

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 6-25-2024

Rose Kelshimer called to order 7:00 PM, Brenda Beadenkopf led in prayer and George Tiller the Pledge.

Roll Call: The following were present: Steve Carra, Hope Anderson, Monica McMichael, Rick Behnke, Victor Fitz, Jeff VanBelle, James Lawrence, Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie, Samuel Barrera, Rosann Marchetti, RJ Lee, Wally Berndt, Dan Adams, Kim Adams, Mike Egan, Nate Wilder, Mark Howie, JD Glaser, Wendy Glaser, Rose Kelsheimer, Roger Boyer, Lynn Schantz, Brian Woodburry, and Debbie Burke.

Not present: Johnathan Lindsey, Thomas Stephenson, Ryan Laylin, Joyce Sheteron-Locke, Jerry Duck, and Kevin Kelsheimer.

Excused absence: Brad Paquette, Mike Grice, and Tom Langley.

Secretaries Report: Roseann Marchetti motioned to approve the minutes, as corrected, seconded by RJ Lee. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kim Adams – Report copies are on the table in the back. In the main account the balance is \$23,970.78. The admin account balance is \$888.28

Presentation: JD Glaser – Good news district wise, we have had 2 months in a row taking in a half million dollars and we are on track to take in another half million this month. There has been a series of well attended fund raisers across the state with high profile speakers coming in. Laura Trump spoke at one, and previous donors are back. The RNC is putting money into the party and the MRP is using that money to pay for staffing to get things done. We now have field offices for Team Trump with Scott McGraw being the field op representative for District 5.

20 points are critical that must be fixed. Here are some of those key points:

- A lack of notice time prior to a vote on a e.
- No more NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement)
- Record all votes
- Honest amendments (every amendment must be voted on independently)
- Honesty in punishment
- No more lame duck sessions
- Compliance with FOIAs (Freedom Of Information Act)
- Censorship
- No more Omnibus
- End Vote for immediate effect.
- No voting on the Chair/Speaker Immediately. People need to know who they are voting for.

Candidates forum: Roger Boyer – Chairman of the Delegates Committee.

We have invited our Cass County candidates to come in and speak to us. There will be no questions during the speaking. Each person will have 3 minutes. There will be no attacking of one's opponent. County Commissioners will go first.

Samuel Barrera: 6th District - Milton Twp resident and current Vice Chairman of the board. It has been my honor to serve as a county commissioner and I am looking forward to a new term. It has been a steep learning curve getting to this point and I am looking to bring that experience to be a more grounded and confident commissioner. When I was elected to the board as vice chairman it was both exciting and terrifying giving me the opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone. I was able to grow as a professional and a leader. My family and I are so honored to have this opportunity working with such great board members and elected officials.

Mark Howie: 5th District - Jefferson and LaGrange township. I am running because I am able not working full time and can give the time it needs. My wife had been the commissioner for the current term. I feel that there are things we need to do in Cass County that we are not getting done. Everybody says that we ought to have transparency. I do not see a lot of transparency in the things we are doing and why are we doing them. If I do not know what is going on while being married to a commissioner, that is not very transparent. She does not know what is going on. What I would like to do is to get questions answered and avoid the need for FOIAs. I am for a balanced budget. I would like to stop as much as we can, all these extra millages and having to do certain elections. I want us to know our budget, plan for our current situation. We need to do a good job of making sure our budget is set, so we are not asking for more money before the end

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 6-25-2024

of the term. This is a four-year term. My roll for most of my career has been in leadership. I have run multi-million-dollar business units, I know how to work with people, lead people, build teams and I think I will do a great job as your 5th district commissioner and I would appreciate your vote. Thank You.

Jeremiah Jones: 4th District – This is what my job is as county commissioner: Purchase, release real estate necessary for the site of the court house, jail, clerk offices or other county buildings. Determine a site, move, or designate a new site for a county building. Authorize the sale or lease of real estate belonging to the county describe on which conveyance of the real estate is to be executed. Erect the necessary buildings for jails, clerks' offices, and other county buildings, describe the time and manor for erecting them. Borrow money or raise funds through taxes as authorized by law. Provide for the repayment of a loan made by the board by tax funded accounts. Prescribe and fix the salaries and compensation of employees for the county if not fixed by law. Direct and provide the raising of money necessary to defray the current expenses and charges the county and the necessary charges incident to, or rising from the execution of the board's lawful authority. Pass ordinances that relate to county affairs that do not convene the general law of this state or intervene with local affairs of a township, city, or village with-in the limits of the county. Require county officer whose salary or compensation is paid by the county to make a report to on their own to the county board. Establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county as the board considers necessary. Enter an employment contract with appointed county manager or other appointed chief administrative officer of county controller. Remove an officer agent appointed by the board. Decide appeals under the freedom of information act. Appoint members of the county board of road commissioners if they are in counties where they are not elected. Appoint members of the board of county canvassers, which canvasses election results, and conducts recounts.

My 25 years in the military, being deployed overseas for 5 years, I've been accountable and responsible for about quadruple our counties budget. I sent men out in direct combat. Weather they would live or die was my decision. I can do my job as county commissioner for 4 more years.

Tom Langley: Stacey Wilder speaking for Tom. Tom writes:
I am Tom Langley; I am running for Cass County Commissioner in District 1. I apologize for not being here as we are helping our son move to North Dakota. When elected as commissioner on November 6th, my top priority will be to ensure our law enforcement departments are properly staffed and fully funded. This includes having an adequate number or deputies on duty for each shift, equipped with necessary tools and equipment for their patrol cars. Additionally, we must ensure that our jail personnel are fully funded and staffed. I am also committed to establishing the competitive retirement programs for both new deputies joining the sheriff's department and current deputies applying for their retirement. It is essential that our deputies feel secure in their ability to retire from the Cass County Sherrif's department.

We need to collaborate with all the townships to provide Ambulance services for our residence in Cass County. While some townships have their own Ambulance services, the rest of the townships are relying on SMCAS or VanBuren EMS for coverage. It is crucial that all townships have adequate Ambulance service.

I aim to strengthen our partnership with-in law enforcement, including the prosecutor's office and the courts. While we have a great team at the prosecutor's office, there is always room for improvement. We must ensure that our judges are highly qualified and dedicated to serving Cass County. As a county commissioner, we must work collaboratively with all other departments to serve the residents of Cass County effectively. Transparency is a key principle as well. As commissioners, our actions should be open and available to public scrutiny. We owe it to each other and every voter up front about our activities, and address any and all questions they have. As your commissioner, I will work compassionately to make a difference.

James Lawrence: 2nd District – Born in Paw Paw, grew up in Decatur and eventually moved to Dowagiac. I moved to Dowagiac to join Pastor Stacey's Church and have been there for the past 43 years. I met JD and Wendy Glaser who influenced me to get involved and run for County commissioner. I got to the clerk's office on the last day at 1 minute till 4PM. (The Dead Line)

I was elected and this office fits me well. I like to talk. Larry Westgate help train me. Just like Sam I came in cold knowing absolutely nothing going into a learning curve. I totally enjoy what I've been doing in the last year and a half. I would enjoy continuing to do this for another 4 years. I've enjoyed working with Victor Fitz, Monica McMichael, Hope Anderson, Sherrif Behnke and many others. It has been an honor and a privilege.

RJ Lee: 8th District – I work as an agronomist full time. I work with farmers. I work for a company called Keystone. About three weeks ago I was walking through the store getting groceries for my wife. An older heavy-set lady came up to me and said, "How dare you work for such an awful company? How could you work for something that is so destructive and is just bad for our environment? I said woe! What are we talking about? Well, that Keystone pipeline, it's just destroying everything. I said Okay, I have nothing to do with Keystone Pipeline, I actually work for an Ag co-op, I work

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 6-25-2024

with farmers. She was a little flustered. She turned to walk away and said, farmers are bad too. As a follow up to that, I was leaving the store, I see that lady in the parking lot, loading her Hummer H3. The ignorance of the population.

Earlier this week we had some meetings with people who represent our government with some younger people. We were talking about things that get banned. Round-up was talked about, it is a big deal. It got remove from being able to desiccate or dry down dry beans. Now we are being forced to use a product called gramocstone. It is a paraquat. This form of chemistry was used to kill people during World War 1. Do to the ignorance to certain people in our government, we are removing a safer product and spraying a more dangerous product.

Roseann Marchetti: 7th District – I am the senior commissioner on the board. This is my 14th year. I am running again because I love Cass County. I have been here longer that anywhere in my life. I am on the policy committee, the surplus property committee, county planning commission, the OPIOD advisory committee, Human services coordinating council, the board of public works (I take the minutes), the Southwest Michigan planning commission, the Kinexus Board, and the courthouse remodeling committee (we are not over budget) I have a Master Citizen Planning Certificate, a Redevelopment Ready Community Certificate, Enbridge Pipeline Certificate, Zoning Administrator Certificate, and the Advanced Academy Certificate for Mac. I applied for and received the 501C3 status for the Uptown Improvement Association. I was volunteer of the year and received the Welsch-Lackey Award in 2021, In my district I am on the Uptown Improvement Association (I take the minutes), the Edwardsburg Chamber of Commerce – I do Commodity Day, I attend SESPA (I take the minutes), I am on the Fall Festival Committee and Our Lady of the Lake I am elector and Eucharistic Minister, I serve on the women’s committee, and the funeral committee.

I voted for Donald Trump twice and I will vote for him again. I am pro-life, for less government, lower taxes, the right to bear arms and pro-business. Since 2011 when I was first elected as commissioner, I am for Cass County and our community, whatever it takes to welcome, bring jobs, businesses both small and large, take care of our residence both young and old, watch over the environment keep our rural character. Right now I have 5 grant applications.

Alan Northrop: 3rd District - Linette Fay Daughterty speaking for Al. Al could not be here tonight due to a long-standing commitment to a daughter who lives out west. Al has lived in Cass County for all his life. I’ve known him for all of my life and graduated together with him in Marcellus and attend the same church. Al believes strongly in Capitalism and the Free Enterprise system. He built his logging business from the ground up cutting trees and milling lumber for over forty years. He built and developed a successful resort on the shores of Bobert Lake where he lives in Marcellus. He understands business and will apply those principals to Cass County government. Al previously served as a Cass County commissioner from 2003 to 2006. He now feels called to re-engage to help protect the counties sovrenity and the rights of our citizens. Al believes that the following issues are the most important ones facing the county; retaining county employees, maintaining a good working climate for them, listening to and addressing the concerns of the citizens, emphasizing public safety including ambulance service, fire protection and Law enforcement, maintaining the productive nature of farm land, keep farmland producing, food, fiber and livestock feed. Al believes that if the county government is run efficiently with an eye towards frugality, while keeping those four issues stated above a priority, the commission can be successful in utilizing tax dollars effectively.

Lynn Schantz: 4th District – It’s a small part of southern Pokagon township and about 80% of Howard township. I have been a Cass County resident for 60 years in Pokagon and Howard townships. My husband and I have been married for 53 years and for over 50 years of that we have been very successful in the farming business. I became a Pokagon township Precinct Delegate two years ago, and have been attending the Board of Commissioners meetings for over three years, the Road Commission meetings for about a year, the county planning committee meeting eight months ago, working with the Feeding America Food truck at my church. I want to ensure the residents; they will be informed about important issues, how their tax money is being spent. If elected I will ensure tax dollars are used for necessary projects and managed responsibly, by avoiding additional millages for county operating expenses, by being fiscal responsible and transparent. I support making sure law enforcement and ambulance services are readily available to county residents.

Cass County has a lot of serious problems we are facing. These include, public safety, lack of ambulance service, and maintaining physical responsibility. We must collaborate with appropriate officials to ensure there are adequate law enforcement officers to provide public safety and work with area municipalities to establish a county wide ambulance service, to make certain all county residents have access to timely medical service. I will continue to monitor expenditures to guarantee tax payer dollars not being inadequately spent. I will work with other elected officials to maintain a balanced budget, to make necessary services are being provided and maintained physical responsibility to avoid additional millages. I’ll go through all the financials every two weeks.

State Representative 36th District -

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 6-25-2024

Steve Carra: It has been a honor to represent you for the last four years. I finished my book about Gretchen Whitmer. She was writing one about herself called The True Gretch talking about how she responded to COVID 19, the kidnapping plot, how she deals with Donald Trump. When I saw that I said, oh my gosh, I need to write that book for her, so that is what I did. I was in DC last night for the 2nd anniversary of the fall of Roe vs Wade. If you don't remember, I filed the nations 2nd largest legislative Amicus Brief in support of the Dobbs case that took down Roe vs Wade. We had 320 legislators around the nation sign on to that case that I filed and self-funded. It was an honor to play a role in the fall of Roe. I am going to continue to fight for the sanctity of life. It has only just begun. Now that we took down Roe, we must win the culture war and continue to press forward. We have way too many status quo Republicans, who although they had good intentions, go to Lansing, and conform to the status quo politics. It does not mean that they are bad people, it just means that they lose their way. The intentions of my colleagues are far better that I thought 10 years ago. Before I got involved, I thought people were evil, malicious, had bad intentions, did nefarious things, and just did not care about other people. Now having worked with legislators for seven years, I see where you trade votes to get your bill across the finish line, or when you want to chair a committee next term, or seek a position of leadership, you can go down that slippery slope, and they lose their way step by step. The winners are the Democrats, the central planning elitists, and globalists, who want to take over our freedom and control us.

I will debate on the issue of freedom, including on abortion. It is a life in the womb. Your rights stop when you infringe on the rights of another. 96% of Biologists admit that life begins at conception. I have shown I am the most conservative, most experienced, most qualified, consistently being ranked as the top conservative.

Michael Malmborg: It is an honor for me to be here and potentially get your vote. I stand before you with a deep commitment to our community. Over the last decade I had the privilege of serving as a teacher, educating kids about History, Political Science, Government, Politics, personal finance, that is my job. This experience has not only provided me with a profound understanding of our political system, but has also allowed me to work closely with families in each community. Families that come from various backgrounds ensuring that our future generations are well informed and are engaged citizens. My passion for education and for people and leadership is further evidence by my pursuit of a Master's Degree in educational leadership which I will have in November. Beyond the classroom, I have experience as a business manager, I have skills in leadership financial oversight strategic planning, skills that are for governance. I also have agricultural experience, the backbone for Cass and St Joseph counties. This has given me an appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our farmers, and the vital roll agriculture plays in our economy. I am running because I believe District 36 deserves a leader that understands the unique needs and aspirations for our community. As someone who has lived and worked here, I have a deep connection to our values and a firsthand understanding of the challenges that we face. After being elected, I want to accomplish the following; I want to strengthen our education system by going from the top down and redoing how it's built how it's run and how it's funded. I want to support economics growth and job creation. My background in economics and business management will focus on creating thriving business environment that support local businesses and attracts new investments. I also support agriculture, the backbone of our local economy. I'll fight for policies that support sustainable farming practices, provide financial assistance to our farmers and ensure our agricultural community thrives. Physical responsibility is also on the docket. I believe in physical responsibility and will work to see that our state budget is managed wisely. We also need to look at our infrastructure. Our roads, bridges, and public facilities are vital to our community's growth and prosperity. I will work to secure funding for those projects in our communities.

I will fight for you in Lansing.

Frank Perez: I am the Mayor of the city of Sturgis. What triggered my interest in getting involved in this race, was I got appointed to the city commission in April of 22. I got elected to the city commission in November of 22. I was then appointed Mayor in November of 22. I'm struggling to figure out why our projects in Sturgis are not being funded. We just applied this week for a DWSRS \$2.6 Million. This is our fourth time applying. I'm hoping that we get it because we have some major infrastructure needs. When I call Lansing, I get told a lot of different things. The most important thing is, I just want to restore leadership back in Lansing. I am starting my 15th year as a small business owner. You don't make it in business unless you have relationships, and you value them, and you do team building, and when you say you are going to do something, you actually do. If you don't, you won't make it. Life is a team sport. Life is about having friendships and having a team. We don't have that. As I'm running around the district in both Cass and St Joe, I'm hearing that this other project is not being funded as well. It just happen to be a local one. It is better to be up front and honest so that you know what you get in return. That is why I am in the race. It is important that we do select a leader who is going to work for us. It is one thing to be conservative but when you are being conservative on our dimes, nickels and pennies, it doesn't work. In

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 6-25-2024

my business there is a lot of things I want to do. Do I go out and do? Because I'm the one signing my own check. If I just say, this is how it's going to be, I won't be signing my own check, I'll be unemployed. Those are the facts. I had the privilege to serve my country eight years in the army. It's been a privilege to serve my city as its mayor, and I will work with anyone in Lansing that puts Michigan first to make Cass and St Joe counties a better place to live, work and raise a family.

I seek your vote Aug 6th. Thank You

Jeff Glasser: for Sherriff – We finally got a judge that is playing by the book, not on the corrupt side. If I win Sherriff, I guarantee I will get rid of this corruption. Like over the week end, the lady that is supposed to be my daughter's attorney sent my daughter in a gigantic fit, telling my daughter, it is okay for her mom to violate a court order. I stuck to my guns; my daughter did not get to violate that court order. All because corruption goes on. If anybody would like to see any of it, I brough all my book bags and stuff that I sent to the Supreme Court and all the other courts. I have it all here tonight. Anybody that wants to actually see corruption in Cass County, I have it. I hope to have your vote. The first thing I'll do is to have the Feds come in and go through all the bookwork. We will find corruption, we will indite and send everybody to prison that actually belongs. Thank you for your time.

Clint Roach: for Sherriff – Currently the Under-Sherriff. Born and raised in Dowagiac, a life long Cass County resident, I began my police carrier in 1986 at the Sherriff's office as a part time marine division reserve. I worked my way into full time law enforcement by 1989 where I worked for the city of Dowagiac for two years then moved to the Sherriff's office in 1993. I worked in all the different areas of the Sherriff's office. Narcotics was my big thing that I did, I got a lot of training, a lot of recognition during my time as a undercover police officer and patrol officer. I also ran the marine division for several years, overseeing the budget and making sure the waters in Cass County are safe. I worked in Corrections since I became Under-Sheriff in 2020 when COVID blew up the world. After a retirement I had to step up and take charge of policies and procedures we were taking care of in the jail, and make sure we were following state guidelines.

As Under Sherriff my duties are overseeing all the sections of the Sherriff's office, plus animal control and dispatch to make sure those departments are running correctly and report to the Sherriff if we have issues. I have my fingers in everything had have participated including hiring employees and discipline if needed. I am also involved in the budget process.

In 2006 I started my own business called, "Garage Doors plus One". I ran that business until 2011 then sold it. It is still in business today. I am looking forward to being Sherriff, I think I have prepared myself. I recently graduated from Law Enforcement University in a 22 week long educational program on how to run budgets, oversee, with multiple FBI, and supervision classes.

Victor Fitz: Prosecutor – I have been in prosecution for 41 years, 21 as the Cass County Prosecutor. I am the longest serving prosecutor in Cass County history. When I first got here, somebody said I would be a carpet bagger. I want to talk about three things; the prosecutor's office, Republican stuff, and the Constitution.

I am very proud of my office. Sometimes we faced some daunting challenges, we continued to do a good job over the last 21 years. When it comes particularly to some of the court work, we must prosecute murder cases (In 21 years, we never lost a murder case), child molestation, home invasion, domestic violence, and drug cases. We take a tough stance on all those things. It makes a difference in the safety of our community. I'm very proud that in 2015/2016 my office working with law enforcement solved the oldest cold case murder in the history of Michigan at that time. It was 41 years old. I want to mention how much we desperately need the drug enforcement millage. Make sure you vote for that and vote for Clint Roach.

Republican Party stuff. 30 years ago, I asked, what can I do to try and help our country be a better place. One of those things was to become intimately involved in Republican politics. I have work with the help of some people including Mike Egan to put up over five thousand signs. I chaired in the campaigns for Bush, McCain, Romney, John James, and in 2016 I was very proud to be a local and state spokesman for the Trump campaign. I talked to the media, radio, and TV. In 2020 I was supporting Donald Trump again.

Constitution. We know there is an attack on Republicans electoral candidates. We know that many of ours have been charged. Rose Rook who has been a long-time supporter of Republican and TEA Party politics in southwest Michigan is now being criminally charged. She needs money for her criminal defense fund. I will send an e-mail to Mark Howie with the information. We have got to stand up for our people.

Monica McMichael: County Clerk Registrar – I was born and raised in Cassopolis went to college, spent a little bit of time with Tom Bradey, you may have heard of him. I graduated and came back home because I love my community and I wanted to raise my kids here. I have a high schooler daughter who is going to be a sophomore and a son who is going to be a sixth grader in Cassopolis Public school. I am very passionate about being an involved parent. I am the

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 6-25-2024

President of our school foundation, Treasurer of our band boosters. I love marching band and band in general and I am very involved in the school.

As Clerk Registrar, I was first elected in 2012. Our office does a lot of things. We are a clerk and a registrar of deeds. A lot of counties have two separate elected officials. You get a lot of bang for your buck because you have one of me and I do both jobs. We handle all the court records. Prosecutor Fitz has talked about this before, our legislature are doing these automatic set-asides so my office is in charge of taking care of all of these criminal records, wiping things off of peoples criminal record. It is a huge huge task. We did not get extra money and we did not get extra staff and it is really unfortunate but we have to wipe these records clean. I manage all land records, we handle deaths, marriage, and birth records. We also handle all the jurors. Finally I run the elections in Cass County. There are a lot of questions, especially since 2020 and for most of you who have had questions, you have attended training and stepped up to work elections. It's the best way you can make a difference. Get involved, be a challenger. I am working on cleaning up our voter rolls. Some Republicans have stepped up to help.

Hope Anderson: Treasurer – I have served as your treasurer since 2018, I was elected in 2020. My office is authorized by Michigan Constitution and state law to serve as the county's banker and investment officer. Many do not realize that. My primary responsibility is to safeguard for public funds and to collect and account for the revenue used to operate county programs for county residents. A summary of my success and my vision for the future.

One of my top priorities is security of county funds. I implemented ACH and check positive pay since I have been treasurer. Protect our bank accounts by validating checks in ACH transactions against a preapproved list. Unauthorized transactions are immediately blocked, safeguarding our funds from potential fraud. I conduct monthly bank reconciliations to ensure our finances are properly documented in every single transaction as accounted for leaving no room for discrepancies. We have this saying in my office. "No Mistakes, Not One, Not One Penny, No Mistakes."

County investments is another area that we've seen exceptional results. The county investment policy aims to provide the highest investment return to maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow needs of the county adhering to all state statutes. Our interest from county investments exceeded expectations. Including the investments that I manage for road commission and the county medical care facility. Education and collaboration are crucial to our success. I hold training at least twice a year for all local treasurers. I am holding one tomorrow at the county. These sessions allow us to express ideas, discuss law changes, stay updated on practices, and network with each other. Reducing coffee tax foreclosure. At our last meeting I did share how my office has reduced foreclosures in our county since 2019 by over 50%. This significant reduction has helped many families stay in their home and contribute to the overall stability for our county. I also improved our credit card processing. I change the company that we were using to one that is integrated with our VSNA deliquated tax system. That reduced processing mistakes by 100%. Looking ahead I have several goals for my office. I plan to further improve our investment strategies to maximize returns while maintaining the highest level of security. Also to ensure that we continue to be self-funded. We have a delinquent tax revolving fund we are self-funding. We pay out the delinquent tax to all entities in our county with out barrowing. We need to stay that way. We pay out 5 to 6 million dollars every year. I am honored to have been nominated to serve as the second vice-President for the Michigan Association of County Treasurers starting this fall. That allows me to advocate for our county at a higher level and bring back valuable insight for resources for our community.

Remarkable progress has been made in Cass County through the Land Bank Authority. I am the Chairman of the Land Bank. We have implemented a new blite elimination program to eliminate hazardous vacant structures. We have also become a sub-recipient for the Michael program, which supports homeowners in enhancing their home energy efficiency.

It's an honor to serve as your treasurer. Thank you for your trust and support.

Jeff VanBelle: Drain Commissioner – I'm a 30-year resident of Edwardsburg, Raised 4 kids here. This is my 20th year doing this job in Cass and Kalamazoo counties. Most people do not know what a drain commissioner is. My wife is a clerk in Ontwa and there is an old saying that says, "There is two people you need to know. You need to know your clerk because they are going to handle your election, and your zoning administrator. These people can reach out and touch your world. I'm going to add a third. You need to know your drain commissioner. The drain commissioner has got power, probably too much power. I work with 115 county drains, 30 legal lake levels, 15 damns recently inspected with one failure that we are working on. I'm on three government lake boards, I'm chairing two by statute, vice-Chair board of public works, parks commission, it goes on and on.

Why do I do this? I know exactly what it feels like to be special assest. I paid them myself. Nobody likes that. I'm working on your check. I try to constantly look at the other side of that equation. We have guidelines, and we have limitations, beyond those limitations, I either got to go to township boards, or I got to come to you for signatures to do the

Cass Co GOP Executive meeting 6-25-2024

bigger projects. My biggest projects still to this day, Porter Township sewer project \$15 million. I'm very proud of that. Those are not easy, those assessments are real, they were about \$10,000 a house back then. Now they are 20 to 25 thousand dollars per house so I'm constantly looking for ways to cost effectively deal with these problems and situations. I reach out to township supervisors. I was on the phone with Silvercreek this morning. I sent a long e-mail to Pokagon last week, I talked to Howard, who's getting complaints, etc. I try to tell them, I'm engaged we are trying to do these things but I do it with humility not some sort of power trip. I take this seriously and I'm doing this based Drain Code PA 4 written way before I was born. When it was pennies a foot to ditch, now it can be 5 to 15 Dollar a foot. Engineering and Legal can be 50% of the project cost. We are constantly having to hone in. I've made it a point to have a small morning crew. A woman here in Cass County takes care of thing that must be mowed. Most of my maintenance is being done by people here in Cass County. I use Maurer Well drilling out of Niles to drill and augmentation well at Barron Lake. I'm looking to keep it local.

Mary Howie: The Cass County Fair is July 28th thru Aug 3rd. There is a sign-up sheet at the back table. It's a lot of fun. We will have things to pass out. Candidates, please bring your signs, literature and talk to people. Also get your application to march in the parade. Starts at 5 on Sunday.

Mark Howie: The county Convention will be Aug 15th right here. You will be getting your call to convention in the next few weeks. Be watching for that. I encourage you to help fill in the vacancies. You can see Monica McMichael for help with that. Lisa Smith and Dave St Clair are working on a new fund-raising platform to build up our admin account.

Monica McMichael made a motion to adjourn seconded by Stacey Wilder.
The motion passed unanimously. The meeting is Adjourned
Respectfully submitted by Wally Berndt.