussion. Motion carried.

2) The last MDOT Adopt-A-Highway clean-up was held on Thursday, September 28th. Sheila reported that we only had 4 volunteers but still managed to pick up 6 bags of garbage. The completed report was emailed to MDOT and all requirements have been completed for 2023.

New Business:

1) Sheila reported that Cynthia Johnson was elected by the Board of Commissioners to fill the Republican Board of Canvasser's position. Congratulations to Cynthia.

2) Cindy Muzzo reported the By-laws committee met on September 19th & 20th to review and rewrite our By-laws. Cindy reported that they will meet once more to double-check punctuation, spelling, and grammar, and then it will be emailed out to the Executive Committee for review.

3) Sheila shared that with all the expenses anticipated next year because of the Presidential election, we should have another fundraiser before the end of the year. Sheila suggested a Chili Cook-off and shared that the Crossroads Church was available on November 4th which is a Saturday.

***Motion** made by Cynthia Johnson to pursue the Chili Cook-off for November 4th at Crossroads Church. Seconded by Verna Chavalialia. Some discussion. The Chair put the motion to the floor. Motion carried.

4) Last year the Executive Committee made a donation last year to the Mason County Walk to End Alzheimer's and indicated that the event is coming up again on Saturday, October 7th at 9 am at the Waterfront Park.

***Motion** made by Charlie Robinson to approve \$100 donation for the Mason County Walk to End Alzheimer's. Seconded by Jody Hartley. No discussion. Motion carried.

5) The Hospitality INC (in the Name of Christ), is a local homeless shelter and the Board is trying to find a building to purchase for the shelter. Currently, they operate from November to May out of the basement of the Salvation Army building at the corner of Madison and Third St. Sheila then entertained a motion to donate to the homeless shelter and if there is a motion, how much should we donate. There was discussion on the donation amount and to designate what the donation should be designated for.

***Motion** made by Kirk Chavalialia to approve a donation of \$200 to Hospitality INC, specifically towards the purchase of a new permanent building for their shelter. Seconded by Bill Chye. Some further discussion continued. The Chair put the motion to the floor. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker –

Karla Wagner, the Founder of AX MI TAX, gave a presentation on the citizen's initiative proposal to eliminate State and local government's ability to tax and seize real property in Michigan, providing relief and protection for Michigan homeowners, farmers, local businesses, and so many others. Karla had information and charts prepared for all those in attendance. She talked about how long she has been researching property taxes and provided examples of summer and winter property taxes and charts such as the "The Michigan Tax System and Budget," "State income tax elimination vs property tax elimination," and the "Constitutional and CVTRS Revenue Sharing

Payments FY 2023 and FY 2024 – Executive Budget Recommendations – January Consensus.” The language for the ballot proposal has been submitted to the Bureau of Elections for review and approval. Once approval has been granted, she will need help to gather 600,000 signatures in 6 months. For the most part, the presentation led to good discussion among members.

Continuation of new business:

6) Eric Juers talked about the different packages of information he has put together over the past year exposing the truth on different issues. He reported on information Patrick Colbeck witnessed showing some video clips and then continued providing a lot of detailed info on “FirstNet” and other issues around elections. Eric shared a plan that Mike Lindell came up with to get rid of the voting machines and make our voices heard. Here you can click a couple of buttons to let your clerk know you want to get rid of voting machines <https://give.electioncrimebureau.com/call-to-action>. Also, when you have time, you can visit <https://electioncrimebureau.com/wp-content/uploads/ThePlanDossier.pdf>.

Announcements –

-Mason County Board of Commissioners meeting is Tuesday, October 10th, at 7:00 pm at the Airport.

-The Ludington Area School Board meeting is Tuesday, October 16th, at the Administration Office, 809 E. Tinkham, Ludington.

-The Mason County Central School Board meeting is Tuesday, October 16th, at the MCC High School Library.

-Rebecca announced District 2 GOP is having an event on October 21st In Crystal. It’s a candidate fundraiser.

-Rebecca announced the Right to Life has reserved a bus for the rally in Lansing with speakers on November 8th. It’s \$20 per person for the ride there and back and you will be back for dinner. Contact Rebecca for a reserved seat.

-The regular GOP meeting for November 7th, will be held at the Mason County Research Center, 130 E. Ludington Ave, Ludington, at 6:30 pm.

Public Comments –

Aldon Maleckas presented printed material on Book Bans, The Freedom to Read Statement, and an article from the Canadian Press on “School Claims There Are 13 Genders;” Lyla McClelland commented on the meeting not being published in the local paper; Jim Bachelder commented on the elimination of some books at the schools; Charlie Robinson talked about the upcoming Fundraiser Rally in Big Rapids at the Horse Farm (No Gotion) and they are supposed to have Vivek Ramaswamy there as a guest speaker. Daniel Jensen commented on his follow-up information on the land site on Jebavy Dr. contaminating the water and also shared an item he got in the mail from Gov. Whitmer.

Adjournment –

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

Next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2023, 6:30 pm, at the Mason County Research Center, 130 E. Ludington Ave, Ludington.