

## St. John Vianney Parish Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2009

**Members Present:** Barb Hetzel                      Greg Van Winkle                      Ralph Patitucci  
Cheryl Zima                      Kathy Bell                      Mike Cekanor  
Doug Miller                      Kurt Baumann                      Frank Pasternak  
Richard Gassert                      Pat Butler

**Member Excused:** Patrick Reiels                      Tess Wartman                      Fr. Ken Knippel

**Guests:** Dale Casper                      Jayme Hartmann                      Kurt Soens

**Call to Order:** Doug Miller, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Barb Hetzel led the prayer

### **Review of Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 12, 2009 meeting were reviewed without correction.

### **Open Forum:**

Kurt Soens from the Building & Grounds Committee expressed concerns about criticism the B&G Committee and Larry Reihbrandt, Plant Engineer (head of Maintenance) at SJV, are receiving about their maintenance spending levels. He expressed the difficulties faced because maintenance/repair issues constantly arise that cannot be foreseen or budgeted for. It was recommended by the Council that Kurt and Larry take their concerns directly to the Finance Committee.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Doug Miller and Mike Cekanor followed up on the budget issue expressed during the January Council meeting of late December contributions coming in \$50,000 less than expected and parish-wide spending appearing to run at a higher rate than budgeted for. They informed the Council that after further calculations and analysis by Jim Hessling it appeared that the spending rate was not as much over budget as first appeared. It was reported that all staff got

an email in January telling them to stop spending on non-essential items. The Parish Council advises that Jim Hessling give clarification on spending and budget during the March meeting. Greg Van Winkle added that there are funds built into the budget that are discretionary which can cover budget shortfalls.

Doug Miller asked Council members for any comments received about the Faith in Our Future fund usage list for our parish. Dale Casper indicated that some have questioned the re-prioritization of the projects from earlier proposals. It was pointed out that the prioritization was constantly evolving and influence was given to the greatest needs and appeal for parish members.

In lieu of a Pastor's Report since Father Ken is on vacation, Doug Miller mentioned that Father Ken has met with each of the candidates for the Associate Pastor position and he has liked them all.

### **School Board Presentation—Strategic Plan:**

Dale Casper and Jayme Hartmann presented the School & School Board 2009-2010 Strategic Action Plan. They reviewed key items. They continue to work on survey results and have updated security in the school as one response. They indicated that their preliminary 2009-2010 budget conforms to the 7.5% tuition increase limit but that there is currently a \$50,000 gap between revenues and expenses. A significant portion of this gap is due to their plans to cover operating expenses without relying on funds raised by Home & School. They reported that Home & School donates about \$50,000 to 55,000 annually and about \$30,000 of that is used for textbook purchases. They put forth their concern about having to rely on fundraising for critical operating expenses like textbooks. They feel that the funds from Home & School should be used for extra things like updating the computer lab.

The question was raised about spending money on Smartboards rather than textbooks. Jayme answered that not all classrooms have Smartboards and that 4 of the Smartboards were actually donated. They cost approximately \$3600 each.

There was more discussion on tuition. Jayme indicated that about 4 years ago tuition increased by 10% but other years they have not increased tuition by more than the 7.5% guideline. Compared to other area schools, SJV's tuition is in the middle.

Jayme addressed the issue of salary parity for SJV teachers. The goal is to achieve 80% compared to top paying Elmbrook School District. Jayme believes it would be fairer to set the target against the average of all the districts and not just Elmbrook School District. Compared to Elmbrook, we are at 71%. Realistically we cannot afford the target goal. The budget does not contain an Assistant Principal position.

The school had accumulated a \$29,000 gift fund over the years that they used this year to cover budget needs.

Jayne reported that she sought and received federal funds and used it for teaching staff development. They are also constantly pursuing 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding. Often gifts come from grandparents.

SJV is part of a Quad partnership, a collaborative effort that has parish schools working in clusters to deal with a variety of issues including accreditation. The four principals from our Quad Parishes have met to discuss curriculum development, professional development, and Quad activities. They have planned 3 in-service programs for next year to be done as a Quad. Jayme admitted that it doesn't exactly sync with Paving the Way Program since Paving the Way seems concerned with decreasing school enrollments which is not an issue at SJV.

Dale Casper and Jayme Hartmann were thanked for their excellent work in presenting the School and School Board Plan and for briefing Parish Council on their issues.

### **Review of Committee Discernment Process**

Doug Miller brought up the topic of the Discernment proposal for 2010-2011. This includes potentially going to a new process whereby new Parish Council members would be chosen from among the six standing committees (Christian Formation, School Board, Stewardship, Prayer & Worship, Financial & Administrative Services, Human Concerns). The concern was brought up that this may not allow for an adequate cross section of parishioners being represented on Parish Council. There was concern that we could lose some good potential Parish Council candidates. The proposed process has worked successfully at St. Eugene's—Father Ken's former parish. It was felt we need more clarity on the proposal and will ask Father Ken to outline his vision on how it would work in greater detail.

There was also discussion about a 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal in which parishioners selected for the six standing committees would be discerned collectively by the entire membership of those committees. This is different from the current process in which only those parishioners seeking positions discern amongst themselves who should be selected. There were not strong opinions shared one way or the other. This proposal will also be explored in more depth with Fr. Ken in the future.

### **Liaison Reports**

Mike Cekanor (liaison to Stewardship Committee) provided a brief report. It is felt that for the fall Stewardship Campaign it would be beneficial to help parishioners change the way they think—we need to continue the message of giving throughout the year—keep a positive message. The Stewardship Corner in the bulletin will help with this communication. It was reported that we got 245 additional new ministry cards. There are 2475 involved in ministries of time and talent—that number can be a bit misleading as some parishioners are involved in multiple ministries and are counted separately for each ministry they are involved in.

Cheryl Zima was not able to attend the Christian Formation meeting.

Paula Folda and Frank Pasternak will set up the schedule for discernment for this spring including the process for selecting parish trustees, which will occur earlier than the committee discernments.

The Human Concerns meeting was rescheduled for Feb. 12.

**New Business**

Doug Miller asked if there was any new business to bring up. Nothing was brought up.

**Closing Prayer:** Greg Van Winkle

**Next Meeting:** March 9, 2009.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Pat Butler