

**CLINTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

October 19, 2023 – 7:00 pm

Clinton County Courthouse

Approved 11/16/23

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Steve Willis called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. **Invocation** – Michael Hoover
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by David Seeger
4. **Roll Call** – 13 members of the Executive Committee were in attendance; a quorum was established
5. **Approval of Agenda** - *Motion to approve agenda: Alan Cobb; Second: Sharon Conklin. Approved.*
6. **Approval of 9-21-23 Minutes** – *Motion to approve minutes: Mark Balfanz; Second: Alan Cobb. Approved.*
7. **Reports of Officers**
 - a) **Treasurer’s Report** – No changes from last month’s report
 - b) **Chair’s Report** – Steve Willis
 - i) Board of Canvassers – Anne Hill (CCRP’s nomination) was added to the board, and Sarah Lee Howard’s term will end in 2025.
 - ii) Truth in Sentencing legislation (HB4450-4453) – Attorney General Nessel has challenged a 1978 law to allow for offenders to get out of prison early.
 - c) **Vice-Chair’s Report** – Nancy Bareham
 - i) Legislative Update:
 - (1) Truth in Sentencing legislation (HB4450-4453) – Bills were heard in committee, but there has not been much action on them and they are not a priority for the Dems
 - (2) The Democrat’s priorities are abortion and state control of Solar and Wind placement; keep calling and praying, it is making a difference; Dems are getting pushback in their districts and Karen Whitsett (D) “passed” in committee on the Solar/Wind bills.
 - ii) State Party Update:
 - (1) MIGOP Leadership Conference on Mackinaw Island included many very good speakers; attendance was lower this year, but seemed mainly due to lobbyists not attending because there were not as many “parties” planned as in the past.
 - (2) The plan developed by the Rules Committee to preserve all of our 55 Republican delegates to state convention was approved; it is a hybrid plan whereby some of the delegates will be chosen at the February 15th county conventions, and some will be chosen in the February 27th statewide election; Nancy will share the final plan at a future CCRP meeting.

- iii) Presidential Primary – If Governor Whitmer declares sine die (which means to close the legislative session) by November 9th, then the presidential primary will be moved to February 27th. Sixteen of our 55 delegates will be chosen during that statewide primary and the remaining 39 will be chosen by district caucuses on March 2nd. With the current Dem/Republican split, if they don't close the session down for the year it is possible that we will have shared power due to two Democrats running for mayor and possibly winning their elections.
- iv) Michigan Legislature Adjournment – Democrats want to end the session early, but the exact date still unknown.
- v) 7th Congressional Meeting – The 7th District is trying to raise money for elections and so is the state party. We as delegates need to give all we can in order to support our candidates.
- vi) Volunteer Opportunity – Visiting UAW strike sites to share information with striking workers about Trump's positions and policies and how they are being misled; have been getting good reception/response from the strikers; contact Nancy Bareham if interested.
- vii) Update on Presidential Elector Jim Renner – we have heard Renner has settled with Nessel and charges against him have been dropped in exchange for his testimony; this is all we know so far.

8. Committee Reports

- a) **Legislation/Ordinance** – David Smith, Chairperson
 - i) Wind & Solar Update:
 - (1) The Citizens Advisory Committee will present its recommendations to the Clinton County Planning Committee on Thursday, October 26th
 - (2) Eighteen people/organizations have signed agreements to lease a total of 5000 acres of land in Clinton County to solar companies. This includes Bingham Farms and Greenbush Township where solar has already been installed.
 - (3) Join “Clinton County Citizens United” Facebook page to stay up-to-date; administrator is Theresa Owen
 - (4) State control of zoning – Bills currently under consideration in the legislature would void local ordinances
- b) **Election Integrity** – Steve Willis
 - i) We are looking for someone to chair this committee since Elizabeth Ayoub stepped down and has now moved out to the county; contact Steve if interested
 - ii) Check My Vote:
 - (1) Livingston County Training being conducted by Maureen and Ted Hillary
 - (2) Door-to-door canvassing and digital research/data analysis will be used to check validity of registered voters at specific addresses.
 - (3) You can check names of registered voters at any address – Go to: CheckMyVote.org and select Audit My Address. Invalid voter names can be flagged to be sent to county clerks for confirmation or removal from the voter roll.
 - iii) Election workers, poll watchers and poll challengers are needed – training opportunities will be posted on our CCRP website.

- c) **School Boards** – Steve Willis
 - i) We are looking for someone to chair this committee, contact Steve if interested
 - ii) Committee will focus on 4 of the 14 school districts in Clinton County – Bath, DeWitt, Ovid/Elsie, St Johns
 - iii) Plan is to identify current board members and any open positions; recruit and vet candidates; assist in filing proper paperwork for openings
 - iv) Goal is to get 2 solid conservatives on each board

- a) **Candidate Recruitment** – Steve Willis gave report; Nancy Bareham is the Chairperson
 - i) We are trying to determine if Commissioner Dwight Washington (Dem) is still living in Bath Township
 - ii) We are looking for two people to run for County Commissioner positions

- b) **Precinct Delegate Recruitment** – Steve Willis gave report; Barrone is the Chairperson
 - i) Reapportionment for 2024 will be done by Steve
 - ii) Filing date will be in April 2024 for August 2024 primary
 - iii) Committee will recruit to fill open slots and to replace delegates who have not been active
 - iv) Committee will explain the process and paperwork needed in order to be on the ballot

- c) **CCRP Events** - Nancy Bareham, Chairperson
 - i) We will start planning 2024 events very soon
 - ii) We are exploring options for fundraising (e.g., club sponsorships, annual dues)

- d) **Voter Assistance** – Steve Willis gave report; Karen Andrews is the Chairperson
 - i) There will be two locations for 9 days of early voting – Bingham Twp and DeWitt Twp

9. Social Media Ad Against Eagle Megasite / Pro Stroud – Steve Willis

- a) We would like to explore the possibility of deploying a digital ad prior to the November 7th Eagle Township Election but we will not meet again prior to the meeting, so funding would need to be approved tonight.
Motion to allocate up to \$1,000 for digital add supporting Troy Stroud: Suzy Williams;
Second: Mark Balfanz. Approved.

10. Elected Officials Reports/State Party Candidates

- a) **Dr. Greg Cunningham**
 - i) Former Pennsylvania state legislator who wrote a lot of abortion legislation
 - ii) Promoting “**See Baby Grow**” application on website **www.ERF.science**.
 - iii) 90% of abortions are performed within the first 90 days, so banning abortions after 90 days does not save many babies
 - iv) Support for abortion falls off the more baby/infant-like people perceive the fetus to be
 - v) The “See Baby Grow” app provides detailed and realistic images of fetuses at each stage of growth, showing that a fetus looks like a real baby within the first few weeks, not just a “blob” as many people seem to think
 - vi) Dr. Cunningham is working to get this content into public schools

b) **Michael Hoover, U.S. Senate Candidate**

- i) Running against Mike Rogers (R) and Elissa Slotkin (D)
- ii) Seeking petition signatures to get on the ballot
- iii) Abortion is a hot button for him as he was a very young single father
- iv) Feels people need protection, an economy that works, and representatives that fight for them
- v) Feels we need muscle against the WEF (World Economic Forum), as they are the ones sponsoring all this nonsense.
- vi) When asked if he would like to make a statement about opponent Mike Rogers, Hoover suggested folks Google “Mike Rogers Judicial Watch” to learn about Rogers’ connection with Benghazi and about government contracts awarded to an intelligence company with which his wife was connected.

c) **Val Vail-Shirey, Clinton County Commissioner**

- i) Shared reason she got involved 32 years ago was due to a property rights issue (Rails to Trails) that impacted her family farm; stated she lives in Bath To
- ii) Announced her candidacy for Clinton County District 1 Commissioner in 2024
- iii) Citizens Wind and Solar Advisory Council will present their recommendations to the Clinton County Planning Commission on October 26, 2023; next steps will be a publicly noticed opportunity for public comment, then presentation to the Clinton County Board of Commissioners
- iv) Stated her opinion that it was not a violation of the open meetings act when County Commissioners Pohl, Andrews and Washington attended the October 12, 2023 Clinton County Planning Commission meeting because she had invited all County Commissioners to attend and it was publicly noticed meeting. Clinton County Precinct Delegate Anne Hill disputed this position, stating that she witnessed the three commissioners stepping into an adjoining room separate from the main meeting room and have conversations multiple times during the meeting, and each time it followed comments made during the meeting in opposition of the Eagle Megasite, which the three of them have demonstrated support for in the past. Vail-Shirey stated she was not aware this had taken place.
- v) Shared that state statute prohibits exclusionary zoning, so they cannot just say “No wind or solar in Clinton County.” They can only place limitations on what is allowed.
- vi) When asked if there is a conflict-of-interest clause related to Board of Commissioners voting – in particular, when they vote on matters pertaining to LEAP, since the Clinton County website indicates three commissioners have official connections with LEAP (and the LEAP website lists Chairman Bob Showers as a member of the LEAP Board of Directors). She responded that she was not aware of those connections.
- vii) When the suggestion was made that Clinton County Board of Commissioners should hold their meetings in the evening rather than 9am on weekday mornings, to allow more public participation, she responded that they had tried that in the past and no one came.

d) **David Seeger, DeWitt Township Trustee**

- i) Bids are out for the new public safety building

11. Next CCRP Executive Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 16, 2023 – Clinton County Courthouse, St. Johns.

12. Adjournment – *Motion to adjourn: Tim Roberts; Second: Steve Willis. Approved.* (Adjourned at 9:20 pm)

Submitted by Missy Porterfield, Secretary