



## **Membership Meeting Minutes**

January 12, 2023

**Meeting Start time: 6:46 pm**

**Call to Order By Chair** – Curt Tucker opened with welcoming everyone and made an introduction to Pastor Atkins.

**Invocation & Greeting** – Pastor Chet Atkins

Pastor Atkins opened talking about this divine moment that to the assembly of this meeting at his church. He continued talking of his past interactions with Curt and the community outreach they had done in the past.

Pastor Atkins read from Philippians 2:1-14

Pastor Atkins shared the offering of the meeting space and how the congregation of his church backed his decisions to allow the GOP to use the facilities.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Kerry King

**Chair:** Building on our Foundation Reading of RP Platform introduction

Who we are and our platform – Republican party has always taken a stand for freedom, prosperity and opportunity. Today those principles have become attacked by the left. We are engaged in our fight for a proven agenda. Our message to every American is to promote election integrity, and elect republicans up and down the ballot. The Principles of the republican party recognizes the God given liberties and promoting opportunities for every American. We promote economic prosperity, preserving American values and traditions and restoring the American dream for all.

As a party we support policies that seek to achieve those goals. For a platform centered on stimulating economic growth for all Americans and ensuring the integrity of our elections. We are working to preserve America's greatness for our children and grand children.

**Approval of Agenda:** Gary Ell made motion to approve agenda. Ayes have it.

**Introduction of Executive Committee** – Chair asked each EC member to stand to be recognized for roll call.

Curt shared how the previous leadership used a pyramid structure where the Chair had the control of the party. The chair works for the people, delegates are on the top. Minutes have been a missing part in the past.

Krorina – role call of EC

Members present - Curt Tucker, Gary Ell, Eric Gladwish, Austin Smith, Korina Tucker, Marth Avina, Jim Conger, Mike Curtiss, Debra Ell, Brian Forbes, Suzanne Hall, Kerry King, Lynne Norman, Colleen Ribble, Duane Riha, Kathy Riha, Carol Storch, Kathleen Vasold, Warren Vasold.

Goals for 2023-24: Promote sound Republican Candidates/Presidential Election

## **Special Orders of Business**

**Officers Reports** – Chair introduces VC Gary and Treasurer Eric, each give report

Eric gave a quick introduction and started his treasury update. The transition of leadership has been similar to handing over a race car without the steering wheel. The financial documents were not turned over in a timely manner and we are still waiting for the majority of the required financial documents. The only thing that was received was a tub of documents from 2022 and a few documents from 2021. The documents are incomplete and there is missing records from 11/01/22 to year end. It is required for a year end treasurer report and Eric did not receive the final report for 2022. American first was predicted to take leadership and they planned to spend all funds and leave a empty budget. They left \$280 of which has not been received yet. They know there are startup expenses and an upcoming convention to pay for. Delegates have fronted all expenses this far to get moving. The party currently has a negative \$657 balance. November 1<sup>st</sup> there was \$5,075 in the administrative account and additional \$6,770 in the election fund account that can only be used for election related expenses. We have been given no ledger or where the money has been spent. As of this meeting no funds have been transferred to us. We would like reports for the almost \$12000 in expenditures. There was a check written to Spencer's for \$1000 for a deposit for a Christmas party that all delegates were not invited to. There was a note that the bill was for 42 guests and almost \$1500 at the event. This party was flaunted on Facebook and the newly elected EC did not authorize the event. The \$1000 check was written 11/26/2022 and new leadership took over on 11/28/2022. These transactions were not authorized by the new EC that authority at that time these transactions occurred. The transaction of \$1000 should have been canceled and refunded. The state requirement is that the treasurer must keep 5 years financial records. We have asked several times for records. County bylaws state any expenditure over \$300 must be approved by the EC. Previous leadership made a motion and approved it to give the chair the ability to spend any remaining funds. This is an amendment to the ByLaws and must accompany a 30 days notice. This is the current status of the treasurer report.

Jim Conger stated that we kept the previous treasurer on to fulfill duties for the remainder of the year. Janet hired an attorney and we can only deal with the attorney.

Eric stated the last report is still missing and even though she stepped down, she is still responsible for the reports as an elected individual. He then discussed expenses occurred so far that came out of his own money to get started.

William Wilkey asked when we are going to hold the treasurer accountable. He mentioned we identified the problem what are we doing? Whats the solution? We should be getting the sheriff involved. We have the right to audit.

Eric stated that all this costs money to hire lawyers. Janet's attorney though Eric was aggressive and Eric stated he can elevate to AG of MI if final reports are not submitted. Its Eric's responsibility to hold 5 years of records.

Wilkey then discussed the idea of getting a lawyer that would work as pro-bono. Eric then stated good luck with that one. William stated he may know one that will be willing to help.

Eric stated that we intended to keep treasurer until January 1<sup>st</sup> to be able to hold her accountable. Eric stated that he is responsible starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.

William Wilkey stated that this is a breaking the law we need to get sheriff involved. November convention actions that occurred were breaking the law when the previous party walked out with items.

Eric stated that this is a serious matter and will be pushed forward.

Curt explained its only been 12 days and we have stated where we are. We will move forward at any means.

Eric also stated there is a storage unit and some equipment still at the State St. office.

Dan asked what will be the result, will we do something act on something?

Eric stated that the Christmas party money was illegal

Dan asked when will we be putting the things discussed behind and move forward.

Eric replied that we are moving forward with business.

Dan stated that we need to let them know that all we need is the report.

Curt stated that this is first meeting out of the box, this is real and it happened. We will apply any legal means possible. We need our filing cabinet in order. Eric deserves round of applause for the work he is doing.

Eric stated that he spent 60 hours in the last couple weeks. No electronic ledger is available. Everything is hand written.

**Membership Dues** – Eric \$35 / person \$15 college

Gary Ell state that he normally would have a report and we are gearing up for a lot of things. 10 committees are being put together. We want everyone to help finding a new building for the GOP office, not just the 17 EC members. We need a store front with visibility. He stated hundreds of hundreds of people came in the Bay road office building. As the 17 officers, we are doing this as servants to the delegates. The first paragraph of the republican platform states American exceptionalism.

**Membership Committees**

Connie, Colleen, Martha – Plans of outreach to the community

Connie Weil stated efforts to reach the community through the rescue mission and other opportunities. We want to show the community we are about God and giving to others. She stated republicans are not bad people, we are not racist. We love all people and we want all people to make it to heaven.

Martha made a March to life announcement. The event is on January 20<sup>th</sup>. It starts at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption at 9:00 am for a rally. The march starts at 10.

Suzanne stated that we need to let people know we are the SCRP and give handout to find needs of the community.

Martha stated we need signs and shirts even homemade ones.

Curt stating the big difference how we are doing things.

Debra Ell led the party platform discussion. Please read the platform. The candidate evaluation had the question of the party platform which 9 of 10 could not answer questions on this. On Pg. 16 we added to the platform to build the wall. We need to know this platform. American First is not a Trump slogan, its about American exceptionalism. It is embedded in our party platform. Debra read the first few lines of the preamble. We believe in American exceptionalism. MIPrecinctfirst.com in the resources tab, you will see a copy of the constitution and our republican party platform. There are also other information available. Membership committees of finance and audit committee will be limited to EC initially. ByLaws committee lead by Jim Conger. We would like to build these committees with one EC member as chair and one delegate as Co Chair to build committee. Administrative office prayer and care could be a bible study. This is what the committee decides to be. Communications committee will be led by Debra. She desires to have a newsletter and is already set up since she has a mailchimp account. Please make sure you have not unsubscribed because you will not receive an email. Please update emails as we are using what we have on file as of August from the Clerks office. Karen Potter is a local Realtor. She started Facebook page and a Saginaw GOP Twitter page. Events/hospitality, Wally will be part of that. We need another person on EC with Wally. Curt touched on Republican American First candidates in office. 2024 is a presidential election year. 9 congressional districts will be replaced. We need American first republicans to run for commissioner. We need someone to replace Debra Stabenow. We need for fill local races to replace County clerk. They are all democrats. We need American first candidates in these positions. Candidates supporting recruitment are needed. We need legislative reporting from Lansing and Washington to provide a monthly report to the party. Community outreach is lead by Colleen Ribble and Connie Weil. We need lots of help with that. Member profiles are available, please fill one out if not already done. This will help with our outreach team. We want to start filling the committees.

Curt gave Debra recognition for the hard work she has done over the last few years.

Gary Ell discussed donation and corporate membership committee – we seek to meet with all small, medium and large businesses headquartered in Saginaw and see how they managed during covid restrictions. We want them to know that the republican party is there for them. We will see that what happened will not ever happen again. We need support. We want to support business owners.

Curt stated that past administration was about big corporate money. We are bringing back the ownership of the party for and by the people. This allows us to keep control over our decisions.

Debra Ell stated to visit MIPrecinctfirst.com to see how many new delegates we brought on.

Curt – Table of offering for the Saginaw rescue mission. From now on when we look at voting ballots, we need every position filled with American first delegates challenging it.

## **County Convention January 26 – Debra Ell**

Debra Ell stated that everyone got a mailing for the call to convention. We were on the wire to meet the state deadline and we were out of money. We all chipped in to get the mailings out. The meeting will be like the November 28<sup>th</sup> convention. There will be a credential table to check in. We need all new credentials. They will be done in time for the January 26<sup>th</sup> convention. Meeting is at Field and Stream on Gleaner and starts at 7:00 pm. Get there at 6:30 and you will need a Picture ID.

Duane asked if we will we be elevating PD

Debra answered that we will be but can't elevate until the end of at this convention due to state convention requirement rules.

Duane stated point of information to a message from Neil Sisco and he did get a notice from the Clerk. It is in progress to get the delegate list updated.

Debra stated we have a list we can use including the 33 additional delegates. County convention is to vote on the 37 delegates to go to state. There is also 37 alternatives. It requires a hotel stay as Friday night caucus and Saturday morning voting. We are District 8. Midland, Bay city, Saginaw, and Genessee. See Austin to be put on the ballot. Ballots will be printed ahead of time. There will be places for write-in. You will get a packet from the state party when you are elected. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> is a Friday night. You will need to know who to vote for before you get there. We need American First and replace the establishment. Rylee Linting and Parker Shonts are running for youth chair. Debra stated her endorsement for both. Debra is running for State and district committee woman. Our Saginaw county representative voted not to censure Upton and Meijer. Debra needs your vote on Friday night. We have 15 committee people in the district. We need Saginaw American First for these positions. Mike Curtiss is running as well as Connie Weil. Karen Potter said she can put together a flyer so we know American first candidates. Fees are hotel stay and the possibility of paying for convention.

William Wilkey asked if we gain district will we Debra be stepping down on local committee.

Debra stated that the District meets 3 or 4 times a year.  
Debra does as much as she does because we are learning the process.

William Wilkey stated that he thinks that we should not hold both EC and District positions. He prefers that someone doesn't hold both but chooses one or the other.

Curt thanked everyone for questions and comments. He then asked who has been at state convention. He asked Colleen her experience.

Colleen talked about her experience at state convention.

### **Announcements:**

**MIGOP Chair Forum at Bullock Creek HS** – The event is hosting many of the people running for state positions.

Certificates of recognition that were missed at the Christmas Gala were handed out.

**Jim Conger made a motion to adjourn**

**Next meeting** - EC Zoom 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays of the month (Feb 2) and Membership meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month (Feb 9) at Gideon Christ community church.

Suzanne made remarks and asks that we make motions and go to the sheriff. We need to do something. Motion was Seconded

There is a public leissian that works with the public. There is a financial investigator in the prosecutors office.

William Wilkey asked if bylaws are available. EC meeting Zoom are now open to everyone but zoom is limited only to 100. Non EC will not be able to comment. William stated EC has not been open. He wants every meeting open.

Gary stated that we have voting and planning meetings. Eric will be running it and EC will be seated first. We can take 100 people on the Zoom call. Delegates will not be able to comment. Only the first 70 delegates will be able to attend. The meetings will be recorded and released.

Curt state that the special meetings don't always have to be an open forum.

William stated his comments on transparency. He feels that the EC meetings have not been transparent since they are not open to everyone.

Curt stated that we will address this issue.

Suzanne made movement for members of the EC looks into discussing the legalities of previous administration. Motion seconded, ayes have it.

Question in reference to the meetings to be taped. Only able to view 15 minutes.

Eric stated you have to download the file to view the entire video.

It was stated that the current file share is limiting access. It requires a fee to use.

Eric will look into other options. This is information that is needed to make the best options available.

Open meeting are not the same as transparent meetings. The past closed meetings were voting and were closed. The meetings were videotaped then approved by EC for release.

Transparency is upon the Chairs discretion. Not every EC meeting has to be open. We will have some Open and some closed meetings. This is in Roberts Rules and in our ByLaws. Expect an email for a zoom invite to listen in to the EC meetings.

Jim Conger made motion to adjourn. Motion was Seconded.

Mike Curtiss stated that what is important is that we grow our party in a positive way for our community, our state and our country. Ask everyone to attend as many meeting as you can and bring guests. We want to make our party stronger for our community in Saginaw. Reminder of Membership

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (Feb 9).

Vote to adjourn. Ayes have it.

Asked to pray for Gary's surgery. Jim Conger made a statement of God performing miracles on his daughter for a blood transplant. She got a transplant from his son and she is making improvements.

**Adjournment time 8:23**

**Closing Prayer by Tony.**