

KOSSUTH COUNTY GOP CONVENTION MINUTES 2020  
March 14, 2020  
Burt Community Center, Burt, Kossuth County, Iowa

1. **Call to Order:** by Carter Nath at 10:00 A.M.
2. **Opening and Greeting**
3. **Prayer**
4. **Pledge of Allegiance**
5. **Roll Call of Precincts:** Twenty delegates attended.

Election of convention officers took place at this point. Nath elected chair, Stevens secretary, and Deal parliamentarian. This is incorrectly shown in item 8 below.

Prunty then made a motion to add an agenda item: *Discussion of status and operations of the Kossuth County Central Committee*. He stated that RPI is only interested in having delegates elected to their conventions and having the delegate fees paid. It was agreed by voice vote to add this item to the agenda directly following the report of the rules committee.

**6. Report of the Rules Committee**

- a. Changes to Kossuth County Republican Party to allow later addition of delegates in District and State Conventions, by Lyle Prunty. Resolutions and Rules discussed. District and State Convention positions not filled by the Convention or comes open due to a vacancy after the convention, may be filled with Kossuth County Registered Republicans by approval of 2 Central Committee Members and witnessed by the Central Committee Chair.

The phrase, “Resolutions and Rules discussed.” in item 6 was the item added to the agenda as noted under item 5 which, as stated above was, “*Discussion of status and operations of the Kossuth County Central Committee*.” The sentence, “District and State ... Chair.” above is the amendment to the sample rules as in the RPI county convention handbook which was proposed by Prunty and approved by voice vote.

Discussion of status and operations of the Kossuth County Central Committee. This is the agenda item added to the agenda as stated above under number 5. Prunty stated that he had resolutions to introduce to provide directives to the central committee but that he would not introduce those as motions until after a general discussion. That discussion is reflected roughly in the paragraph under item 8 below, “If the By Laws 1989, need ..... next meeting.” The core of the discussion was that there was some question if the convention possessed the power to make directives to the central committee and if updating the bylaws and abiding by the constitution was compatible with smooth functioning of the central committee. Specifically Roger Tjarks warned that making the rules too complicated can be detrimental. Nevertheless, as stated below, “It was approved to discuss and vote on this at the next meeting.” This was in reference to the general topic of status and operations of the central committee and more specifically the resolutions Prunty had prepared to introduce at the convention. Please see at the bottom the text of the email sent to the convention secretary regarding this on the afternoon of the convention.

7. **Election of District Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates**  
District GOP Convention will be April 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. will be held at the Applied Science and Technology Building, at the Iowa Central Community College, 1 Triton Circle, Fort Dodge, Iowa. The Iowa State Convention will be June 3, 2020. There is a \$75.00 fee for district and/or state for our 10 regular delegates and alternate delegates. Junior Delegates are not required to pay. Kossuth County GOP is required to pay \$325.00. Kossuth County GOP has \$750.00 in the bank. It was suggested that the Kossuth County GOP could pay for the delegates. Kossuth County GOP has 54 delegates with 20 delegates present today.

Ten delegates going to District Convention are as follows:

1. Bruce Pfeffer
2. Craig Florea
3. Dennis Swanson
4. Evan Deal
5. Amanda Studer
6. Gary Person

7. Abby Monson
8. Eldon Jorgenson
9. Diane Jorgenson
10. Barbara Stevens

It is unclear where the statement above that, “ Kossuth County .... pay \$325.” came from or what it means. Absent from the minutes is that Kendal Pals was elected as an alternate delegate.

#### **8. Election of District Convention Standing Committee Members**

If the By Laws 1989, need to be redone and updated was discussed. Wendell started the discussion whether to make a format for the County party procedures and some State. Brought up during the discussion was that there is already a template in place. Also addressed was the proper process to get policy and procedures done. Need rules defined. It was approved to discuss and vote on this at the next meeting.

Election of officers for Kossuth County GOP

Convention Chair:	Carter Nath
Convention Secretary:	Barbara Stevens
Convention Parliamentarian:	Evan Deal

Almost all the text under item 8 should appear under some previous item, as explained above. Nobody was elected to the district convention standing committees, namely platform, rules, credentialing, and permanent organization. But, Wendell Steven stated at about this point that the executive committee of the central committee are automatically “at large” district and state convention delegates. The names of three Kossuth GOP executive committee people therefore appear on the final alternate district and state delegate roster for Kossuth County even though they were not elected by the convention.

#### **9. Introduction of Legislators, County Candidates and other Dignitaries**

- a. Joni Ernst - talking on behalf (about) President Donald Trump
- b. Steve King - Conservative for Donald Trump. For Iowa's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.
- c. Bo Miller -for Kossuth County Sheriff, 14 years Assistant Chief of Police, certified weapons instructor, police science degree.
- d. Amber Garman -Democrat candidate for Kossuth County Auditor

- e. Tammy Eden -for Kossuth County Auditor
  - f. Steve Reeder -for Iowa's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Former United States House of Representative. Real Estate developer. Put power in the hands of the people.
  - g. Roger Tjarks -for Kossuth County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor. Budget is balanced.
  - h. Bret Richard -for Iowa's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Engineering degree, and army.
  - i. Roger Fisher -for Kossuth County Sheriff. Currently Kossuth County Deputy Sheriff's office with 33 years of service.
  - j. Ted Gassman -for Iowa State Representative. Has spinal stenosis. Will not seek re-election.
  - k. Steve Sheplier - candidate for National Central Committee. President of Freedom National Committee. Still farms.
  - l. Jeremy Taylor -for Iowa's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. National Guard Major. Former Iowa House Representative. Proud to profess his faith.
  - m. Nathan Kardoes - for Kossuth County 5th District Supervisor.
  - n. Tony Gray -for Kossuth County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor.
10. **Platform Discussion** Life, Liberty, Property, and National Sovereignty & Defense were all discussed. She changes in the following Kossuth County GOP Platform March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
11. **Report from Junior Delegates** Isaac Hillesland present. Nothing to report.
12. **Other Business**
13. **Adjournment** by Convention Chair Carter Nath at 1:17 p.m.

---

Text of email sent to convention secretary the afternoon of the convention:

=== Email to convention secretary ---

Here is the text of the rule added in order to allow addition or substitution of delegates after the convention:

District and State Convention positions not filled by the convention or that may come open due to a vacancy after the convention may be filled with Kossuth County registered Republicans by approval of two

Central Committee members witnessed by the Central Committee chair.

Also, the following is what I recall of the conversation about the County convention sending resolutions to the Central Committee:

The consensus of the discussion was that the Convention did not wish to send directives to the Central Committee, or did not feel it was authorized to do so. However, it was the sense that those resolutions should be sent to the Central Committee for their own consideration.

So, I am requesting that the resolutions I intended to present be made an addendum to the minutes. Those resolutions follow:

## RESOLUTIONS

### 1. Bylaws

Whereas the bylaws of Kossuth GOP are dated 2016 and all at the text in those bylaws is identical to the that of 1989, updating is clearly in order. The Central Committee is directed to review the bylaws, update out-of-date provisions, and fill and reactivate all standing committees listed in the bylaws.

### 2. Central Committee Composition Verification

Whereas an accurate and complete list of Central Committee members and their contact information is essential to the legitimate functioning of the Kossuth County Republican Party for the next two years, that list should be immediately verified and approved by a recorded vote of the central committee at its next meeting, Issues that need to be finalized are status of Central Committee seats which were not filled by the February 2020 caucus election. In precincts where no new member was elected, provisions of the constitution say that the previous holder continues in office. In at least one precinct it appears one new member was elected where there were two previous members. This creates an unclear situation as to which of the holdover members are considered legitimate. All holdover members should be contacted and requested to state their preference of remaining or not as a central committee member.

### 3. Precinct leader handbooks

Whereas action of the Central Committee in November 2019 expressed the intention that all members of the Central Committee be in possession of a precinct leader handbook, every effort should be made to redistribute handbooks from former Central Committee members to newly elected members. Also, the updated list of Central Committee members and their contact information of resolution 2 above should be provided to all Central Committee members within five business days of the approval of that list.

### 4. Financial status reports and expenditure approvals

Whereas the work of the Kossuth County Republican Party relies on financial resources and the confidence that donors have in the good financial stewardship of the party, a listing of expenditures, income, current treasury balance should be provided at every regular business meeting of the Central Committee. All expenditures require a vote of approval by the Central Committee. Provisions to ensure these policies should be included in the bylaws.

### 5. Central Committee members represent their precincts

Whereas Central Committee members are intended to be elected by the Republican voters of their own precinct, it is incumbent on all Central Committee members to conduct themselves in the corresponding manner. That is, they should solicit input from voters in their precinct primarily and also the county in general when considering matters coming before the Central Committee. At meetings it would be desirable to introduce by name the Central Committee members present and the section of the county (precinct) that they represent.

---

Thank you for your work as Secretary to the 2020 Kossuth County Republican Convention. I will appreciate it if you send me the completed minutes to be posted on the web site ([algonagop.weebly.com](http://algonagop.weebly.com)). You can see the minutes from the 2018 convention on the web site under CENTRAL COMMITTEE/2018 Kossuth Convention.

Lyle Prunty  
Precinct 18 delegate

-- End of email. --

Underlined text and email text by Lyle Prunty. Comments corrections by any delegates or others present at the convention are invited.