

St. John the Baptist Finance Council Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM with a prayer.

Acknowledgement of the Agenda and the January meeting minutes was then given and approved by Kevin Reese and seconded by Dennis Dercks.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds Committee:

- The main motor for the air handler on the church furnace failed and had to be replaced.
- Fine tuning the temperature in church when occupied and not occupied is still a work in progress.
- Progress has been made in building membership of this committee. At present three new people have agreed to be a part of helping (Jack Carter *will be chairperson*, Andy Patz, and Mike Lee).
- The first order of business for this group will be to assess the repair cost associated to maintain the older section of our school. This information will be needed in justifying the future of Phase III.
- The committee will meet bi-monthly, approximately one week before the Finance Council meets, or as needed.
- Removal of some trees along Main Street will hopefully be done by the end of March (weather permitting).
- Refreshing the wood chips in the playground area is being looked at. The cost of this project has increased substantially over the years. Currently putting a 5-6" depth of new chips would be about \$4,500. Options for this project were discussed and Lee will get back to the Finance Committee on an update.

Cemetery:

- Work will continue on landscaping improvements on the west side of the cemetery. Tree trunks will be removed and the ground along this area will be mounded to decrease the problem of chemical runoff from the neighboring field.
- The spoils from digging graves are being removed and the area reseeded.
- Discussion took place on the necessity to replace the current Simplicity tractor before the spring season begins. Also, the purchase of a trailer was discussed. Lee presented the Council with two estimates on Kubota and John Deere tractors. Because of the quality of these two brands, it was thought they would be the best options for longevity. The Council gave permission to make the purchases necessary up to the amount of \$10,000.00. Money for this will come out of the cemetery maintenance account.
- A five-year projected plan on expenditures was presented.

Phase III:

- Dcn. Rich presented his plan to restart the Phase III building project.
- Pictures of the plan will be posted at each entrance of the church beginning on Palm Sunday. Dcn. Rich will also briefly speak about it that weekend at the end of Mass.
- The goal for this fund drive will be three million dollars. Because of the drawdown for building the rectory, we currently have \$6,735 in the Phase III account.
- Discussion took place on possibly using the Catholic Foundation in the future to help with raising the funds.
- Parish volunteers to serve on a Fund Driving Committee will be sought.

Expenditures Request Form & Guidelines:

- Paula presented a draft of the planned Expenditure Request Form to be given to committees when asking for monetary support for a project. If the request is for more than \$500 the Finance Council will review it before approval is given.

Year to Date Numbers and Budget Review:

- Parish support was about \$660 less in January than last year.
- From July 24, 2024 to January 25, 2025 parish support was up \$2,770.
- A short discussion was had on preparing for setting the budget for next year.
- Each committee will be asked to submit a budget of their needs and wants for next year. This information will then be used by the Finance Committee to draft the Parish Budget.

The next Finance Council meeting will be held on Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with a prayer.