

Benton County Republican BPOU Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Dan Stephenson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by an invocation.

Executive board members present: Dan Stephenson, Joshua Jones, Jim Howe, Jim Sutton, Cocoa Robertson, Judy Hackett, and Carol Rugar.

Guests present: Kim Christen-Mattson, Greg Telste, Blake Paulson, Renee Montes-Zitzmann, Jim Zitzmann, John Ulrick, Lester Ulrick, Phil Kameo and Beth Schlangen.

Blake Paulson reported from Congressman Tom Emmer's office that the event held at the St Cloud Library two weeks ago was well attended. The U.S. government spends \$1.29 for each \$1.00 it takes in. Ilhan Omar has been removed from the Foreign Relations Committee. Vice President Kamala Harris recently visited New Flier in St Cloud and spoke for 11 minutes. There is not much going on in policy making at this time. There were funds approved for updates to Mayhew Lake Road. When asked about the FTX contribution to the Emmer campaign, Blake said that there has not been an avenue set up yet to return the funds as that is still in process.

John Ulrick reported that he was just elected as Morrison County BPOU Chair.

Beth Schlangen reported that the Benton County Commissioners approved that absentee ballots will be counted by election judges.

Motion by Jim Howe and seconded by Josh Jones to approve the minutes of the January meeting.
Motion passed.

Motion by Jim Sutton and seconded by Josh Jones to approve the Treasurer's report showing no change from last month. Motion passed.

Motion by Jim Howe and seconded by Jim Sutton to continue the election rather than appointment of the BPOU treasurer. Motion passed.

For the upcoming BPOU convention, Blake Paulson will head the Constitution Committee along with Judy Hackett, Greg Telste, Kim Christen-Mattson and Carol Rugar.

Dan Stephenson announced that he will not seek re-election as Chairman as he will be going back to school.

An event sponsored by this BPOU will be a chili supper on April 12th at 6:00 PM featuring Liz Collin of Alpha News and her husband, Bob Kroll, former head of the Minneapolis Police Union. Event will be no charge but donations accepted. Liz will have her books for sale. Event will be at the Sauk Rapids Government Center.

Motion by Carol Rugar and seconded by Jim Sutton to adjourn the meeting passed. Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rugar, Secretary
Benton County Republican BPOU

The next meeting of this committee will be Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7 PM at the St Cloud Regional Airport.

