

Montrose County Republican Central Committee
Thursday, September 14, 2017
Minutes of the Meeting

Draft

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Spencer Hamner called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Invocation: led by Ted Valerio.

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Brian White.

Following the Pledge Vice Chairman, Spencer Hamner, read a letter to the committee from Chairman, Geoff Schram, dated September 1st, 2017, requesting a 3 month leave of absence, and thereby passing over the responsibilities and authority of the position to the Vice Chairman during that time.

Welcome Elected Officials, Attendees & Guests:

All Officials, Committee Members and Guests were welcomed, after which time Officials who had previously requested a special time to address the Committee were each given three minutes.

Treasurer Rosemary Murphy announced her run as candidate for Treasurer for the next term. Having held that office since 2006, she asked all for their support.

Clerk & Recorder Tressa Guynes announced her candidacy stating she has served for two and a half years and would like to continue for the next 4 year term with everyone's support.

Coroner Dr. Thomas Canfield was represented by Assistant Chief Investigator Rick Fellabaum who announced the Coroner would be running for the next four year term. Rick told of the great strides Dr. Canfield's office has made, and asked all to support him.

Assessor Brad Hughes said he wants to continue as Assessor, and asked for support.

Sheriff Rick Dunlap started by stating it was an honor to serve Montrose County but that he would not be seeking another term; the time had arrived to spend more time with his wife and move forward. He then introduced Undersheriff Adam Murdie as someone who knows the aspects of the position, and gave him the podium.

Undersheriff Adam Murdie talked about all that Sheriff Dunlap has brought in the 48 plus years he has served. He then announced his candidacy for sheriff, provided details of his experience, and said he would appreciate everyone's support.

Vice Chairman Hamner then thanked all the candidates for their talent and willingness to serve the county.

Elected Official Reports:

Representative Marc Catlin started by thanking the candidates. He talked about District 58; learning a lot and meeting the people. He reported on the Colorado River Water Conservation District and why it's important to local government, stating he will be back to talk more to the Committee.

Senator Don Coram told the Committee a little about his schedule and visiting the counties in his district. He talked briefly about some of his projects; enterprises for water and funding for refurbishing old county municipal buildings.

Commissioner Glen Davis reported the county is in good shape; that problems come more from the cost of insurance and benefits. They are working on a budget somewhere in the 60 thousand range. Progress with the Arena and Road and Bridge facility is going good; problems are from not getting done sooner. He appreciates the help and support.

Commissioner Keith Caddy reported that the airport project on the west end will be doing an asphalt pour in the Spring; "hiccups" with the Road and Bridge facility should be figured out soon. Construction on the Events Center is half done, and efforts are beginning to address advertising and marketing. He also reported on the burdens to social services due to people moving in for the legal marijuana with no means of support.

Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes passed out samples of the ballot her office is working on for the upcoming election containing two issues, District E Board of Education vacancy, and a mill levy increase for the regional library. She reported on registered voters in the county; 8,436 unaffiliated, 4,534 Democrat, 12,091 Republican, stating that number includes an increase of 2,000 new Republican registrations.

Assessor Brad Hughes commented that we are seeing more growth and new construction. He stated we have a strong market and that he is seeing more transactions higher than evaluations. A new tech and four appraisers are needed to stay up with demand. Property values are what to watch to know what's happening in the local market.

Sheriff Dunlap told about a federal judges' ruling on the unconstitutionality of the sex offender registry, stating their website had to come down as a result. Offenders are still listed with the state, and Colorado's Attorney General is appealing.

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Coroner Dr. Canfield, represented by Assistant Chief Investigator Rick Fellabaum, stated the doctor's health is fine and he is looking forward to the next term. We heard a brief background on the office and the employees; deaths statistics, amount of autopsies performed, and why. He also gave suicide statistics stating it as a problem, both here and in Mesa County. A crime scene project is being presented at the high school; Rick has spoken to five classes.

Minutes Approval: Vice Chairman Hamner asked for a motion to approve the published August 10th, 2017 Minutes. A motion was made by Dianna Coram, seconded by Jim Dittmar, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Hunter reported on donations given, paid table sponsors and efforts to build the "coffers" up.

Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

a) Vacant positions: Vice Chairman Hamner asked that anyone interested in filling those positions to please let us know.

b) Resolution: Dennis Mitchell came forward with a 'Resolution for the Unity and Transparency of Elected Officials' and a motion to discuss was made by Ray Langston and seconded by Allan Miller. Dennis explained the reasons for bringing the resolution, and Committee discussion ensued. Vice Chairman Hamner passed along information received from state GOP officials, and Committee discussion continued. Mr. Mitchell then declared that he would withdraw the resolution and a motion for same was made by Ray Langston, seconded by Jim Dittmar, and unanimously passed.

c) Lincoln/Reagan Dinner: Kerri Catlin reported on the list of items to sponsor; that auction items are needed and that Ray Langston has said he would help obtain a gun for the silent auction. Contact Charli Oswald for tickets.

New Business:

a) Hurricane relief: Vice Chairman Hamner reported that sources for donations could be found on the state GOP website and that the Denver GOP office was taking donations. Samaritan's Purse was also suggested by Committee members.

b) September 17th Constitution Day: Republican Women are presenting pocket Constitutions to students.

c) November 4th Civic Awards: presented to people who emulate values and give to the community in a show of unity.

d) November 11th Veterans' Day: Republican Women are providing flags to fly in Montrose and for veterans.

Committee Chair/Affiliation Reports:

Strategy & Planning Chairman, Tricia Joy reported on the Mesa County Republican Women and Club 20 meetings that she attended in a show of outreach and support to other counties, and about the books she's reading on ways to overcome arguments and speak with unity.

Public Relations Chairman, Kerri Catlin announced that Pastor Robert Munday would be speaking about the library at Republican Women's next meeting; a brown bag luncheon.

Republican Women Chairman, Dianna Coram announced the yard sale on Saturday for the scholarship fund. She spoke about Club 20 as an organization to learn about and join, and reported on the hurricane relief efforts being made by the Federation.

Precinct Coordinator: POSITION OPEN

Events/Fundraising: POSITION OPEN

Closing Remarks/Announcements:

Vice Chairman Hamner closed the meeting with a brief personal history and shared lessons from his father. He mentioned noteworthy comments and behavior during the meeting that showed strong emotion and courage, and encouraged further unifying engagement from the Committee.

Adjournment:

Rick Fellabaum made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Allan Miller. Meeting adjourned.

— *Minutes submitted by Charli Oswald, Secretary*