

CLINTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2023 – 7:00 pm

Bath Township Community Center | 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath, MI 48080

Unapproved

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Steve Willis called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Invocation** – Given by Dan Smith
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Roll Call** –17 Delegate Elected Members of the Executive Committee were in attendance; a quorum was established. (Mark Balfanz and James Renner were absent, excused)
5. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve: Ben Wetmore; Discussion/changes: none; Second: Paula Caltrider. Approved.
6. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a) 2-16-23 Monthly Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve Bill Sherman; Second: Clay Coey; Approved.
7. **Reports of Officers**
 - a) Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Ben Wetmore reports there were no expenditures in since last report and the accounts will be moved after the Lincoln Day Dinner (LDD) to another institution in order to avoid monthly fees.
 - i) Political Account balance \$8,428.99
 - ii) Admin Account balance is \$1,950.00
 - iii) Paypal Account balance \$3,755.02.
 - iv) Total Position is \$14,134.01Motion to accept treasurer’s report: Phil Bareham; Second: George Ayoub. Approved.
8. **Chair’s Report** – Steve Willis reported the following:
 - a) A Community Conversation with Penelope Tsernoglou, will take place at the Bath Twp Library – Friday, April 21, 2023
 - b) He and Nancy Bareham attended the Eaton Co GOP Lincoln Day Dinner on April 11, 2023
 - i) Nikki Snyder, State Board of Education Member & US Senate Candidate, was invited to attend our LDD
 - c) He and Nancy Bareham attended the State Committee meeting April 14 & 15 in Clare.
 - i) At the Friday night mixer, Kristina Karamo presented her transition plan for the party and a new website. She also shared troubling details about the transition of the state party to her from the Weiser Regime:
 1. No transition/handoff
 2. No assets
 3. No computers
 4. No servers
 5. No contact/donor lists
 6. No tax filings
 7. No access to QuickBooks
 8. Email accounts deleted
 9. Computers and furniture removed
 10. Credit cards closed
 11. \$180,000 in credit card charges
 12. \$85,000 in legal fees
 13. \$10,000 monthly fee for use of office
 14. \$300,000 line of credit
 15. Raised \$15.9M / spent \$17.4M

- d) He was asked by Kristina Karamo to serve on County Chairs Committee (Weekly Zoom Meetings).
- e) Steve Wiswasser, Clinton County Treasurer (former Bath Twp Treasurer) confirmed his Republican Party affiliation.
- f) He also met with County Commissioner DeLong (Bingham Twp/St Johns).
- g) A resident has expressed interest in running for an elected office, we will guide/advise/support as appropriate. We are looking for candidates to run in the 75th and 77th
- h) Club Sponsorships: 39 as of 4/19/23 (22 @350; 7@250; 10 @150)
- i) Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) has done 2 mass mailings in Clinton County touting the so-called “benefits” of the proposed Eagle Twp Megasite. A township meeting is scheduled for 4/10/23.
- j) Steve is completing paperwork to change the location of our monthly third Thursday meetings to the County Courthouse in St Johns.

9. Committee Reports

- a) Committee Change: The Bylaws Committee will be comprised of the CCRP officers, who will review current bylaws and present any changes they feel are appropriate for consideration and adoption by the Executive Committee.
- b) Chair Willis and Vice Chair Bareham will continue to meet with committee chairs to discuss plans going forward
- c) Brief updates were given by chairpersons or representatives from several committees:
 - i) CCRP Website – The existing website is being modified as needed. Work on the revised website will resume after the LDD.
 - ii) Legislation and Ordinance Tracking –
 - (1) David Smith is continues working with townships to address zoning and planning issues and stressing the importance of each township having control of their own planning and zoning.
 - (2) Clinton County is working to revise ordinances for wind and solar projects, target completion by December 31, 2023. (May still be crucial for townships to have their own planning and zoning.
 - (3) Eagle Township has put a pause on moving the Megasite forward while they determine if a Planning & Zoning Board will be established at the township level.
 - (4) Patti Schafer has challenged the Recall Petition against her which was approved by the county Elections Board
 - iii) CCRP Events – Plans for the May 4th Lincoln Day Dinner are on track; ad sales, silent auction donations, event registrations and club sponsorships are coming along well. A summer event is planned for mid-July which will be exciting and different from what we have done in the past. We are considering additional opportunities to engage (e.g., parades, festivals).
 - iv) Social Media – Paula Caltrider reminded everyone to like and share our Facebook posts
 - v) School Board Elections – There are 14 school districts within, or partially within Clinton County. We will be attempting to find and recruit candidates to fight DEI and woke agendas.
 - vi) Data/Vendor – Ben Wetmore and Steve Willis are researching various data sources and improvements to existing database. We will coordinate with Kristina Karamo’s staff to ensure we do not duplicate efforts. We are working on filling in and correcting our data, and will need a lot of manpower to support this effort.

10. CCRP Executive Resolutions for Consideration – two resolutions under consideration, but not presented for adoption:

- a) We have drafted a resolution demanding Eagle Township Supervisor, Patti Schafer resign from her position (requested by Troy Stroud, Eagle Twp resident)
- b) We are considering a resolution regarding County Prosecutor funding, but await more information before taking a position.

11. Elected Officials Reports/State Party Candidates

- a) Phil Hanses, Clinton Co Drain Commissioner
 - i) His office has been very busy following heavy rains
 - ii) They are continuing regular maintenance work.
- b) Bruce DeLong, Clinton Co Commissioner
 - i) The Planning & Zoning Director is retiring and they are discussing whether to continue to provide planning and zoning for the 11 townships in Clinton Co (no decision as of 4/19/23).
 - ii) Eagle Twp asked the county to pause work/discussion on Eagle Twp Megasite until the township makes decision on their own Planning and Zoning. The county will wait until December, will not override the township.
- c) Val Vail-Shirey, Clinton Co Commissioner
 - i) There will be a hearing on May 11, 2023 on the Wind and Solar Moratorium
 - ii) M-21 Corridor Project: Its purpose is to facilitate agribusiness development; commissioners approved funding to renew a LEAP position in 2022 to work on this project (\$100,000 per year); all townships in the corridor have their own Planning and Zoning.
 - iii) Questions from the audience regarding LEAP:
 - (1) What is LEAP? Answer: Lansing Economic Area Partnership, covers Economic Development Region 7
 - (2) How is the Clinton County Board of Commissioners holding LEAP accountable, and how could Kam Washburn (former BOC Chair) sign an NDA regarding the Eagle Twp Megasite knowing it was such a controversial issue? Answer: The Chairman signed the NDA without the knowledge of the Board. The current Board wants to drive LEAP, rather than have LEAP drive them.

12. Other Business

- a) George Ayoub suggested we create an 'elevator speech' to summarize the CCRP's mission and goals which would be useful when recruiting new members.
- b) Deirdre Thompson requested that everyone get involved in their local school boards by attending lower level (committee?) meetings as this is where decisions are made, compared to the more highly attended public meetings where there is ONE WAY ONLY communication (residents have a chance to speak, but there is no response from the board).

13. Next CCRP Monthly Meeting - Thursday, June 15, 2023 – Clinton County Courthouse, St. Johns.

14. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn: Sharon Conklin; Second: Tim Roberts. Approved. (Adjourned ~ 9:55 pm)

Submitted by Secretary Missy Porterfield