**Meeting with Robert Cecil from Archdiocese 8/21/24**

In attendance: Denise Bartholomew, Donna Schmidt, Mary Schmidt, Kent Weyland, Theresa Hughes, Jeana Koerber, Theresa Horlander, Patrick Cornet, Scot U'Sellis, Father John, Stacy Nicols, Finance council, Robert Cecil.

Meeting began at 6:02pm. Prayer

by Father Jon.

Robert Cecil is CFO of Archdiocese and is here to explain the diocesan loan process.

Archbishop has to bless it first. Identify what needs to be purchased, Robert will look to make sure the parish can afford it. From a financial standpoint, make sure you've done your due diligence. Any time parish is spending more than $20K, need 3 quotes. Archdiocese committees of finance, loan, audit are 2nd set of eyes for parishioners to safeguard parishioners' assets. Robert would put together financial projects, make recommendations and send to loan committee.

Loans greater than a million dollars, the archdiocese will send out to banks. All Jefferson county banks have good relationships with archdiocese. Interest rate environment is not great right now. Small loans (this one) would be financed by archdiocese at 3.7% rate of interest.

Theresa Horlander – would this still be considered simple interest? – 7 year amortization

Robert - Don't want to put the liability on for 30 years

Scot – thoughts on renting a house instead? Upkeep is responsibility of whoever owns the home and not on SFA.

Robert (his own opinion, not archdiocese standpoint) – Would want to own, as rent will continue to go up.

Father – Owning a house is better investment for church.

Theresa Horlander– Housing market is unknown.

Stacy – budget was done up at 30 year loan, will need to re-look at.

Theresa Horlander – SFA owns a house – could move pre-K to SFA school, would need renovation to bring it back to a residential space. Would the archdiocese consider giving us a loan for the renovation?

Robert – it is an option, SFA would need to put in another request.

Robert – Archbishop has general sense to make sure priest is housed close to parish.

Theresa - Letter we received did not entertain the thought of renting (letter to be reviewed by parish council).

Scot – If the loan handled with the archdiocese, why do we need to put down a down payment?

Robert – When you take a loan out, need to have skin in the game

Mary – What amount of loan were we approved for?

Robert - 100K down, 300K on loan $100 down can be adjusted, but have to have some skin in the game.

Mary – Suppose we find house for 400K, needs improvements?

Robert – SFA would need to roll in improvements into total loan request.

Patrick – could you speak more about other parishes buying houses? – How many parishes are buying houses? Extremely unique situation.

Robert – Others are purchasing for rectory's, Pre-K, etc. It is encouraged to have pastor on or close to campus.

Patrick – Theresa's comment about moving pre-K to SFA building, has that been discussed?

Father – one person brought up, has not been discussed.

Kent – (to Robert) His firm does consulting with archdiocese and other parishes. Discord about strategy. Missed opportunities from years past at SFA. Early conversation about ideas for campus – 1 was possibility of moving housing out of rectory. What should we do to analyze this internally? Don't want to misstep, what would be best practices to think long term?

Donna – Want to make sure the majority agree.

Patrick – Who's strategy is best for this parish? We aren't St. Patrick or St. Agnes, we are much smaller. Parishioners are nervous.

Mary – Never going to make everyone happy, we have waited a long time. Trust in God that He will take care of us with the decision made.

Theresa Horlander– we can do this but must think about the future. We want to be in a position to jump in and buy a property if it comes up.

Kent –We have a lot of experts in our parish who can put time into think about this solution.

Father – suggestion would be to ask last questions for Robert so he can wrap up. Will have our own discussion next.

Robert - Can turn around decision in approx. 3 days.

Scot – Can we get pre-approval so we don't have to wait?

Robert – Will call Scot tomorrow to discuss that.

Father – need to build stability. Have been doing well. Giving increased last year as well as attendance.

Robert left meeting.

Father – Archbishop and bishop want this to be settled within 2 years.

Father passed out letter from Archbishop Fabre and Bishop Lopes and read letter.

Theresa Hughes – looked into extending garage, looking at house next door, is the archdiocese open to looking at alternatives?

Father – Yes, they are open to other options, but want to have solution within 2 years.

Donna – When Fr. was here the first year, he was not considered pastor until 1 year in. Did not consider housing until Father was permanent.

Father – This will free him for more functional time. Being closer dramatically increases availability. How do we solve the immediate problem?

Donna – Need to do a 3 year plan.

Theresa Horlander – we have to plan 3, 5, 10 years out, but archdiocese wants to see activity.

Kent – Going to have 400 different opinions, stick to areas of expertise. Come up with couple different scenarios. Tap into people who can master plan and start soon. What would be a win for father's housing? Stable housing situation, but can sell later, allows us to master plan.

Denise – why not rent a house now, then purchase a home when the time comes? Donna

– surprised of why archdiocese will not help in purchase.

Patrick – Archdiocese really would be purchasing the house, all things aside. Thinking of it differently. Friendliest lender at low interest. If we could have archdiocese get behind us to help us if a better house came up, if we could get that assurance that archdiocese would be behind us, we could make this happen quickly. Would help us with our master plan. We do need to move on something.

Denise – Can Scot start looking at houses?

Scot – Yes, he can start.

Theresa Horlander – concerned that letter says "purchase" a house instead of "provide" a house. Archdiocese will not make decisions for us.

Father – Will ask for letter to be changed.

Mary – Important to accommodate Father's family.

Father – Next steps – change wording to "provide" and "swiftly" or "in a timely manner". Scot

– will be talking to Robert tomorrow about loan amount info.

Theresa – Do we need a housing committee? Need to do due diligence about Pre-K

building. Stacy – if there is a way to not have a loan, would like to look at the pre-K option.

Father – If we could use our campus, we could save money for our master plan

Patrick – It is worth exploring these options, but if experts in our parish don't agree, we should let it be.

Theresa Hughes – Can't image it would take that much time to give it consideration

Patrick/Theresa Horlander – give them a month or so to discuss and come up with decision. Give pros and cons. Give them an amount of time.

Father - We have not made a decision yet, but want no stone unturned.

**Next steps:**

**Need to create committee with the following suggestions: Theresa Horlander, Patrick Cornett, Amy Quiggins (facilities), Scott U'Sellis, Steve Frommeyer, Dawn Blair, Father Jon, Meg Gregory (school board) and discuss options for moving pre-K. – Debbie will send this out for Father – this committee is setting the course.**

**Father will ask for wording of letter to be changed – want letter to include assistance with backup property from archdiocese.**

**Scot and Stacy will talk to Robert Cecil.**

Meeting adjourned at 8pm with a prayer by Father Jon.