

**Lake County Republican Central Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 7, 2024**  
**Polson Rural Fire Hall**

It was established that a quorum was present. An Invocation was given, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call and Introduction of Guests, Visitors, and Newcomers.**

Guests: Erica Jennison, Mary Rensvold, Kendra & Cody Steele

**Adoption of Agenda:**

The Agenda for the February meeting was adopted by unanimous consent.

**Chairman's Comments/Strategy/Direction.**

- Update from Republican Women's meeting.
  - Used to be all different groups jumping into get to the good places for work.
  - Some are now trying to take us in a different direction.
  - What should we do about it?
    - We need to do more.
    - Already trying to do what we can but need to do more.
    - Get on school board, county commissioners, any other offices that need conservative people in the seats.
  - Lake County has done heavy lifting across the state but still more lifting to do.
- Tracy will run for House District 12.
  - This is the seat Bob Kenan is leaving behind.

**Approval and/or Amendment of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 Minutes:**

The Minutes of the January meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

**Treasurers Report:**

- Beginning Budget: \$22, 457.
- Deposit of \$80.
- Expense of \$340 to QuickBooks.
- Kathy Johnson will be in need of reimbursement.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business**

- Budget for Tiger Team:
  - Motion to fund tiger team of 6-7 thousand for advertising.
  - Motion by Doug for \$7,000 transfer to Tiger Team.
  - Second by Joe Read
- Discussion:

- Favor:
- Kathy Johnson, Tiger Team used the funds wisely last year and produced great ads on radio and billboards. We might do better if we support candidates financially sooner than we did last year.  
Need to donate to candidates soon.

- Opposed: No opposition.
- Call to vote by Mary Lee
- All in favor.
- No one opposed.

### **Precincts map discussion.**

- Need people to sign up.
- Will have a video after meeting for those interested to help learn what is required.

Petition for I-193 (hunting on private property) petition.

Petition for putting President Trump on Montana ballot.

### **Guest Speaker – Greg Hertz**

- Must build relationships to get things done.
- Time as Speaker allowed for time to travel and build relations with speakers in other states.
- He passed 35 bills last session.
- Appointed to task force MEPA, property tax, and one other.
- Worked with legislators on the PL 280 bill to provide funding for the county.
- Passed bill that says ethics laws apply to judges.
- Limit on how much law firms can contribute to candidates for judge seats.
- Reduced local government regulations on housing projects.
- Portion of surplus (\$100,000) for pothole reduction
  - Polson got 300 to 400 thousand.
- Food Freedom bill passed.
  - Certain types of food were illegal to sell to your neighbor.
  - But this bill lifts those restrictions.
- Chaired republican campaign committee.
  - Helped to fill empty seats with representatives.
  - Due to redistricting may lose ten seats.
- His new district is pretty much Polson.
- He and Bob Brown have worked on similar bills together.
- Their voting records are very similar.
- Greg has experience and relationships that will help him if he wins this seat.

Questions:

- David, what bill was vetoed?
- Lake shore protection act
  - It used to be that you may put a dock or boat structure on your property.
  - Then a new planner will come in with new rules you have to abide by.

- And your dock house or structure is now out of code.
- Anything legally built would be grandfathered under the new code.
- David what was Planning bill number?
  - Accessory dwelling unit, your regulations cannot be stricter than restrictions of a single-family home.
  - Individuals in Bozeman and Missoula worried about an apartment building popping up in their neighborhood.
  - This would not be forced on to HOA's to have to comply.
  - But a bill was passed about ghost covenant's on HOA's.
- Doug, does chamber know that you are multistate,
  - Montana chamber supported the bill.

### **Elected Officials Reports/Comments – Senate/House/Commissioners/Sheriff/Others**

Senate: Senator Greg Hertz

- Involved in winning two cases dealing with election lawsuits.
- Legislatures have mentioned wanting to create new courts to handle election and Constitutional issues to bypass our ridiculously leftist and political Montana Supreme Court.
- Concerning the special session that failed, Senator Hertz spoke to the governor and there is support for a special session to deal with property tax issues.
- Hertz serves as chair of the Legislative Committee to find candidates to run for offices that are open.
- Senator Hertz also serves on the Montana EPA task force.

House: Representative Linda Reksten

- Appreciates the courtesy of all the folks that work at the courthouse.
- Her forte is in education.
- Very proud of the work done to improve education.
  - Passed Senate Bill 8, adopted proficiency-based learning.
  - Students have actual skills and not just seat time.
  - Motivate schools to prepare students better.
  - Passed lot of bills to earn credits as an apprentice.
  - Pushing trade studies.
- Passed two charter school bills.
- Serves in state administration.
  - Handled many of Greg's bills.
- We can be confident that the legislators we have now are representing you.
- Department of aging recently contacted her because of misallocation of COVID funds.
  - Multiple offices are working to get this organization more responsive.

Joe Read.

- House district 91.
- Does not pass a lot of bills but helps direct people.
- Works in appropriations.
  - You pass certain sections of bills that get written into big bills.

- Redefined the definition of “sick cow” if vet wants to condemn your cow and go to government to get paid, they do not really understand what it costs.
- Sounds simple but getting passed as a bill is hard because people do not understand.
- State tribal interim committee.
  - The goal of this committee is to not let natives run wild.
  - In this committee tribe asks, “for the moon”.
  - Tribal members live under a completely different set of laws.
  - The Bill of Rights does not apply to tribal members.
    - Arrested on another reservation they have no right to a lawyer.
    - No right to representation.
- Have a new set of clientele in Rattlesnake.
  - Tough race ahead.
  - Democrats saying, “Now Joe has competition”.
  - Opponent is past chair of tribal council.

Commissioner(s):

Gale Decker,

- Reinforce what Greg mentioned about representatives.
  - They are accessible.
  - Call for advice.
  - We have great people in Helena working for us.
- Update.
  - Controversy with county spelling bee has been resolved.
  - No update on pl280
    - Information sent to governor.
    - The county is out on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - Asked for meeting on how the transition will happen.
- 95 mills for schools will get updated tax requirement.
- Still in the planning stage of annex.
  - Reached settlement with convicts to construct exercise yard.
- Letter to state land board about land exchanges supposed to happen under water compact.
  - No response.

Steve introduced new officers.

Clerk of district office more than 20 years running as candidate.

Erica from the state office stepping into treasurer position.

- Erica Jennison is running for county treasurer.
  - Worked for the department of revenue immediately after high school.
  - Done this work for 14 years.
  - She has since transferred to the county office.
  - She is training with Robin, took over July 8<sup>th</sup>, lot of work but enjoy the work.

Mary Rensvold.

Worked for justice of the court in Lake County for 3- and one-half years and transferred to district court.

Running for clerk of district court

Kendra Steele worked as clerk of recorder.

Running for clerk and recorder.

## **Announcements**

Lake County Republican Women

- April 7<sup>th</sup> is the election kick off.
  - Ronan Community Center.
- The last meeting was this past Monday.
  - Tracy was the speaker.
  - Did a great job.
  - Kim Christopher was present, and she will run again for her office.
  - The group did have two months off
  - Next meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pachyderm Club

- Next meeting is January 12th, Sherrif Bell and Polson Police Chief George Simpson will speak to the group about updates on P.L. 280 and crime stats for the County.
- The board meeting is January 12th at 11 am.

Public Announcements/Guest Comments

- Doug is trying to coordinate with Flathead County, Doc Al, and Hellgate Young Republicans in Missoula to bring a team effort for this election year.
  - If we cannot save the nation, at least save our county.
- Dr. Ellen asked if the candidates present have donation envelopes with them.
- It is not time to take up donations.
- Tracy and the vetting committee,
  - The committee looks at the candidate's preprimary to choose candidates.
  - Need volunteers to be a part of this committee.
  - Why it is important, who knows anything about the judges?
  - No one does.
  - Central committee can vet though GOP cannot.
- Events from precinct to precinct.
  - District 13 at Mission Bay club house, 4-6 pm February 28.
- February 21 Scott Bigg fund raiser for Ryan Zinke at the "Shoe" from 5-7.
- April 7<sup>th</sup> kick off by republican women Ronan Center.
- April 21<sup>st</sup> candidate forum at Ronan Center.
- Clay shoot May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Lincoln Reagan in Sept.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

## Adjournment