

# Mason County Republican Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

## September 5, 2023

**Meeting called to order 6:30 pm**

**Invocation** – Pastor Ford

**Pledge** – Jason Kirkpatrick

**Roll Call by Tina Shirshun** – Present: State Representative Joe Fox, Jim Norlund, Lewis Squires, Janet Anderson, Kirk Chavalia, Verna Chavalia, Pastor Brian Ford, Sheila Genter, Eric Juers, Jason Kirkpatrick, Charles Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Tina Shirshun.

Excused Absences: Bill Chye, Margaret Greiner, Duane Hobart, Cynthia Johnson, Cindy Muzzo, Ben Norton, Nicole Norton.

Guests: Carl Cambridge, Shaun Shoemate, Daniel Jensen, Bryan Broderick, Carole Johnson, Richard Boes, Susan Boes, Lyla McClelland, Cathy Ingraham, Jim Bachelder, Connie Wade, Aldon Maleckas, Randy Williams, Rick Knuth.

**Approval of August 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes** –

**\*Motion** made Verna Chavalia to approve the meeting minutes of August 1, 2023. Seconded by Rebecca Robinson. No Discussion. Motion carried.

**Treasury Report** –

Sheila reported financials while Margaret is out on medical. July end of the month balance on the State account was \$6,060.04. Office expenses included printer cartridges, storage fee, Quickbooks fee, and \$50 deposit for Suttons Landing, totaling \$280.08, which leaves an August end of the month balance of \$5,779.96. The Admin account end of July balance was \$553.33 and with no activity in this account the balance remains the same for end of August.

**\*Motion** made by Pastor Ford to approve Treasury report. Seconded by Jason Kirkpatrick. No discussion. Motion carried.

**Reports from State Elected Officials** –

-State Representative Joe Fox reviewed the four townships of Mason County that he represents (Branch, Mead, Sheridan, and Logan). Joe brought many booklets of updated information for everyone and a copy of his newsletter, and a sign-up sheet to receive future newsletters via email. Joe advised if you call his office, Payton is the back desk person who does the research and helps write bills, and Trish is the front desk person. Joe and his wife greatly enjoyed the Right to Life Banquet in Mason Co and talked about the upcoming Right to Life March on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Joe also reported that 2 Democrats running for Mayor down in southeast Michigan have won their primaries and if they may win their elections it would put us in a deadlock in the House, 54-54. The strong rumor as a result of that, could be the Democrats calling a “sine die” (Latin words meaning “end of session”) which means they may close down the House by end of October partly to have the Democrat Primary in February. The Senate did

grant immediate effect to the bill that was passed so it needs 90 days after the end of session. Joe also shared he voted a strong “no” on the 81 billion dollar budget and on all the gun laws. Joe also talked about (Septic Tank Inspection Bill) HB 4479-4480, which has a goal of everyone’s septic tank to be inspected every 5 years at owner’s expense by a Master’s level person so watch my newsletter for any update on this. Joe continued to talk about the budget and the DEI trackers, the hate-laws and intimidation, and various suits that are filed. Joe then entertained questions from members and guests on other issues such as marijuana, abortion, Gov. Whitmer’s recent speech, and DEI.

-Sheila read a report from Curt VanderWall (see attached).

-Sheila read a report from Damon Jordan (see attached) and he also reported that he will be having constituent office hours on Sept. 12 at Noon at the Ludington City Hall

### **Reports from County Elected Officials –**

-Janet Anderson reported that they have selected Walsh Municipal Services to aid us in the search for the next County Administrator and the deadline is Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> for the resumes to come in. We also now have created a County Land Bank which will allow us to address blighted and foreclosed properties. There was an opportunity available to counties for funding of \$750,000.00 with the startup of a Land Bank and we have the ability to do some good work here. Currently 5 members serve on the Land Bank Board, Andrew Kmetz is the Chair by statute, Janet Anderson, Fabian Knizacky, Mark Barnette, and Jim Riffle and our first meeting is coming up this Friday. Also, our new Senior Service Coordinator, Susan Evans, started today and has already been out visiting the centers. At our September Board of Commissioners meeting we will look to approve the appropriations for the various centers and since we have disbanded the Council on Aging the budgeting process will be new to us this year. The Planning Commission continues to work on the ordinance update and there is a lot of activity in Mason County. There is the hotel project across from Watsons which has a stop work order on that due to digging issues, a Hobby Lobby just east of Meijer, a new Jiffy-Lube coming on Meyers Rd. and potentially a new veterinary clinic in that area as well. There were over 500 permits processed in 52 days. We are moving forward with the ordinance update and it will eventually be completed and come to public hearings before it becomes final and before it’s adopted by the County Board. Janet also brought attention to the Governor’s push for 100% carbon free energy by 2035, carbon neutral by 2050 originally, with one of the big components being having MIPSC to take oversight of wind and solar projects which would strip us of local control. Janet ended report with Mason County has received their housing setback and it will be released to the public in the upcoming weeks and there will be public meetings. One thing it tells us is we don’t have housing that people can afford to live in and we are also saturated in short term rentals. Janet then answered questions from members and guests.

-Lewis Squires reported that the kids are being well protected, and the sheriff’s department has resource officers in place at the public schools. We also just got the Security Report from the Courthouse last month and they retrieved 54 knives and no guns, so the Courthouse Security is doing a good job of protecting us. Lewis also shared they had a very good 2022 Audit Budget. Next County Commissioners Meeting is Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Airport.

## Reports from Committee Members –

### Unfinished Business:

- 1) Sheila reported on WM Fair sharing that it was a positive experience and went over all the items available to visitors that stopped by the booth. We had 21 volunteers to spend time at the booth and answered questions and concerns with visitors about the 2024 presidential election and collected \$13.00 in donations. Sheila also talked about 3 negative instances that volunteers endured at our booth, but all instances were handled very well. She also reported receiving one complaint about one of our volunteers' asking questions to a person wearing a mask and that person did not appreciate being questioned. Sheila reminded members and volunteers who are working at an event, to not engage in this type of discussion as you are representing the local GOP and personal opinions should not be expressed at that time. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but the timing of when you are expressing them needs to be taken into consideration. She finished her report by showing the Trophy for 3<sup>rd</sup> place for booth decorations that was awarded to the Mason County GOP.
- 2) Sheila reported on the Annual Fall Picnic for Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> that we never got a response from the Old Engine Club so the location will be at Suttons Landing with the caterer being Gloria Ann's. There were 128 personal invitations sent out by email and the head count needs to be provided 1 week prior to the picnic. Another email will be sent to get volunteers for set-up, clean-up, desserts, etc. The keynote speaker is the Honorable Judge Mark T. Boonstra from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court of Appeals. He is also the author of 3 volumes of "In Their Own Words" which are quotes from the Founding Fathers and Sheriff Kim Cole will also be speaking.
- 3) Sheila reported we have a lead person for the "Check My Vote" which will be Rebecca Robinson. Rebecca reported she found 2 volunteers to help, Daniel Jensen and Connie Wade. Connie stated that she has only found one incorrect address in checking addresses against the QVF. Sheila shared that the MCGOP would look into reimbursement of costs for app needed for checking Mason County "Check My Vote."
- 4) Rebecca shared that the Right to Life has reserved a bus for the rally in Lansing with speakers on November 8<sup>th</sup>. A \$20 ticket may be recommended and see Rebecca for more information.

### New Business:

- 1) Sheila reported House Majority Floor Leader, Abraham Alyash, D-Hamtramck, plans on introducing legislation to move control of utility scale wind and solar projects to the PSC, removing authority from the local township boards. He claims the move would standardize and speed up decisions on projects to reach the state's goal of carbon-free electricity standard by 2035.
- 2) Sheila reported MI Democrats have introduced and sent to committee, House Bills 4759-4761 and Senate Bills 271-277, which would "mandate" Michigan use 100% renewable energy by 2035. Sheila then covered major concerns from several experts (**see attached**). Tell Lansing Lawmakers: Stop the Michigan Energy Shutdown.
- 3) Sheila reported on HB-4893 which would create Whitmer-Care where the governor wants to publicly finance and publicly administer a program of universal and unified healthcare. The government telling you what is and is not covered and your state tax dollars will be paying for other people's healthcare which means abortions, sex change procedures and more and a major step to eliminating private healthcare entirely. Vote NO on Whitmer-Care HB-4893.

Next HB-4390 which is independent contractor legislation to institute a California Style ABC. These bills would have a harmful impact on job providers and the workers from sales, real estate, medical professions to truck drivers, ride-share providers, hairdressers, etc. Independent contractors would be considered employees. The Michigan proposed bill contains no exemptions, not even business to business relationships.

4) GBI Strategies report given by Eric Juers. GBI Strategies is a left-wing campaign consulting company and is hired by Empower Michigan (Democrat organization). Back in 2020, Senator Ed McBroom did a report and some of his findings stated this committee found no evidence of widespread or systematic fraud exhausting every resource available. Eric put together a handout of many different areas of concern and talked about ballot dumps, ballot harvesting, rented vehicles used, Muskegon case, GBI Strategies, and he will be sending the information out via email. Eric also mentioned “tactical civics” and advised us to learn it and dig into it. Eric’s report turned into a great discussion which provided more names and sources for members to research.

5) Sheila reported that with the 9-day early voting, the City Clerk Deb Luskin, is looking for poll workers. Many have asked, what can we do regarding voter integrity, you can go down to the City Clerk’s Office, fill out the form to be a poll worker, and you will be contacted for training. Sheila also read correspondence from the SOS office regarding early voting and instructed all of us to take a few minutes and look up Public Act-81 of 2023, Senate Bill 367, which provides requirements for early voting and procedures for opening and closing the polls during early voting.

6) Aldon Maleckas, from the Research Team, displayed an RF Meter (Smart Meter) that detects electromagnetic field and passed it around. Aldon also presented a printed packet of resourceful information for everyone and highlighted areas such as history, books & articles to read, what electromagnetic fields can do to the body, frequency and disease, source of Smart Meters, costs involved and the opt-out option, etc.

#### **Announcements –**

-Bryan Broderick (Chair of Oceana County GOP) shared that Karla Wagner, Founder of Ax MI Tax, will be speaking at the Oceana County GOP meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, at the Hart Community Center, 407 State St in Hart.

-Sheila reminded the Mason County Board of Commissioners next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am, at the airport.

-Sheila reminded Ludington School Board monthly meeting is Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm at the School Administration Building on Tinkham Avenue.

-Sheila reported the location of our regular GOP meeting for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be held at the Hamlin Township Hall, 3775 N Jebavy, Ludington, at 6:30 pm.

#### **Public Comments –**

Randy Williams commented while CO2 is rising but as far as earth temperature, it’s been warmer many times in the past. Also commented on heat wave frequency, wildfire destruction and hurricanes, HR-5376, “Obama’s Immigration Fiasco and National Security” printed by David Horowitz Freedom Center in 2014, and the “30 by 30 Program”; Shaun Shoemate commented on research she has been doing at the library; Daniel Jensen commented on an article from August 3<sup>rd</sup> that stated Ludington was the hub of some contamination and another recent article

from the Ludington Daily News which led to some discussion. Daniel will continue to follow up on these concerns and report back.

**Adjournment –**

**\*Motion** made by Jason Kirkpatrick to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Pastor Ford. No discussion. Motion carried.

Next meeting, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm, at Hamlin Township Hall, 3775 N Jebavy Drive, Ludington.