

St. Jerome Finance Committee Minutes Meeting of March 15, 2010

In attendance: Jim Alvord, Father David Blanchfield, Bill Groener, Jerry Holdridge, Dan Loch, Dick Vicenzi, and Dom Vento

Fr. David began the meeting at 7:41 pm with a prayer for the parish and for the work of the committee. The meeting start was delayed because the electrical outages and street closings caused by the previous Saturday's wind storm damage left the usual meeting place of the rectory without power and hampered both travel and communication.

Proposed Cell Phone Tower

Fr. David reported that T-Mobile had approached him with an offer of \$21,000 if the parish allowed a cell phone tower to be built on church property. He explained that the Pastoral Council at its March 8th meeting had voted it down because health concerns and neighbors' concerns were overriding. The Finance Committee members in attendance agreed with the Pastoral Council.

Busy Bodies Daycare

Fr. David explained that Busy Bodies Daycare which rents space in the former school classrooms has had to lay off staff because of a lack of business (i.e., fewer pre-school children as clients). Busy Bodies now pays \$4,600 a month in rent (renegotiated down last year from \$5,600) and requested a renegotiated rental contract starting with that \$4,600 rate. The current contract runs 2008-August 31, 2013. The Finance Committee members in attendance advised that any renegotiation downward also include an Addendum that the contract would be revisited each year to allow for an increase should the daycare business improve in the future.

Quarterly Budget Analysis

Two weeks before the meeting Fr. Dave mailed all Finance Committee members for their examination, copies of the July 2009 through February 2010 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Statement and of the June 30, 2009 and February 21, 2010 Balance Sheets.

Expense Budget Item #5011, Lay Employees, an expense of \$159,121.77 versus a budgeted amount of \$155,900.00, resulting in \$3,221.77 over budget. Extra hours had been given to the Custodian.

Expense Budget Item #5041, Medical/Dental Clergy, an expense of \$10,995.83, but budgeted at \$5,600.00, resulting in a \$5,395.83 over-budget expense. This is due to the back insurance owed by the parish to the

Jesuit New York Province for Fr. Mike's medical insurance for 2009 to the present.

Expense Budget Item #5042, Pension-Clergy, an expense of \$0.00, but budgeted at \$\$\$3,200.00. Fr. David's pension bill has not yet arrived.

It was noted that budgeted Offertory (Income Budget Item Total #4000) is down slightly (under budget by \$7,466.94). Fr. David ventured that the fund-raising team that conducted the Fall 2008 increased Offertory campaign advised him to conduct an increased Offertory giving appeal every two to three years. Finance Committee member Dan Loch countered that any increased Offertory giving appeal should wait until at least 2011 because household finances were down in this tough economy. Instead of an increased Offertory giving appeal, the Finance Committee members in attendance recommended that Faith Direct be talked up in the coming weeks at Masses and in the weekly parish bulletin as an efficient way for parishioners to donate regularly on a monthly basis.

Parish Raffle

Jim Alvord reported that the first-prize Ford Fusion car is in and soon will be on display in front of the church at all weekend Masses. John Kuczo spoke at the Masses on March 13-14 about how much the raffle income helps support the parish.

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm with a closing prayer by Fr. David.

Submitted by:
Dan Loch, Finance Committee Secretary
May 21, 2010