Preface

At the time of this duly called meeting of the State Budget Committee, nearly 4 months have passed since the State Convention where new leadership was elected. Subsequent District Committee Meetings were also held to elect corresponding representatives from each District as members of the State Budget Committee. Several of these members (listed below) had been in communication with one another and collectively had made several attempts by various means to contact the newly elected State Chairman, expressing a desire to come together as a body to deliberate and perform their duties and fulfill their obligations as members of the State Budget Committee. Those attempts at communication went unanswered.

The members gathered contact information of known Budget Committee members and sent an open letter by Email to those known members on August 12, 2023. The open letter cited various information from our State Party Rules as well as Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised in reference to the State Budget Committee's duties as well as the lack of any enumerated method within the State Party Rules for calling together the Budget Committee. This attempt at communication again went unanswered by all known members, apart from the group listed below.

Attempts were made to contact the State Chairman and other members of the State Budget Committee, but those attempts were met with the same lack of response listed above.

Members Bichard, Johnson and Vaden then drafted an official Call for a Committee Meeting of the State Budget Committee per Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised 50:21. This Call was Emailed to all known members of the committee as well as mailed via US Postal Mail to each known member, including certified mail, to key members of the committee. The Email was sent on August 24, 2023, to coincide with delivery of the US Postal Mail to the members. The date of the drafted and signed letter was August 21, 2023.

Members Bichard, Johnson and Vaden requested use of the State Party Headquarters as the meeting location prior to sending the Call, as past Budget Committee meetings have used that same venue. Vice Chair Appointee Vince Scoufos, who was at that time the Volunteer Coordinator for the State Office, reserved the building for official party business and notified State Chairman Dahm upon doing so.

State Chairman Dahm then responded to Appointee Scoufos via Email stating "As volunteer coordinator, that does not give you unilateral authority to grant access to anyone to the headquarters for any reason you choose such as this. So since you made that decision unilaterally, which was the incorrect decision, you will now need to contact them to let them know you should not have agreed to this meeting taking place at the headquarters since you didn't have the authority to do so." This Email was sent to Appointee Scoufos inside the 10-day window for a proper Call of a meeting.

Appointee Scoufos notified Members Bichard, Johnson and Vaden immediately upon receiving the above-mentioned response from the State Chairman. A discussion ensued and an alternative venue was secured for the purposes of the meeting. However, since the original call was already made and specified the location as the State Party Headquarters, the members listed below felt it necessary to keep the commitment of initially convening the meeting at the original location in order to fulfill the place of notice given of the Call.

For full transparency and documentation purposes, an outside party agreed to video document the proceedings.

OKGOP Budget Committee Meeting Report
Oklahoma City, OK, September 8, 2023

The following State Budget Committee members then assembled outside the State GOP Headquarters just before the time of the Official Call for the State Budget Committee Meeting on September 8, 2023, at 5:00pm.

State Vice Chairman Wayne Hill, Osage County
Vice Chair Appointee Gregory Hawn, Jackson County
Vice Chair Appointee Vince Scoufos, Oklahoma County
CD-1 Budget Committee Member Cheryl Johnson, Tulsa County
CD-2 Budget Committee Member Mike Bichard, Craig County
CD-3 Budget Committee Member Joe Vaden, Kay County

Several observers were also present.

Prior to meeting start, Committee Member Joe Vaden read a prepared statement summarized as follows:

Member Vaden quoted an excerpt from Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised 50:21 saying, "If some members of the committee believe that the chairman has failed to call this initial meeting or any subsequent meeting when necessary, a meeting of the committee may be called by any two of its members".

Member Vaden continued by stating that as of the date of the official call of the September 8 meeting, neither the State Chairman nor the Acting Chair of the Budget Committee, had made any attempts to bring together the Budget Committee for a meeting after numerous attempts communicating the need and desire to do so by the members present.

Member Vaden further added that thousands of dollars of State Party money had been spent by the State Chairman and his administration with no oversight and that the State Chairman had been in office for four months, that elapsed time now constituting a "reasonable period" and further supporting the citing of RONR 50:21 for the meeting Call by two or more members of the committee.

Member Vaden additionally added that the State Chairman had denied the Budget Committee Members access to the State Headquarters offices for the purpose of conducting party business in direct opposition to State Party Rules, effectively violating the rights of the members of the committee.

Member Vaden declared that this Official Meeting would continue as scheduled and any temporary findings would be summarized and submitted to the State Committee body for review.

Member Vaden was asked to clarify if he had reached out to State Chairman Dahm to get a response, to which he stated that no response was received until after this Official Call for a meeting was made. The response simply stated that in the State Chairman's opinion, this Call for a meeting was done so illegitimately according to OKGOP Legal Counsel. As of the time of the start of this meeting (and the composition of this summary), nothing in writing had been sent to any attending member of the Budget Committee citing any rule to support the State Chairman's claim.

Member Vaden, in accordance with RONR 47:11 (3), then called the meeting to order, an election of a Chairman Pro Tem was conducted by the members present, and a recess was called to relocate the meeting to an alternative venue.

The meeting reconvened at Higher Plains Baptist Church with the aforementioned Members present as well as several observers, including former State Treasurer Dwayne Shroyer and the current Assistant State Treasurer Merideth Barber.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Member Vaden distributed prepared packets to each Member present. The packet contained a Draft Agenda, the Meeting Call, the Member Roster, OKGOP Rules, Minutes from the previous three Budget Committee meetings from the Fall of 2021 and a summary of income and expenses from the Bennett Administration. Additional packets meant for absent Budget Committee Members were then given to any observers who wished to have one except for the State Treasurer. His packet was given to his assistant in attendance.

Appointee Scoufos was appointed by unanimous consent to act as Secretary Pro Tem in order to record the minutes of the meeting.

A roll call was conducted to determine if a quorum was present. The results were as follows:

State Chairman Nathan Dahm	Absent
State Vice Chairman Wayne Hill	Present
State Treasurer John Elliott	Absent
State Finance Committee Chairman Bill Martin	Absent
Republican National Committeeman Steve Curry	Absent
Republican National Committeewoman Pam Pollard	Absent
State Chairman Appointee Unknown	N/A
State Chairman Appointee Senator Micheal Bergstrom	Absent
State Vice Chairman Appointee Gregory Hawn	Present
State Vice Chairman Appointee Vince Scoufos	Present
CD-1 Member Cheryl Johnson	Present
CD-2 Member Mike Bichard	Present
CD-3 Member Joe Vaden	Present
CD-4 Member Leon Farris	Absent
CD-5 Member Brad Burnett	Absent

During the roll call, some Members presented information regarding the absence of other members of the committee.

Member Vaden stated that after a conversation with Chairman Dahm, he thought his absence to be because Chairman Dahm had not considered the Call for this meeting to be proper and asserted that the State Chairman believed he was the only person authorized to make the Call.

Appointee Scoufos commented that he had spoken with Steve Curry and was informed that he would be out of town and unable to attend.

Member Johnson commented that she had spoken with Pam Pollard the previous day and was told she had planned to attend. *Note* Cheryl found out via text message during the meeting that Pam had fallen ill and was unable to attend.

Appointee Scoufos reported that, after several conversations with the Treasurer, he had not expected him to attend as he was waiting for a call by State Chairman Dahm. A guest in attendance also stated that the Treasurer was unable to attend.

Member Vaden commented that he had spoken with Bill Martin on a few occasions, but he did not indicate one way or the other if he planned to attend.

Member Bichard commented that he had spoken with Senator Bergstrom and was told that he was nominated by State Chairman Dahm. Member Bichard commented that he confirmed with the Senator that "he'd see him at the meeting" and received an affirmation in reply.

Member Vaden commented that he had received a text from Member Farris and was told that Member Farris was told that "OKGOP Legal Counsel does not agree that this would be a legally called meeting of the Budget Committee" and that Member Farris stated his "intention is to follow the advice of our Legal Counsel". When Member Vaden pressed for further information, Member Farris could not produce any documentation supporting the claim. *Note* No notice has been received from OKGOP Legal Counsel with an explanation as to legitimacy or illegitimacy of this meeting.

Appointee Scoufos reported that Member Farris had told him that he had received a phone call from Josh Kraft saying the Legal Counsel had determined the Call not to have been valid. Appointee Scoufos acknowledged thanks to Member Farris for providing the copies of the minutes from the 2021 Budget Committee meetings.

Member Vaden commented that he had spoken and texted with Member Burnett on several occasions. Member Burnett had indicated that he would be in attendance but then later recanted stating that he had an all-day training class for work on the Friday of this meeting.

Upon finishing the roll call, Secretary Pro Tem Scoufos reported that, having six Members present and eight Members absent, a quorum of eight had not been met.

Appointee Hawn moved that the official portion of the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved 6-0.

The Members then adjourned the meeting stating that henceforth there would be presentations of information to the observers in attendance along with questions from both Members and observers.

Notes from Unofficial Meeting

Each Member was given three minutes to provide information and comments summarized as follows:

Appointee Hawn

- Gives regularly to the Party. But is concerned about spending with no oversight.
- Party Rules are being violated because people are not reading the Rules and holding leaders accountable.
- As Chair in Jackson County, he has brought in many new people. This has angered some who feel they should continue to control Party activities. But He believes that is what he is supposed to do.
- He is not here to fight. He is here to do a job as required in the Rules—Nothing more.

Appointee Scoufos

- The primary issue is to whom the money belongs. Some Chairmen think they should control spending because they are the ones who raise the money. They see themselves as executives. But we do not have executives in the Party.
- Chairmen will continue to exercise control as long as the Budget Committee and the State Committee allow them to do so.
- All of us should contribute to the Party so long as we have transparency and proper financial controls over the Budget.

State Vice Chairman Hill

- Rule 10. b. makes the State Committee the Supreme body. That means power to We the People.
- We are a bottom up, not a top-down Party.
- Since the last Budget Committee meeting in November of 2021 over $200,000 has been spent with no financial accountability.
- We currently have about $20,000. But we are spending roughly $10,000 per month having seen no fundraising plan.
- This meeting is a sincere attempt to do the right thing.

Member Vaden

- There has not been a Budget Committee meeting in nearly two years.
- When he was elected to the position, he began reading the Rules. But no one ever contacted him about a meeting. Therefore, he began reaching out to Chairman Dahm, with no response.
- All expenditures should be based upon advice and consent.
- When no meeting was called, he researched OKGOP Rules and Roberts Rules. Based upon that research he sent letters to all known Committee Members. Having gotten no response, he, Cheryl and Mike signed the Call that went out on August 12th.
- Then Leon Farris called him to say that the Legal Counsel had said the Call was not proper. However, the Legal Counsel has never stated anything on the matter.
- State Chairman Dahm is not the Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Member Johnson

- Family finances do not work well when only one person makes all the spending decisions.
- She cannot sit by and have OKGOP money spent with no oversight and accountability.
- We need to know every line item. We need documentation to determine what items should be funded and what item are not necessary,

Member Bichard

- In Vinita the City requires each department to make budget requests annually. We should use a similar process. Then, if line items need to be adjusted the budget Committee should meet to address changing needs.
- The Number 1 role for the Chairman is to raise money. The second role is to be a facilitator; not a dictator.
- He was very disturbed by the State Chairman dictating what could be discussed at the State Committee meeting on July 8th.
- $200,000 is a lot of money that has been spent with no oversight. There are things that can be done to grow the Party.
- The Rules allow us to ask the State Treasurer for financial reports. We have done that. But we have been told that the Treasurer will not release information without getting permission.

Appointee Scoufos then reviewed Minutes provided by Member Farris from the August and November 2021 Budget Committee Meetings. (See Attached.) He summarized the following points:

- While three meetings had been held during the Bennett Administration, to his knowledge none were held during the Ferate Administration even though the same Committee Members were serving.

- The Committee had taken an assertive role in demanding details of a contract with Project 46 that had been performing video and digital infrastructure services at the rate of $4,000 per month. In August the Committee approved a budget with a caveat requiring the Bennett Administration to provide the contract with a detailed scope of services. Having not received such information by November, the Committee directed the Administration to cancel the contract. The Bennett Administration complied with the Budget Committee's demands, cancelling the Project 46 contract.

During a subsequent discussion, Appointee Scoufos drew a parallel between the Project 46 issue and the current contract services being provided for political strategy consulting by Joshua Kraft, who was brought in by Chairman Ferate with the title of executive director. The Budget Committee has never had the opportunity of looking at the contract and scope of services as was done with Project 46.

Mr. Kraft is receiving base compensation of $3,500 per month, plus additional amounts in certain months according to FEC reports. In FEC reports he is listed as a Political Strategy Consultant. He is paid as a contract worker.

Previous administrations had appointed executive directors, some paid, some not paid. A proposed change to OKGOP Rules allowing for an executive director was placed on the Agenda at the 2023 State Convention. That item had been withdrawn prior to debate and vote by the submitting county.

- Members of the 2021 Budget Committee had stated in various ways that they had the authority under the Rules to prescribe the Budget and approved expenditures. During debate, it was agreed that the Committee should not control every expenditure; but should approve line items for the Administration to comply with. (See Attached OKGOP Budget Committee Rule.)

- The Committee also voted on banking and credit card issues. Certain people were authorized to be signers on the accounts, and to carry credit cards. (It is noted that no such process has taken place with the Budget Committee since Chairman Dahm's election.)

- One meeting official meeting was conducted virtually.

- Appointee Scoufos noted that the previous minutes did not have the 2021 line-item budget attached. Therefore, he had pulled a line-item report from the FEC Website for the month of July 2023 in order to begin identifying recurring expenses. (See Attached.) He stated that anyone can research the details of OKGOP income and expenses by going into the FEC Website and entering the Committee Name "OKLAHOMA LEADERSHIP COUNSEL".

- The 2021 Committee noted several times during the three meetings that they had never received Finance Committee income projections. However, they had approved a budget despite not knowing what revenue would be forthcoming.

During ten months of documented income and expense statements, the Bennett Administration had been able to raise sufficient income from donations and fund-raisers to cover the budgeted amounts. Vince provided a report based upon his notes from the 2021 Budget Committee meetings, along with financial results showing the average income and expenses for the Bennett Administration.

In place of a Treasurer's Report, the Members were given the above-mentioned report obtained from the FEC Website listing the expenses from July 2023 in an effort to familiarize the members with the recurring line-item expenses. This was done to allow Members to begin formulating opinions on specific expenditures and to come to consensus on a final, approved budget.

After questions from observers, and comments from former OKGOP Treasurer Dwaine Shroyer the meeting adjourned.