

PARISH & FINANCE COUNCIL – ST. ANTHONY

Minutes of Meeting, November 4, 2021

The St. Anthony Parish and Finance council meeting was called to order by Dickie Bravener at 6:37 p.m.

Members Present: Father Leo, Richard Bukovec, Joan Bukovec, Dickie Bravener, Chuck Loos, Grace Genteman, Janet Boh, Betty Loos, Don Bangart, Cindee Loos and Mike Bauer.

Father Leo started the meeting with a prayer. Dickie Bravener asked if there were any questions about the minutes from the last meeting.

Dickie asked Richard Bukovec to go over the Financial Parish Operating report for the 2020-2021. Several questions were asked about insurance bill and PPP loan received. The financial year runs from July 1 to June 30. The 2020-2021 fiscal year ended with a deficit of \$6,539.90.

The Finance Committee next covered the Statement of Activities of the Parish, School and CCD as of September 30, 2021. Clarifications were made about hot lunch program for the school, fundraising income, and the required purchase of the accounting software that the Diocese requires parishes to use for its fiscal information.

Next, the Cash and Savings Statement for this fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2021, was reviewed. This included the parish checking account, parish/school savings accounts, other funds and the cemetery accounts. There was a question on the hot lunch program for the school. Father Leo explained that the school was no longer able to obtain free lunches from the High School. There was a donation for the students to receive lunches from Clark County Adult Development center for this school year.

The next document reviewed was the cash and saving restricted accounts and their purpose. Questions were asked about how the various memorial gifts were handled and who/how the money is distributed when needed. There are several sources of donations that help the Parish when needs are greatest. Question was discussed about alter servers and if/when they would be coming back into service for the Mass. Also, the use of the Mass books will be continued at the beginning of the Advent Season.

The Statement of Activities of the Little Angels Childcare center was examined. It was stated that although the center is still losing money, it is getting a better handle on its outstanding accounts and a change in the collection of money to have families to pay ahead seems to be working quite well. A final comment was made the center is a win/win for the Parish and the Community even when it is not quite at the break even point.

Chuck Rueth came to the meeting to explain the Parish Buildings Maintenance needs. Beginning with the repair of the roof on the garage of the Parish Rectory. Zvolena Masonry LLC explained the repair needs and the estimated cost of those repairs.

Next, the repair of the bell tower of the Church. The regular age repairs of the outside of the parapet and cleaning and sealing of the east entry were explained with another estimate of that cost.

The old school replacement of bricks below the cast band of the building all around because of the moisture problem was explained by Chuck Rueth. He also indicated that it has been quite a while since any major fixing has been done on the building since its construction.

Finally, the need to fix the sidewalks around the south and east side of the Church and the retaining wall by the rectory garage. Although the specifics are not final on what has to happen to get the most out of the repairs, the need is great for the safety of the elderly who frequent the Church.

After, a considerable discussion Chuck Loos made a motion to:

1. Repair the roof of the rectory above the garage at an estimated cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000.
2. Repair the bell tower, its access door, perimeter cracks, repair parapet and power wash and seal east entry for an estimated cost of \$17,800.
3. Replace the brick below the cast band of the old school for an estimated cost of \$17,500.
4. Repair/replace the sidewalks around the south and east side of the Church and the retaining wall by the rectory garage for an estimate of \$19,690.

Dickie Bravener seconded the motion. The members present agreed to the repairs as the need for all these items is considerable to continue safely as a public building.

Father Leo stated that there is an anonymous donator who is willing to cover the cost of these repairs up to \$75,000. That donator has indicated that all the work must be done by December 31, 2022. The window to get things done is short, but all effort are being made to complete the work on schedule. Secondly, Father indicated that the Diocese of LaCrosse requires that any improvements to Parish facilities need to reported to that proper working conditions are followed.

Chuck Rueth continued his report on a couple of items: the pews that were removed from the front of the Church during that renovation are still being stored in the Rectory basement, garage and storage shed. He would like to have them removed.

Chuck also stated that looking into the future of the Parish Cemetery that burial plots and maintenance and usage of the Cemetery will need to be addressed. Current costs are greater than the actual expenses.

Dickie Bravener thanked Chuck for his report.

Father Leo addressed the Diocesan Appeal. Richard Bukovec stated that the Appeal has gone down by \$425 from last year. This year it is \$30,575. He also expressed his frustration about how that amount is formulated. No one really seems to explain exactly why the formula is the way it is. This is especially true for the credit the Parish receives for the operating of the School.

Father Leo next stated that there would be a new campaign coming next year for the Diocese. More information will be coming in May or June, 2022.

Father Leo stated that in 2022 we will be trying to go back to the committee meetings that were set before the Covid shutdown. He will be putting together a schedule so that meetings will continue. A question was asked about membership on committees. The duration of current members and expected changes. Another stated that the Joint meetings need to change either the format or something to make them more meaningful.

Finally, Father Leo stated that next May, 2022, his time may be up with our Parish as his visa will be up. He also stated that he has not seen his family in 3 years and that if he does go to visit them now, because of COVID he may not be able to come back. There is a lot of concerns on his plate.

The PCCW will be serving meals after funerals. Apparently there are a number of ladies who have the time and have volunteered to continue this Parish fundraiser.

Dickie Bravener asked Father Leo to lead the Council in a closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.