

**New Kent County Republican Committee (NKCRC)
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 1, 2024

**Location: New Kent County Board Room, County Administration Building
12007 Courthouse Cir., New Kent, VA 23124**

Time: 7:00 PM

1. Minutes from Dec. 10, 2023, passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report – Balances of checking and Lincoln-Reagan accounts, plus totals in Campaign Funds and Cash on Hands provided by Tom Miller on behalf of Larry Reynolds
3. Recognition of Elected Officials
 - a. Thomas Evelyn
 - b. Laura Ecimovic
 - c. Charles Evelyn
 - d. Ron Stiers
 - e. Jordan Stewart
 - f. Lee Bailey
 - g. Heather Mae Donbrosky
 - h. Helena Cunha
 - i. Greg Reimer
4. Wilma English – Director of Outreach
 - a. Working to recruit people to work the polls at all levels.
 - b. Actively working to invite people to join NKCRC.
 - c. Looking to put together a survey that members can complete where they can specify their interests and talents.
5. Tom Miler – Recognition of Fred Ridgeway for all the work and service he has provided to the NKCRC per his retirement.
6. JB Benson – Recognition of new NKCRC members
 - a. Patti Davison
 - b. Philip Davison
 - c. Kara Larochelle
 - d. Gary Larochelle
 - e. Lisa Miller
 - f. Sam Endicott

- g. Mike Leavery
- h. Tom English
- i. Jeannie Gilman
- j. Ken Gilman

➤ All individuals listed above were unanimously approved as official members of the NKCRC.

7. David Bauchman – 1st Congressional District: Running for State Central Committee

- a. Currently serves on the Henrico Republican Committee
- b. Convention is on May 4th – all of us are eligible to be delegates; encouraged everyone to become one.

8. Jake Westbrook – Reconstitution of the NKCRC Unit coming up (required every 2 years)

- a. February 15, 2024 – Meeting to vote on Reconstitution (call will go out 2/6/2024)
- b. Proposed Fees:
 - i. Membership \$10
 - ii. Candidate for Delegate \$30
 - iii. Chair \$500
- c. Filing Deadline: March 1st, 2024 @ 5pm
- d. Mass Meeting: March 16, 2024 @ 10 am
- e. Convention: April 6th, 2024 @ 10am

9. Gwen Hickman – Running for U.S Senate against incumbent Tim Kaine

- a. Lawyer for 30 years; will work to protect and defend our liberties; supports our Constitutional values and believes in a limited government; will stand up for our children; has a vast knowledge of a variety of issues. She loves America, believes our government should have the backs of the citizens; will go after corruption, fraud, and waste. Believes that China is America's #1 threat. Will fight for America's energy independence and look for solutions that will enable America to become economically prosperous again.

10. Congressman Rob Wittman (called in to speak)

- a. Passed a tax reform bill yesterday – this means an additional estimated \$900 per American family.
- b. Will vote yes on both articles to impeach Mayorkas
- c. House has passed H.R. 2 to Secure the Border – Speaker Johnson is holding strong on this matter; nothing from the Senate yet.
- d. Border is our country's biggest and the greatest threat – we have to shut it down!
- e. Currently there are 2 Democrats running against him; there is still time for people to file.
- f. He is working to obtain signatures on his petition to run and is looking for volunteers to help in his campaign efforts.

11. Sherriff Lee Bailey

- a. Recently obtained some needed funding from the NK BOS to make some salary adjustments.
- b. Staffing shortage in Dispatch continues (a nationwide problem)
- c. Has eight patrol positions to fill – interviews coming up; a lot of great applicants; 2018 was the last time they were fully staffed.
- d. The current widening of I-64 having an impact on New Ken as people are choosing to get off the Highway and travel New Kent’s roads.
 - i. State Highway Patrol will assist when they can; they are also short-handed.
- e. Calls are down from last year.
- f. Mental Health evaluations are still very time-consuming: someone from the sheriff’s office has to take the person to the ER and wait with them until a place for them opens up. This can sometimes take days.
- g. Arrests are up.
- h. Turn River Drug Task Force: Various counties involved and contributing resources to combat these issues (cocaine, fentanyl, marijuana [legal but still restrictions])
- i. Sherriff’s Office currently has 5 drones in use – they vary in their capabilities.
- j. Two Canines in use – drug detection and emotional support

12. Jordan Stewart – Board of Supervisors for District 5

- a. New and working on learning how things work; seeking to learn how her constituents want to be served – holding office hours. Putting information on Facebook; wants to be fiscally responsible with taxpayers' money. Jordan advised that reassessment notices were mailed yesterday, then turned her time over to Laura Ecimovic – Commissioner of Revenue to provide some insights on this matter: in addition to other matters, Laura advised that Mar. 4th is the deadline to file an appeal.

13. Greg Reimer – School Board District 5

- a. Learning the importance of working together as a board and how we want to get things done. Specified that the School Board meeting time has changed from 5:30 to 6:30 to better accommodate citizens' involvement; budget season is coming up and the Board will be looking to create a Citizen’s Budget Advisory Committee to assist in this process.

14. New Kent District 3 – Board of Supervisors Special Election (November 2024)

- a. Required to vote on which method the NKCRC will utilize to vote for our Republican Candidate
 - i. Brief discussion ensued about the different options.
- Unanimously approved to hold a Primary

15. Citizen Comments:

- a. Fred Ridgeway – Expressed his gratitude and appreciated the opportunity to serve the NKCRC.
- b. Ron Stiers – encouraged people to call their state delegate and ask them to vote “NO” on the General Assembly’s current motion to take away local government’s ability to determine whether solar farms could be built in various locations. Under this bill, the General Assembly would have the power to determine where and when solar farms could be installed.

DRAFT