

# Finance Council Minutes

St. John the Baptist Parish, Seymour

November 12, 2024

**Present:** Father Sengole, Deacon Rich Matuszak, Dennis Dercks, Paula Helms, Lee Rynish, Kevin Reese, Debbie Rusch, Margie Marcks

**Absent:** Penny Schampers, Dan VanBoxtel

Meeting began in prayer.

Minutes from the September 24 meeting were approved by Rich Matuszak, seconded by Kevin Reese.

## **1. Building & Grounds Report**

- a. Cemetery – Thus far in 2023-2024, there were 6 traditional burials and 5 cremations with \$550 placed in perpetual care. Eight plots were sold for a total of \$5400. 30% of plot sales goes to perpetual care for a total of \$1612.50.

The Perpetual Care Investment account is well funded. The account currently has two CD's (totaling \$21,630) and \$50,000+ in the checkbook. A motion was made by Kevin Reese and seconded by Dennis Dercks that \$40,000 (leaving \$10,000 in the checkbook) be invested in two CD's of \$20,000 each -- staggering the due dates between the four CD's – and continually renewed until the monies are needed.

An issue was brought up where a parishioner from St. Sebastian Church requested a plot in the St. John Cemetery at the \$500 Parishioner price. Non-Parishioner price is \$1000 per plot. After some discussion, it was decided that the Council will stick with the rules.

- b. Parking Lot Lights – Lee expressed a thank you to Hank Van Dyn Hoven for replacing lights in the parking lot which were becoming dim.
- c. Baptismal Font – The pump motor was able to be repaired at this time; replacement options are being investigated.
- d. Tree Removal – Speedy Tree Service will remove the four trees along Main Street when Steve can work it into schedule; Steve was grateful for the offer to pay for his advertising in the bulletin, but asked that we not do that.
- e. Church Heating and Cooling – The furnace is 50 years old and working at 73% efficiency. Currently, the controller is experiencing problems and needs to be replaced. Lee obtained price quotes from Foremen Heating and Robinson Heating.

**Foremen** came in with a bid of \$21,500; could add remote access to the system for an additional \$1200, plus a yearly license fee.

**Robinson** came in with a bid of \$17,995 for a new controller, with remote access included in the bid.

At this time, both contractors feel the furnace is in good working condition (for its age) and parts and services are still available.

Budgetary Note: The AC system (Unit #2) has a coolant leak. It has initially been diagnosed as a manifold leak in the air handler. More testing will be needed to find the location of the leak as it was difficult to control temperatures inside the church this past summer. Lee will keep the Council updated with test results and estimates as they become available.

Dennis Dercks made the motion to go with Robinson Heating and Cooling for a new controller – returning the bid with a 50% down payment on the full price of \$17,995. Kevin Reese seconded the motion.

- f. West Side Privacy Fence Project – The wooden privacy fence surrounding the AC units of the Church was in disrepair at the time of removal of the old rectory and disposed of. Bids were obtained from four sources – ranging from \$1500 to \$5415. Instead of a privacy fence, Council discussed planting shrubs around the AC units. Deacon Rich Matuszak made a motion to table the issue until spring; seconded by Dennis Dercks.

2. **Homeschool Coop Group** – The group met all the council requirements; Hold Harmless forms were signed by all adults. The group is using the school every other Monday and pays \$200 each day of use for the gym and five classrooms for the hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are very well organized, respectful and do a great job of clean-up after each use.
3. **Divine Will Meeting Group** – All participants have signed a Hold Harmless form. A free will offering is utilized at each meeting.
4. **St. John School Sign on Building** – Sign needs to be removed; hopefully Speedy Trees can use their equipment to reach the sign at the same time they remove the four trees.
5. **Christian Women** – The Christian Women represent the parish and currently have a checking account, which is under \$10,000. They recently installed a water system for Father Dass. They do not ask for any funding from the parish – their source of income is from funeral dinners. They wish to maintain their own checking account to address rectory and kitchen needs as they come up. Council will allow the separate checking account as they will share information with the Trustees.
6. **“Formed” Subscription** – 50 parishioners use the subscription – 38 from St. John and 20 from St. Sebastian. Cost is \$2,229 with St. Sebastian putting \$500 towards it. Religious Ed instructors from St. Sebastian use “Formed” for their classes. Subscription was cancelled, but there is money in OnebyOne to cover the cost, so it will be renewed for another year with St. Sebastian putting \$750 towards the cost.
7. **Christmas Loose Collection** – An announcement will be put in the bulletin designating the monies collected to be evenly distributed to Community 2000, St. Vincent DePaul and VITA.
8. **Phase III Fundraising** – Time to start fundraising for Phase III; need to look for a person to head the committee. The use of restricted funds and monies from OnebyOne (which still has three years to go) will be put toward the project as a start.

Closing Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. Next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 14, 2025.**