

Finance Council Minutes

St. John the Baptist Parish, Seymour

September 24, 2024

Present: Father Sengole, Deacon Rich Matuszak, Dennis Dercks, Dan VanBoxtel, Paula Helms, Lee Rynish, Kevin Reese, Debbie Rusch

Absent: Penny Schampers

Meeting began in prayer.

1. Minutes from the July 30th meeting were approved by Dennis Dercks, seconded by Dan VanBoxtel.
2. **Building & Grounds** report from Lee Rynish:
 - a. Trees on Main Street – two of the three tree trunks (by rectory) splintered/damaged by storm. Third tree in front of Community 2000 was broke off and removed.
 - b. Two Trees in front of school – not damaged in the storm, but issues were identified as power line cuts, water leakage onto school, leaves plugging up gutters. A recommendation was made that the two trees in front of parking lot by rectory, along with the two trees in front of school be taken down -- and not replaced. Committee agreed.
Lee has worked with Speedy Trees in the past – they have never charged the parish for work done. For removing these four trees, he recommends that they be given an ad in the weekly bulletin for a year – cost of \$529. Dan VanBoxtel made a motion to this recommendation; seconded by Dennis Dercks. Lee will send Speedy Trees a letter requesting the work to be done, along with the ad recommendation.
 - c. Fire Inspector wanted lighted exit signs (cost of \$2500) placed in the school. Instead, Glow Signs (cost of \$100) were installed and passed by the Inspector.
 - d. The school fire alarm is not functioning; has to be repaired or ripped out. A request has been sent to the State Fire Marshall as how to proceed. No reply yet. No idea on expense.
 - e. The Baptismal Font has no water; pump wore out. Replacement not available. Lee is looking to see if motor can be rebuilt. A new pump costs between \$200-\$300.
 - f. Church heating and cooling – furnace is 50 years old and working at 60% efficiency. It has been difficult to control temperatures inside the church this past summer. A new unit (wall-mounted boiler system) would operate at 95% efficiency. Committee recommended that Lee request price quotes from three companies: Foreman Heating, Robinson and August Winters, as well as having WE Energy look at the numbers to see what the fuel cost savings would be with a new furnace.
One contractor will be chosen for both the church and school heating systems, which will eventually need to be replaced also. The two projects would be staggered. The church furnace update would be covered with a large donation recently received.

3. **Homeschool Coop Group** use of School gym and classrooms. The group is requesting the use of the gym and 4-5 classrooms every Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for approximately 65 children from 25-30 families starting in October. No one in the group belongs to the parish.

The request was reviewed with the Diocese and they were comfortable with our process. They did suggest that a written lease be secured. An Adult Hold Harmless/Indemnity Agreement Form would also be requested from each family in the group.

Using St. John's Policy for Property Use, it was recommended the group begin with a 3-month lease (October to the end of the year) and charged \$200 per day for the usage of the classroom and gym, as well as a \$500 deposit for wear and tear on the building.

4. **New Chairperson is Debbie Rusch.** Dennis Dercks remains as Vice-Chairperson.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. New meeting will be **Tuesday, November 12, 2024.**