

July 16, 2012

RE: Open Letter to Milton Republicans

Dear Fellow Milton Township Committeeman,

This letter is meant both to inform you of recent events that have transpired at Milton Township and to suggest that well-meaning Republicans must step forward and change the direction the Milton Township Republican organization (MTRCC) has taken over the past several years. The matters which have been brought to light recently have already had a profound detrimental effect as well as loss of reputation for our Milton Township government and our local Republican Party.

In mid-March I was approached by numerous persons in the community, including some who are members of the MTRCC, who expressed concerns about the activities of one of our full-time, salaried/benefited township employees, namely Ralph Hinkle. These reports, which little did I know at the time constituted a representative "tip of the iceberg", involved his conduct of various political activities and promotion of chosen candidates during posted government hours when ostensibly he should have been at work. In my capacity as an 11-year Milton Township Trustee/Board member I approached his direct supervisor Chris Heidorn with a letter of inquiry about our employee's activities, along with a request to view his work records, time sheet reporting and job description. Please note I had made similar requests to Heidorn over the past several years as well. Instead of treating my concerns as a serious organizational personnel issue, after threatening me with physical harm, Heidorn chose to publicize the matter by filing a specious Ethics Commission complaint the very same day. He was later forced to withdraw the complaint because he refused to bring evidence against his pal Hinkle. The following evening on March 14, with our MTRCC Chairman absent, Heidorn usurped the podium at our regular meeting and politicized what should have remained a private personnel matter.

Based on this brief description you would be correct in assuming that little to nothing has been done at Milton Township to correct the very serious issues I have uncovered. Trustee Edwards resigned under duress during this period and the remainder of the Board, including their newly appointed sycophant Keller, has consistently voted lockstep with Heidorn, even to the point of refusing to amend meeting minutes to reflect public comments made during the Budget Hearing. Heidorn at times literally taunts me with the fact I cannot get a seconding motion for my various proposed reform measures. Don't bother trying to get an accurate report from our official meeting minutes. They are produced by the spouse of the employee in question and are dutifully sanitized. Fortunately, several members of the public have been taping our meetings. You can view our deliberations on YouTube by searching "Milton Township." I guess I'm a slow learner and only recently figured out that Heidorn, through his shill Hinkle, have locked down the affairs of our Republican organization just as they have done with our Milton Township government.

Forced to conduct my own further investigation, I obtained limited e-mail, financial, personnel and telephone records. Shortly after I started this activity several others from the public presented Milton Township with their own requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This culminated with a very comprehensive report by Adam Andrzejewski posted last week on Illinois Review and For the Good of Illinois. That report documents, in minute detail at times, pervasive financial irregularities, drinking and driving of a Milton Township vehicle, lavish meal/drinks/accommodations paid for by taxpayers, surreptitious activities surrounding installation of a video/audio system, zero personnel records for Hinkle, governance by fiat, official refusal by Milton elected officials to respond to required FOIA requests, and the greatest infraction of them all- blatant, continued and systematic use of government paid time, programs(CERT), e-mail/computers and cell phone by Hinkle for political organization and promotion of certain political candidates and activities.

And here is where you come into the picture. It is clear that the leaders of our MTRCC organization not only allowed this activity to flourish, but were beneficiaries of these government paid efforts. During the March 2012 Primary, Chairman Carlson accepted the Township political map straight from Hinkle's Milton Township e-mail as well as his securing a Republican headquarters during government hours. Chris Levan and Gary Muehlfelt worked together with Hinkle on various campaigns this past primary. Those three stayed closely in touch during the campaign via numerous phone calls to and from Hinkle's Milton Township paid cell phone. The fact that Levan later chaired the Ethics Commission scheduled to investigate these activities is a farce, especially since he failed to disclose such during the proceedings. Treat yourself to the 12 minute YouTube video which records the hearing.

Many who attend our MTRCC meetings express wonder that non-committeeman Hinkle can exert such influence. It's no wonder to those of us who have watched him use the government-paid CERT program as his personal political recruiting grounds. And again this is where you come in. Are you comfortable with this being the entrance system for our once regaled local Republican Party? Many of you may have unwittingly helped the Hinkle/Heidorn power plays by voting with their block. Or, are you one of those who "are told how to vote by Ralph"? There is hope that these recent revelations of his activities will prompt you to reevaluate the political company you keep.

Maybe most unfortunate in all this is the attitude of callous denial by those who have engaged in this activity to the benefit of their self interests. However, with your involvement, I believe righteousness and truth will not only win the day, but thrive going forward. As Mr. Andrzejewski has suggested, in the absence of total reform at Milton Township and the MTRCC, there is a lot more coming. The truth will continue to emerge in these matters no matter how hard they try to keep the lid on it. Do any of us really want to see the present MTRCC leadership highlighted in another piece like we saw last week?

To the present, I have done my best to remediate these matters. It is humbling the progress has been so meager. We are at a critical juncture in our organization. To allow these matters to pass by without action only further diminishes our already damaged stature. The opposite will occur as we stand strong by seeing through for right to be done. Each and every one of you can help by doing the following:

1. Report with supporting evidence to the Dupage State's Attorney your knowledge of any past or present political activities aided by the use of Milton Township time or material resources. Many, many of us witnessed Hinkle placing campaign signs and working at Republican Headquarters during township hours. Call in your documentation of such to Mr. Berlin.
2. If you were recruited into our organization based on the same, such as the filing of your candidate documents with the help of government resources, you also have the opportunity to see the right thing done by reporting such.
3. Call each and every one of our MTRCC leaders and elected officials and demand explanations for their involvements in these matters. Since our Republican brand is now damaged based on their behavior at a time when we can least afford it, ask them what plans they have to correct course.

Sincerely,



Jim Flickinger, Milton Committeeman #40
123 S. Blanchard Street, Wheaton, IL 60187
Direct Line Number 630-384-1760

P.S. Feel free to contact me with and questions or concerns you may have on these matters.

xc: Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Chairman, DuPage County Republican Party: Dan Cronin, former Chairman, DuPage County Republican Party