

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

March 20, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Clinton County Courthouse

Approved 4-17-2025

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Steve Willis called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. **Invocation** – Given by Daniel Smith
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Sheriff Sean Dush
4. **Roll Call** – 20 members of the Executive Committee were in attendance therefore a quorum was established.
5. **Approval of Agenda** – *Motion to approve: Lisa Barrone; Second: Buddy Poljan. Approved.*
6. **Approval of January 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes** – *Motion to approve: Mark Balfanz; Second: Fred Gifford. Approved.*
7. **Treasurer's Report** – Tim Roberts
 - a) Income: annual sponsorship drive and Lincoln Day Dinner registrations
 - b) Expenditures: website fees, postage, laptop computer and office supplies

Motion to approve: Philip Bareham; Second: Mark Balfanz. Approved.
8. **Chair's Report** – Steve Willis
 - a) Board of Canvassers – Must submit 3 names to county clerk (Anne Hill plus 2 more – contact Steve if interested)
 - b) State Convention Results – Jim Runestad elected State Chair; Dan Schifko elected 7th Congressional District Chair; Nancy Bareham, Mandy Brooke & Missy Porterfield elected to represent Clinton County on D-7 Committee; Steve Willis serves on D-7 Committee by default as a county chairperson.
 - c) Meetings Calendar – Calendar of county, township and school board meetings now included in weekly newsletter
 - d) Monthly Meeting Change – CCRP officers have determined it is not necessary to change our bylaws in order to accommodate the recently approved change in monthly meetings to the third Thursday (from first Thursday)
 - e) County Commissioner Meetings – available online to stream real-time or watch past recordings
9. **Vice-Chair's Report** – Nancy Bareham
 - a) State Party update – a closed meeting will be held to review recently uncovered financial issues inherited from the prior (Hoekstra) administration
 - b) Legislative update – positive things are happening: Republicans are reviewing Governor Whitmer's budget (which includes a 1B increase) and working on an alternative which will not increase taxes; Tim Kelly (as Chair of School Aid Budget Committee) working to strip that budget of waste and DEI and to make schools more accountable; HB 4195 to allow illegal aliens to get drivers licenses was defeated 64-36; a handful of Democrats are voting with Republicans

10. Committee Reports

a) Fundraising (Steve Willis)

- i) CCRP Club Sponsorships – 28 sponsorships to date
- ii) Lincoln Day Dinner
 - (1) Keynote Speaker will be Gubernatorial Candidate Senator Aric Nesbitt
 - (2) Notable attendees will include MIGOP Chair and Co-chair Jim Runestad and Bernadette Smith; Representative Tim Kelly; Senator Roger Hauck
 - (3) Ad sales are underway (thanks to Julie DeRose and Julie Tadgerson)
 - (4) Silent auction items are being collected by Steve Willis

b) Legislation & Ordinance Tracking

- i) School Committee (Buddy Poljan)
 - (1) St Johns Bond Proposal – the group is accepting donations to fund mailers & yard signs; need high turnout at May 6 special election to defeat the proposal
- ii) Wind & Solar (Brian Hurtekant)
 - (1) Board of Commissioners passed a noise ordinance for wind turbines
- iii) Septic/drain field legislation – Bill requiring annual inspections was defeated

11. Candidates and Elected Officials Reports

- a) County Prosecutor Tony Spagnuolo
- b) County Sheriff Sean Dush
- c) County Drain Commissioner Phil Hanses
- d) County Commissioner – Brian Hurtekant
- e) DeWitt Township Trustee – Lisa Barrone

12. New Business – None

13. **Next CCRP Executive Committee Meeting** – April 17, 2025 at Clinton County Courthouse.

14. **Adjournment** – *Motion to adjourn: Mark Balfanz; Second: Gary Hauser. Approved.* (Adjourned at 9:35 pm)

Submitted by Missy Porterfield, Secretary