

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

February 1, 2024 – 7:00 pm

Victor Township Hall

Approved 3/7/24

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Steve Willis called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
2. **Invocation** – Phil Bareham
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Mark Balfanz
4. **Roll Call** – 13 members of the Executive Committee were in attendance; a quorum was established.
5. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a) US Senate Candidate Sherri O'Donnell was unable to join us so was removed from the agenda.
Motion to add "Biblical Citizenship in Modern America" to agenda: Karen Andrews; Second: Chris DeLiso. Approved.
Motion to approve revised agenda: Bill Sherman; Second: Sharon Conklin. Approved.
6. **Approval of 1-4-24 Minutes** – *Motion to approve minutes: Mark Balfanz; Second: Tim Roberts. Approved.*
7. **Reports of Officers**
 - a) **Treasurer's Report** – Nancy Bareham, Deputy Treasurer
 - i) Hardcopies of the report were made available to Executive Committee members
 - ii) Political Account – Received \$2,484.56 in donations during January, no expenditures. Ending balance \$11,318.59.
 - iii) Administrative Account – No activity during January. Ending Balance \$3,792.40.
Motion to approve report: Phil Hanses; Second: Bill Sherman. Approved.
8. **Chair's Report** – Steve Willis
 - i) **CCRP Buttons** – Profits from the sale of buttons will go to our political account rather than to the GoFundMe for Jim Renner's defense costs, since charges against him have been dropped in exchange for his cooperation.
 - ii) **Inquiry from Rob Steele** – Rob Steele, Michigan's National RNC Committee Man, called Steve to ask about CCRP's position regarding the disputed leadership of the Michigan Republican Party. Steve advised that the CCRP has not taken a formal position on the matter, and that we are focusing on helping Republicans win in the upcoming election.
 - iii) **Karamo Event** – Kristina Karamo will hold a Q&A Session with members of District 7 at the Bath Township Community Center on February 13th from 7-8:30pm.
 - iv) **Precinct Delegate Applications**
 - (1) Announcement that applications and notary services would be available at the end of the meeting.

v) **Election Inspector Applications**

(1) Applications were made available for people to submit to their local/county clerk.

9. **Vice-Chair's Report** – Nancy Bareham

- i) **Lincoln Day Dinner** – The event will likely take place mid-April. There was interest expressed in holding a candidate forum rather than having a keynote speaker, so we will explore that option further.
- ii) **State Party/State Committee Update** – it is unknown how the leadership dispute will play out; both Karamo and Hoekstra were in Las Vegas during the RNC Winter Meeting but neither were seated in the official RNC meetings; lawsuit filed by Karamo for declaratory relief is still pending; lawsuit filed by Pego et al. has been postponed.

10. **Selection of New Executive Committee Member**

- a) Chairman Willis asked for nominations for a current precinct delegate to replace Ben Wetmore on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term expiring 12/31/24.

***Nomination** of Chris DeLiso made by Missy Porterfield; seconded by Andy Barrone. There were no other nominations. DeLiso was approved by unanimous voice vote.*

11. **Selection of New CCRP Treasurer**

- a) Chairman Willis asked for nominations for a current member of the Executive Committee to serve as Treasurer to replace Ben Wetmore for the remainder of the term expiring 12/31/24.

***Nomination** of Tim Roberts made by Missy Porterfield; seconded by Chris DeLiso. There were no other nominations. Roberts was approved by unanimous voice vote.*

12. **County & District Convention Update and Process**

- a) **CCRP Convention** will be Thursday evening, February 15, 2024 at Victor Twp Hall
 - i) We will select 21 voting and 21 alternate precinct delegates to go to district caucus
 - ii) Those wishing to be on the ballot must email Steve by 4pm on February 14
 - iii) Precinct delegate elevations will take place at the end of the meeting
- b) **District Convention/Caucus** will be Saturday, March 2, 2024 at Huntington Place in Detroit (10:00 a.m.)
 - i) Each congressional district will select: 3 voting and 3 alternate representatives to go to the National Republican Convention; as well as our National Committee Man and National Committee Woman
 - ii) Our 21 voting and 21 alternate delegates will represent Clinton County in the District 7 Caucus
 - iii) Let Steve know if you wish to car pool to Detroit on March 2

13. **Committee Reports**

- a) **Legislation/Ordinance** – David Smith, Chairperson
 - i) **Ballot Initiative to Restore Local Zoning Control of Wind & Solar Projects**
 - (1) Will be on the ballot in November 2024; petitions are being printed
 - (2) Goal is to collect 550,000 signatures by May 29 (more than minimum required to allow for safety cushion)
 - (3) Need people in Clinton County to collect signatures (Ken Wieber, Captain; Theresa Owen, Co-Captain)
 - (4) Go to: MiCitizensChoice.org to request petitions.
 - (5) We have been asked not to make this a political issue against Whitmer/Democrats
 - (6) Theresa Owen has yard signs for sale (charging \$6 to cover cost)
 - (7) Clinton County Board of Commissioners is being pressured by ESA Solar not to adopt the recommendations made by the Citizens Advisory Board

- b) **Election Integrity** – (We are looking for someone to chair this committee, contact Steve Willis if interested)
 - i) Check My Vote – Maureen Hillary & Anne Hill
 - (1) Field canvassing continues in Clinton County
 - (a) DeWitt Twp – King Arthur’s Court completed
 - (b) Duplain Twp
 - (c) Westphalia Twp
 - (2) Digital Canvassing of apartments and residences is completed in Bath Twp and ongoing in DeWitt Twp.
 - (3) Challenging Voter Registrations
 - (a) Per MCL 168.512 any elector may challenge the registration of any registered elector by filing an affidavit with the clerk in the jurisdiction stating the elector is not qualified to vote and the reason why.
 - (b) Townships that need representatives to present canvassing affidavit evidence to the clerk in their jurisdiction are: Bingham, Eagle, Ovid Twp, Ovid City, Westphalia
 - (c) Townships that have not completed canvassing: Essex, Greenbush, Lebanon, Riley, St Johns
 - (4) Check My Vote canvassing is making a difference! In Clinton County they have completed 773 affidavits to submit to clerks since November 2023. The affidavits represent registrants who are flagged as no longer living in our jurisdictions and should be ineligible to vote.
 - ii) Election workers, poll watchers and poll challengers are needed – applications were available at our meeting.
- c) **School Boards** – Steve Willis (Looking for someone to chair this committee, contact Steve if interested)
 - i) Committee is focusing on 4 of the 14 school districts in Clinton County – Bath, DeWitt, Ovid/Elsie, St Johns.
 - ii) They have identified current board members and open positions in all 4 districts and are meeting with current conservative board members and potential candidates in each district.
 - iii) Goal is 2 solid conservatives on each board – still looking for more candidates, contact Steve with suggestions
 - iv) St Johns Bond Issue – David Smith
 - (1) St Johns seeks \$92M bond which includes \$16M for new pre-school building despite declining enrollment.

14. Precinct Delegate Recruitment – Steve Willis gave report; Lisa Barrone is the Chairperson

- i) The recruitment and vetting are underway
- ii) Our Precinct Delegate apportionment went from 198 to 211 (the 2 DeWitt City precincts were combined into 1)
- iii) Filing deadline is May 7, 2023
- iv) Applications and notary services were available at the end of the meeting
- v) We will continue to collect and notarize forms at future meetings, then deliver to county clerk in bulk

15. Elected Official / State Party Candidate Reports

- a) **Phil Hanses, Clinton County Drain Commissioner**
 - i) They are doing staff training, planning future maintenance projects, and small projects like tile and drain repair.
 - ii) The drain system handled the recent snow melt and heavy rain quite well.
 - iii) Through GIS they are trying to better document their work and be more proactive.
 - iv) Have had some staff turnover, hoping to be more stable going forward.
 - v) Hanses will run for one more term as Drain Commissioner.
- b) **Miguel Pilar, Turning Point Action Field Representative**
 - i) Website: TPACTION.COM
 - ii) Five coalitions: Moms, Hunters, Farmers/Ranchers, Latinas, Faith
 - iii) TP Action App: for door knocking, shows your 10 closest households registered as Republicans or Independents

- iv) Miguel will visit/speak to just about any group to spread the word (Miguel.pilar@tpaction.com; 517-927-4205)
- v) There will be a People's Convention June 2023 in Detroit

e) **Brian Hurtekant, Clinton County Commissioner Candidate (District 4)**

- i) Will push for evening meetings to improve access for working residents who cannot attend morning meetings
- ii) Has concerns about inadequate office space for the Prosecuting Attorney's office staff
- iii) Wants to stop paying for studies/surveys being done by outsiders (feels some are not necessary)
- iv) His commissioner is not responsive to his emails

16. Biblical Citizenship in Modern America – Karen Andrews

- a) Course developed by Rick Green, "America's Constitution Coach"
- b) Designed for churches but can also be done on individual basis (online or in-person)
- c) PatriotAcademy.com
- d) Contact Karen Andrews with questions: 517-282-1354

17. Next CCRP Executive Committee Meeting - Thursday, March 7, 2024 – Victor Township Hall.

18. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn: Tim Roberts; Second: Karen Andrews. Approved. (Adjourned at 9:00 pm)

Submitted by Missy Porterfield, Secretary