

Lake County Republican Central Committee

Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Polson Rural Hall

Tracy called the meeting to order at 6:35 (1835hrs). Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were said. A show of hands indicated there was a quorum.

Visitor/Newcomers: Mike and Jeanie Thompson who want to join and serve in any capacity.

Tracy asked to change the order of agenda items which was supported by unanimous consent. However, the minutes will reflect the order on the agenda except for the program.

Minutes from the January 7th meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Balance from December: \$11,589.72

One bill paid to CHD website: \$75.75

End of January 2026 balance: \$11,513.97

Reports from Elected Officials

Linda Reksten (HD13) thanked the group for allowing her to represent her district for the last three years with one term remaining.

Accomplishments:

- Chair of House Education Committee
- Requested a study on early literacy
- Ways to improve mathematics
- Passed out a print out of a study on "School Safety" in which she has been involved
- Attends monthly meetings on funding PL280
- Meets with healthcare officials at St. Luke's and St. Joe's
- Meets with City Council (new casino and proposed boardwalk)
- Attends Chamber meeting where the ice arena is concerned
- Meets with all school boards in her district to find what's working and what's not

Tracy will meet in Helena about water issues and exempt wells (Walton Water Rights). There is a pending meeting to review the CSKT Water Compact.

Bill Barron: Recently had a **cordial** meeting with LT. Governor Kristen Juras on PL280. He also announced he is up for re-election and will be running again.

Steve Stanley: Concurred with Bill.

Mark Nolan:

- Is deeply concerned with property tax issues.
- He tried to talk to Mark Blasdale and Governor Gianforte.
- Mark said “we don’t have anyone’s ear.”
- The Senate is a disaster.
 - Llew Jones has tremendous authority, and with regard to many tax issues as well as other appropriations, he uses his authority in a manner that predetermines outcomes.
 - The phrase “the cake is baked” is used to indicate that a predetermined conclusion, determined by the use of Llew Jones’s influence, is going to occur no matter what.
- There is a 25-40% turnover at each session; that means many Freshman legislators attend each session and are vulnerable to manipulation by senior legislators.
- Mark is working on projects to attempt to adjust taxes.

Unfinished Business

Bringing the Chamber of Commerce topic back on the table, we voted to pay the \$100 dues, but to also send someone to the meetings. Dave Passieri took on this duty.

New Business

- It’s ***time to file for Precinct Captain seats***. Filing period is ***17 February - 4 March***. We need a total of 44 (half men, half women). We currently have 24 in place.
- ***Finley Warden*** and ***Faith Dawson*** stepped up to be the ***PTLs for Polson 6***.

Announcements

- LCRW: Next meeting is March 2 at the new transit building in Ronan at 11:00. There will be a tour and a presentation about MCR 101. Chili and cornbread provided.
- Pachyderm: Finley Warden will be the speaker for the February 13 meeting. It is at noon at the Rural Fire Station.
- Public Announcements: Faith would like to reserve the theater February 28 to for people to watch the new documentary, “Melania.” She said it would cost us \$200 to reserve it and our visitors, the Thompsons, wrote a check on the spot.

Special Program

Tracy shared a presentation he has created on “Influence Networks” which is based on a presentation made by Scott Walker and Kristen Eastlick.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.