

## REDDING REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

March 23, 2010

### Attendance

A quorum was present:

Richard Emerson	Jerry Sarnelli
Michael Thompson	John Shaban
Tom Derderian	Frank Taylor
Scott Palmer	David Lewson
Paul Degener	Mike Hoffman
Lewis Brey	Hank Bielawa
Frank DeSalvo	Chris Hocker
Joan DeSalvo	Urs Furrer
Donald Takacs	Rand Guffey
Natalie Ketcham	Ward Mazzucco
Norma Riess	

Senior Members:

Judge John Downey

Guests: Tom Herrmann (Easton First Selectman), Hugh Barry (Easton RTC Chair), Art Poltrack, Alex Karsinidi (State Central); Dan Carter (2<sup>nd</sup> G.A. District)(and staff); David Cappiello (McMahon campaign); Rob Simmons (and staff); Ruben Nugera

Ward Mazzucco (“WM”) called the meeting to order 7:30pm.

### Minutes of the March 1, 2010 Meeting

Frank Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting, which were seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Postponed until April meeting as Treasurer Gary Miyashiro was not present.

## **Officers**

Frank Taylor moved to approve the following proposed slate of RTC officers:

Ward Mazzucco, Chairman  
Lewis Brey, Vice Chairman  
Gary Miyashiro, Treasurer  
Michael Thompson, Secretary

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **General Matters**

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Candidate***

Art Poltrack introduced Tom Herrman, a recently announced candidate for the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Tom is the First Selectman of Easton. Art was very complimentary of Tom's efforts regarding Region 9 and Joel Barlow High School

### **Tom Herrmann (First Selectman of Easton)**

Tom discussed his business and political background. He identified himself as a fiscal conservative and social moderate. Tom then discussed the "3 Pillars" of his campaign: 1. Serve the People; 2. Resolve Current Problems; and 3. Provide a Safe, Prosperous Future. Tom emphasized that he had no "long term political ambitions" and that he wanted to use his private and public experience to limit the role of government, reduce the number of public sector jobs and increase business opportunities in the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Q&A: The ensuing Q&A focused on Tom's polling that suggests he is the best candidate to beat Jim Himes, state control of wage and hour laws and the issue of state sovereignty.

Website: [www.jointeamtom.com](http://www.jointeamtom.com)

WM thanked Tom who encouraged everyone to look at his website and volunteer.

### ***U.S. Senate Candidates***

### **David Capiello (McMahon Campaign)**

Next, WM introduced Linda McMahon's campaign manager, David Capiello. Dave emphasized his belief the Mrs. McMahon has the best chance to win against Dick Blumenthal. In particular he highlighted three points that he felt gave Mrs. McMahon the edge of any other candidate in the Republican field: 1. A Better "Contrast Message"; 2. A Better Organization; and 3. More Resources. In addition, Dave discussed Mrs. McMahon's business background, her

appeal as a non-politician and her ability to help other Republican candidates throughout the state.

Q&A: Discussion focused on the possible negatives of Mrs. McMahon's ties to the WWE, the fact that Mrs. McMahon is "well-known" and her fiscally conservative outlook.

Website: [www.linda2010.com](http://www.linda2010.com)

WM thanked Dave for coming.

### **Rob Simmons**

WM then introduced candidate Rob Simmons.

Mr. Simmons discussed recent events in Washington and then discussed why he believed he is the best candidate to replace Chris Dodd. Mr. Simmons emphasized his background as a soldier, CIA officer and Congressman. He also remarked on his success politically, having won 8 of 10 elections he's been involved in. He focused on his record and talked about his own ability to raise money for the race. He concluded by noting that he had the experience to be a successful legislator and Senator and felt that his success working for the people of Connecticut would continue.

Q&A: Discussion focused on his votes regarding "cap and trade" and "card check" while in Congress, his belief that "Obamacare" should be repealed and Blumenthal's inability to make tough decisions.

Website: [www.joinrobsimmons.com](http://www.joinrobsimmons.com)

WM thanked Rob for coming.

### ***Gubernatorial Candidate***

#### **Tom Foley**

WM then introduced Schuyler Merritt (Foley rep), gubernatorial candidate Tom Foley's Regional Field Director. Schuyler, a lifelong Redding resident, provided background on Mr. Foley and his campaign. He noted that Mr. Foley is "the frontrunner", although there were still many "undecideds" regarding the race. He promised that Tom was going "go after every undecided" to solidify his lead in the polls. Schuyler thanked the RTC for their interest and encouraged members to go to the campaign's website and to contact him with any questions or to volunteer. WM thanked Schuyler for his time.

Website: [www.tomfoley2010.com](http://www.tomfoley2010.com)

## ***2<sup>nd</sup> District General Assembly Candidates***

### **Dan Carter**

Second District candidate, Dan Carter, returned to the RTC to discuss his campaign. He expressed his dissatisfaction with Washington and said that what's been going on there has been going on in Connecticut for years. He believes Jason Bartlett must not be re-elected and highlighted his military and business experience to emphasize his ability to serve effectively in Hartford. Dan asked for the RTC's support.

Website: [www.carterstaterep.com](http://www.carterstaterep.com)

WM thanked Dan for coming and then introduced a guest, Ruben Nugera, who previously expressed interest in becoming a delegate to one of the nominating conventions.

### **Ruben Nogiera**

Mr. Nogiera, a Redding resident and registered Republican, discussed his background in business, his service as a West Point cadet and military officer and his desire to become a delegate. WM thanked Mr. Nogiera for coming and for his interest as a possible delegate.

WM then introduced State Senator Toni Boucher.

### **Toni Boucher**

Senator Boucher provided an update from Hartford. She expressed her dismay at the recent budget proposal by the Democrats and the current financial situation in Hartford. She also noted that she would be making a decision regarding her political future shortly and hoped that the RTC would support her going forward.

WM thanked Senator Boucher and then turned the meeting to selecting delegates for upcoming nominating conventions.

## ***Delegate Selection***

### **State Republican Convention**

WM said that delegates to the state convention would help pick the endorsed candidate for governor, senator and the 4th congressional district. The convention is scheduled for May 21-22 in Hartford and six delegates are needed.

The RTC then chose the following six delegates to attend:

Natalie Ketcham, Don Takacs, Jerry Sarnelli, Lewis Brey, Frank Taylor and John Downey. Judge Downey was chosen as Chair of the Redding Delegation.

It was agreed that the RTC would consider possible endorsements at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **26<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District**

WM said that five delegates were needed for the May 13<sup>th</sup> convention taking place in Wilton.

The RTC then chose the following five delegates to attend:

Tom Derderian, Paul Degener, John Shaban, Don Takacs and Dick Emerson

## **2<sup>nd</sup> District General Assembly**

WM said that two delegates were needed for the May 11<sup>th</sup> convention taking place in Bethel.

The RTC then chose the following two delegates to attend:

Scott Palmer and Chris Hocker

A discussion then occurred regarding endorsement of a candidate. The RTC voted to endorse Dan Carter.

## **135<sup>th</sup> District General Assembly**

WM said that three delegates were needed for the May 11<sup>th</sup> convention taking place in Easton.

The RTC then chose the following three delegates:

Jerry Sarnelli, Paul Degener and Frank Taylor

## **Probate District 45**

WM said that five delegates were needed for the May 6<sup>th</sup> convention taking place in Redding.

The RTC then chose the following five delegates:

Norma Reiss, Hank Bielawa, David Lewson, Frank DeSalvo and Mike Hoffman

A discussion then occurred regarding endorsement of a candidate. Judge Richard Emerson and John Shaban abstained from voting.

## **Next Meeting**

WM announced that the next meeting will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16pm.