

St. John Vianney Parish Council Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2010

Members Present: Fr. Phillip Bogacki Mike Cekanor Larry Francione
Fr. Ken Knippel Doug Miller Paul Mindel
Michael Ostrenga Richard Gassert Cheryl Zima
Pat Butler

Members Excused: Kurt Baumann Kathy Bell Greg Van Winkle

Guests: Jim Hessling Jon Hauser Bob Ranus

Call to Order: Mike Cekanor, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Review of Minutes:

The minutes from the February 15, 2010 meeting were approved.

Open Forum:

No activity.

Pastor's Report:

Father Ken indicated that there were no other nominations for the Trustee-Treasurer position that Greg Van Winkle will be vacating in June. Therefore, Father Ken's nominee Mike Cekanor will go into the position

Father Ken reported that he checked with the archdiocese regarding our reprioritization of our FIOF case statement. They indicated that we are within our rights to do so and they believe it is a wise thing to do. So our decision is approved.

Father Ken and Father Phillip heard confessions of the Christian Formation students, grades 3-5. This had not been done in years. They have already heard confessions of the SJV school children using 8 confessors. It's difficult to set a time for CF 6, 7, 8, 9, &10 because of class times and classes in homes.

The 5PM Sunday Mass was reinstated and there were 381 people there. Two servers were missing and 1 reader was missing but others came up to fill in the gaps. A good portion of those at the Mass were not parishioners based on a show of hands – maybe 80 or so.

2010/2011 Stewardship Update – Jim Hessling and Bob Ranus presenting

FIOF has had a negative impact on commitments. This was also the experience of surrounding parishes. But if 1/3 of the FIOF pledges are added to our annual commitments the total is \$2.8 million—the most ever. Those involved in ministries are the highest committers and the highest givers. An 8-year history of contributions/pledges was reviewed. Collections this last month have gone up. But we are still down \$78K from what was budgeted. If we have a good level of giving during Easter, we may break even. We expect \$2,130,000-2,140,000 at the close of the fiscal year. Jim Hessling thinks it will be closer to \$2.1 million. We don't want to fall below that. Mike Ostrenga asked, "What's our plan if we start to see a trend of going below?" Should we ask people to honor their commitments? Bob Ranus said the Stewardship committee is thinking of putting an article in the bulletin. If we send a letter, that could have a negative impact. Father Ken suggested we were beginning to do the work of the Stewardship Committee and should leave those discussions to them. The question was raised as to whether the extra Mass leads to more loose change in giving. It is hard to say. Bob Ranus reminded that it is important to say "Thank you". We have generous people. St. Dominic's lost \$60K last year and are budgeting to be down \$100K this year. We got 25-30 more pledges after Father Ken and Father Phillip spoke about it at Masses. 47% of families have pledged. We are hoping for \$2,150,000.

2010/2011 Budget Review Jim Hessling and Jon Hauser

Home & School is expected to approve giving \$30K for next year's parish budget by proxy on March 10. A list of recommendations related to the budget was reviewed:

1. We will allow carryover of \$30K from this year's H&S funds to apply to next year's budget, but carryover and allocation MUST be approved PRIOR to Parish Council approval of budget.
2. Although at the present time it is unrealistic to ask for approval of next year's H&S allocations, we recommend that school finance committee develop a detailed projection of all H&S and special donations expenditures for the next 2 years, due by June 1st.
3. Budget can be recast and revisions made any time prior to June 30 subject to Finance Committee and Parish Council approval.
4. Purchase order system requiring approval by pastor and/or accounting department prior to purchase be implemented prior to next fiscal year. This would not include regularly recurring expenditures such as utilities, telephone and copying.
5. Parish departments develop and maintain budgets that are similar in detail and format to the budget developed by the school board finance committee.
6. Maintenance Allocation detail will be eliminated; summary maintenance allocation will be retained only for determining school budget.
7. Parish funding of the school, including current cap based on Stewardship contributions, will be reevaluated prior to June 30.

It is planned that tuition will go up 7.5%. There has been an increase in hardship cases: \$29K has been used for grant in aid and \$15K for staff reductions. School enrollment is 503 this year—there is a small 8th grade class. The forecast for next year is an enrollment of 512. Christian Formation will be increasing their fees by \$25 per person. This will be a Home & School Bids for Kids year.

School salaries: The Reading Teacher and Guidance Counselor salaries were School expenditures and moved up to salaried. The Computer teacher is now full time instead of part time.

Maintenance is coming down because of FIOF remodeling and the modernization of the plant last year.

Salary increases will only be 1.5% but that is not bad compared to industry in these tough economic times. This does not include the priests whose salaries are determined by the Archbishop. Father didn't want to cut staff. Compared to other district 4 parishes, we were in the lower half in school tuition. Last year tuition was raised only 3.5% so even if we raise tuition by 7/5% we should still compare favorably.

We don't expect to have to take any money out of reserves to cover expenses. We have approximately \$800K in investments and an \$800K endowment fund.

The question was raised, "What are our contingencies plans if the projected school enrollment or Christian Formation revenues are not met?" We would likely have to go into our reserves. On a positive note, Father Ken indicated that staff is on board. He doesn't feel we need to worry much about contingencies because our numbers are solid and well thought out.

There was consensus approval by Parish Council of the 2010-2011 budget.

Jim Hessling then asked for a little more time for some inspirational musings. He restated that the FIOF campaign did have a negative impact on the annual commitments to the parish. He observed, "Things run smoothly when you have money; they don't when you don't." He indicated that he's been in his role at SJV for 19 years and the last 3 weeks have been the worst of his career. He shared his draft for a 2011/2012 parish budget. He was able to do that because from year to year things don't really change much. That's a problem. He paraphrased an article that states that the way school and parish budgets have traditionally been done is obsolete. In the future support from the bishop is needed, a capital campaign is needed to raise money for the school, and there is a need to explore new frontiers—new funding models. Catholic schools need to be evangelized to children/youth. If the whole parish doesn't get behind the school and support it, it will continue to use more and more parish funds. Eventually this will be unworkable.

Parish Planning Team Update

The updated Mission Statement was in this weekend's bulletin. Cheryl Zima gave an overview of what has been done for parish planning. She reminded all that the strategic plan should tie back to the mission statement. Planning is often short term and tactical and pieces don't tie in.

We want to make sure that doesn't happen. We will identify goals with more focus to process. It will be a 5-year plan renewable every year and always going 5 years out. The goals should set a sense of direction. Under the goals are initiatives and those should not be very detailed. They provide direction. Need to have measurable outcomes. Under initiatives should be tactics—from the committees. Tactics are shorter term—identify what you are going to do.

The Parish Planning Committee is responsible for developing the goals and initiatives. Last week on March 2 we held a brainstorming session that involved about 40 parishioners—most were members of Parish Council, standing committees or staff, but there were some parishioners at large. The brainstorming was a very positive experience and generated multiple lists of strengths and opportunities, ideas of what the parish should be like in the next 5 years and much of this was prioritized. On March 4 members of the Parish Planning Committee organized the information and distilled it to 3 goals and included some initiatives and tactics. This needs to be refined further and then sent to committees for development of tactics. It will be important that we keep the list of goals and initiatives a manageable number.

Review of 2009/2010 Council Goals

Mike Cekanor reported that committee guidelines are complete. Respect Life asked for organizational help. Home & School was helped with theirs.

Strategic Plan—we have the mission statement completed and more needs to be done in rolling it out. The higher level part of the strategic plan is developed—at least in draft.

The Common Leadership Night format has been implemented and has been well received.

We are currently beginning the implementation of the revised discernment process.

Vision 21 is not in place because the archdiocese was without an archbishop for so many months.

Liaison Committee Reports

Administrative Services/Finance—already covered in the meeting.

Building Project Committee—Richard reported that phase 1 is 1 day short of being done. The Christian Formation department remodeling is done. \$30K of furniture was donated (apart from FIOF). As money from FIOF comes in painting and carpeting in the parish center will be done. They have closed in the cloak room with doors.

Christian Formation—did not have a meeting.

Human Concerns—Paul reported that Mark Rye, Human Concerns Committee Chair, tried to get in touch with various ministries. Paul tried six times to get basic information on ministries—who, what, where, why, roster confirmed, etc. He has not been successful in hearing back from a number of them. There is a concern that if we try to do too much we won't do much well.

Prayer & Worship—no report

School Board—no report

Stewardship—already addressed in this meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Closing Prayer: Richard Gassert led the Council in a closing prayer and handshakes of peace.

Next Meeting: CLN on April 12, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Butler