

St. John The Baptist, Vermillion
December 1, 2009

Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Jack Siebenaler, Chairman, Fr. Stan, Sr. Tresa Margret, Kathy Reuter, Cheryl Bonderson, Don Kamen, Madonna Larson, Dennis Rother, Renee Kasel, John Wellman

Meeting started 7:15

Opening Prayer/Weekly Reading/Discussion on this weeks Gospel

November 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes: Approved by Jack Siebenaler and Kathy Reuter, after correct spelling of two names.

Open Docket

Per Jack Siebenaler, he and Fr. Stan met to prepare the agenda for this meeting. They suggested that each future meeting should have an "open docket" time slot at the beginning of the meeting for any parishioner to comment or raise concerns to the Parish Council. They would be able to speak approximately five minutes. The council would not have to take action upon any issue immediately, but would take it into consideration. Notice would go out in the bulletin one week ahead of time as to the next council meeting.

The council agreed to adopt this suggestion.

Dennis Rother raised a parish employee issue. It was decided that we needed a resignation in writing and then we would proceed from there. Renee Kasel would discuss this with the employee.

Cheryl Bonderson was asked to make corrections to the previous meeting minutes and forward them to Rhonda Rother, so that they may be added to the Parish web site.

Renee Kasel agreed to ask a parishioner to create a link or page on our web site for St. John Church.

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Stan discussed his upcoming trip to the Holy Land. He will be asking the parishioners for prayer intentions to be taken along on his trip to be set on the altars at the various churches visited. He will also try to have a link on the parish web site showing the progression of his trip.

Financial Report

Fr. Stan stated that collections seem to be slipping behind. He passed out a spreadsheet showing the parish's previous weekly contribution history.

Parish Council Reorganization Efforts

Fr. Stan, Jack & Kathy met a week prior to the council meeting and came up with a recommendation for how the parish council should be set up. They gave everyone a handout which indicated that the council should be a smaller group of perhaps 5-7 people, who would help shape the vision of the parish and determine priorities, all in an advisory capacity to the pastor. Various committees and parish groups would remain, and have a liaison from the Parish Council attached to them. The liaison could attend the various meetings, or just touch base with a telephone call prior to the Parish Council meeting. Committee minutes would be attached to the Parish Council meeting minutes, unless there was some item that needed attention, correction or approval by the Council. It was felt that the three primary committees needing a liaison would be Home and School Association/ Faith Formation, Finance Committee and the Maintenance Committee (although, all are important). Jack also discussed the creation of a task force for a maintenance review of all parish buildings. He asked for suggestions of names of parishioners to be included in this task force.

Fr. Stan received the first of three bids for the purchase of four new furnaces for the school building from Peine Plumbing and Heating. He will have a notice placed in the bulletin stating that we are looking for additional contractor bids. We hope to have three bids to choose from.

Seven Essential Elements of a Vibrant Faith Community

It was decided that one or two of the “Seven Essential Elements of a Vibrant Faith Community” would be discussed at each parish council meeting. During this meeting we discussed the first element – Sacraments and Worship. Fr. Stan commented that the confirmation group was going well. He noted that there had not been a funeral in the first five months he has been here, so he could not discuss this. It was suggested that there should be a fee schedule for wedding services. Parishioners and children of parishioners would be \$200, a couple with Grandparents that are parishioners would be \$350 and \$500 for all other nonparishioners. Fr. Stan indicated that there would be an upcoming course for parish couples to attend. He also indicated that he would like to see more people attending the sacrament of reconciliation.

Miscellaneous

John Wellman volunteered to remove the over grown shrubs outside the front of the Church.

The next meeting was set for January 26, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. (being Fr. Stan would be on his trip).

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

