**Lake County Republican Central Committee**

**Wednesday,6 March 2024­­­**

**Polson Rural Fire Hall**

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

**Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

* Charles Headley running for senate district 46.
  + Fire chief for Arlee.
  + 17 years of fire experience and EMS.
  + Montana EMS is not an essential service provider.
  + Running to get help for volunteer fire departments and EMS.
* Shawn & Trish Pandina
  + House District 7 in Flathead.
  + Decided to run when the current representative continued to vote in opposition to conservative position.
  + Courtenay Sprunger is the current representative for District 7.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

* No objections to Agenda as published; accepted by unanimous consent.

**Approval and/or Amendment of 7 February 2024Minutes:**

* Amendment to the minutes in the treasurer’s report.
* Linda is going to be out of town and if anyone is need of reimbursement to see (temporary deputy treasurer), Kathy Johnson until April 21st.
* No objections; accepted by unanimous consent.

**Treasurers Report**

Our Treasury Ending Balance in February was:  $22,457.68.

* March bills due to be paid:
  + Marcia Armine for Newcomer Get Together event $239.23.
  + Click Here Designs, LLC, Website maintenance$220.96.

Balance after payments will be:  $21,997.49

* Ron McCellan moved to accept the Treasurer’s report.
* Seconded by Cynthia Waterman.
* Approved.

**Guest Speaker**

* **Commissioner Gale Decker**
  + The Commissioners on Monday filed petition to FERC requesting the lake level be kept no less than one-foot full pool during the summer months—primarily for fire safety reasons (evacuation routes).
  + Also submitted pictures from “Save the Lake” group.
  + Also filed information about wild land fires around the shore of the lake.
  + This was filed electronically.
  + PL280.
    - Received a letter from Governor on Friday.
    - It was a “nothing-burger” (no help; no positions; no relief).
    - Take away is “the State is going to initiate the process of removing the State from PL280”.
    - First part of process is for the Governor to go the tribes to get their permission to withdraw.
    - The secretary of the interior must approve of the withdrawal.
    - In speaking with Joe Read the position is, “The legislature brought the State into the PL280 so the legislature should be involved in removing us from PL280”. It is possible the Governor cannot withdraw the State from PL280; that is must be the legislature.
    - County attorney and Civil attorney were involved in a three-hour discussion of what this all means and how to move forward.
      * How do we move forward during this “dead period” where lake county is out, but the State is still in?
    - Another issue is future lawsuits.
    - Could possibly pick another fight with the Governor but that has not proven to be fruitful so far. Neither the Governor nor the Lieutenant Governor have helped Lake County in any way, but instead have opted to be patsies for the CSKT.
    - Summarize:
      * The Commissioners are not looking forward to this dead period and feel under pressure to act in some yet undefined manner.
      * As county officials ,we need to start discussion with CSKT to navigate when the county is out of PL280. (Note, however, the CSKT plays this matter from the catbird seat; they sit back, do nothing, and watch the State and the County act with near total impotence.
      * The reality Lake County and the Commissioners face is that the State, Federal Government, and the CSKT have no intention of helping the county whatsoever.
      * Will have to be a local solution.

**Committee Reports (5 Mins Each)**

* **Finance Chairman.**
  + Number of things in the works.
  + MTGOP sent a list of new people in area that are supposedly republican voters.
    - We sent out 70 invitations.
    - Did not get one visitor from the mail outs.
    - With the expense of printing the invitations and rental of facility have to decide maybe to do another event or not.
    - Another thought was to follow up with a phone calls or emails to the names we have.
  + Kathy.
    - Is there any other way to get information from the county of new movers?
    - Take the list from RNC to the elections office to see if they match.
    - Got 9 invites returned because of improper address.
    - Better to get on phone to see if we get a response.
  + Susan Lake volunteered to check over the list to determine the veracity of the RNC data.
  + Ron’s experience is to be ready to get returns from the post office.
    - Previous information from the RNC has been near worthless in the past.
* **Congressional Committeewoman and Committeeman**
  + Not present
* **State Committeewoman and Committeeman**
  + Not present
* **Technology Committee**
  + Not present
* **Tiger Team**
  + Thanks to Mary Lee for leading the team in Tracy’s absence.
  + Today they had Charles Headley come and present for his run.
  + After action report of the welcome event.
  + Clay shoot is set for May 11.
  + Still need help for the events that are coming up.

**Elected Officials Reports – Senate/House/Commissioners/Sheriff/Others (5 Mins Each)**

* **No senate officials.**
* **House**
  + Linda
    - Fund raising time.
    - Having good response so far.
* Every dime or nickel is reported to the office of political practices.
* Will be in Helena for the education interim committee next week.
* Conflict around H.B. 203.
* You can pass the bill but does not mean they will be put into place easily.
* Trying to get student achievement up to snuff.
  + Lack of staff.
  + This was a problem well before 2020 (Covid).

**Joe Read.**

* Appropriations process for schools and infrastructure.
* The first time they have met in the interim.
* Joe will be meeting with natural resources to work on multimillion dollar project on the Milk River.
  + What took two years to build is taking fifteen years to repair.
* State Tribal interim meeting in Butte and discussing PL280.
  + The Federal government will not come in to help us.
  + The governor’s veto is the most unwise decision to make.
  + Thinking about going public on these matters.
  + The amendment came from a Democrat (not the governor) and was voted down.
  + Amendment brought the tribe into it, and it was deemed not appropriate.

**Commissioners.**

* + Steve Stanley.
    - Positive things.
    - New road shop in Charlo.
    - Road department funded the shop out of their own budget.
    - Process of new maintenance shop for solid waste.
    - Best thing about that is there two new mechanics to save taxpayers.
    - Last year got a snow blower.
    - Lake County started up fuel reduction program again one year ago.
      * Starting a White Swan project.
      * BIA funding to the county.
      * Finley point project.
      * Woods bay project.
      * Majority of the money is fresh money to local vendors to do the work.
    - Lake County lost a lot of staff but new people coming in.
    - Dog project with the tribe for one year a joint animal control program.
    - Existing chip sealed a road has been a great process.

**Unfinished Business**

* Precinct Captains – Get signed up.
* Sign up for Judge Training and Notify Chairman Sharp – Same for Poll Watching
* Vetting Committee/Clay Shoot Committee

**New Business (from the Floor)**

* Senator Bob Brown has resigned; he took a job with the Governor, which means Senator Greg Hertz is unopposed in the Primary.
* Kathy Johnson
  + Two incumbent legislators present.
  + Suggested that we donate to their campaign.
* Joe Read, wait to contribute till after the filing deadline.
* Motion from the floor by Mary Lee to table the awarding of funds to candidates running for offices.
  + Second by Cynthia Waterman.
  + No discussion
  + Unanimous decision.

**Announcements**

* **Lake County Republican Women**
  + Meeting on April 1 at Boys and Girls club in Polson with Tanner Smith.
  + 11:30 am for finger food and meeting begins at noon.
  + April 7th is election kick off at Ronan Community Center 3-6 pm.
* **Pachyderm Club**
  + Will have a board meeting at 11 am before the club meeting (per usual; first meeting every month)
  + The speaker for this meeting is Toni Kramer with Lake County Elections.
* **Public Announcements/Guest Comments**
  + Flathead vetting has a list of questions that are sent to candidates.
  + They must answer those questions before getting funding.
  + The 2nd Thursday of the month at Sykes restaurant at 6pm for Flathead Central Committee meetings.
  + Charles Headley and Joe Read will be working closely together.
    - Feel free to reach out with any questions.
  + Joe Read, why we need conservative candidates.
    - Bitterroot will have two Lincoln Reagan dinners.
    - The Governor is participating in splitting the groups and battling against conservatives; in particular, the Governor is working against any candidates associated with the Montana Republican’s Freedom Caucus.

**Adjournment**