

**St. James Parish
Regular Parish Council Meeting
November 4, 2015**

Attendees:

Parish Council: Fr. Bob Sprott, Eileen Quigley (Chair), Fran Williams (Vice Chair), Sara West (Secretary), Dave Bowman, Eva Leonard, Virginia Picken, Dave Samber, Werner Seyfried, Jim Sherman

Guests: None

Absent: Erin Makowski

Eileen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Bob led the prayer.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting were approved.

Hall Construction

Dave Bowman reported that the construction completion date has been moved from November 1. Dave expects an updated date to be provided by November 13. He stated that the elevator has not yet been approved, and that a matter regarding the wiring still must be resolved.

Per the plans, the flooring in the basement of the hall will be concrete. The Council discussed alternatives to unfinished concrete flooring, including polished concrete or the addition of an epoxy coating. Fr. Bob said that he would contact Steve Gross to confirm the plans for the flooring.

Fr. Bob further noted that he is meeting with Bishop Perry regarding the financing of the hall construction on Monday November 9.

The hall is expected to be used for the Christmas party for the homeless.

Finances

Fr. Bob provided a report of income and expense for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015. Fr. Bob noted that the FY15 report will be published in the bulletin, and that he will address the report from the pulpit at mass on November 15. Dave Samber noted that the quality of this year's financial reporting greatly exceeds the quality of information provided in years past.

Highlights of the reports included:

- The budget (both income and expense) is getting smaller. Year over year, total expense is down \$107,074, or 18%. Total income is down \$90,018, or 15%.
- No expenditures have been made for capital improvements over the most recent years.

Fr. Bob reported that the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign will begin after January 1, 2016. The parish's goal is \$260,000. Funds raised up to \$260,000 will be split with the Archdiocese, with 40% going to the Archdiocese and 60% going to the parish. If more than \$260,000 is raised, St. James will be entitled to 100% of the funds raised above \$260,000. Participation by St. James is not optional. Dave Bowman proposed a list of projects that could benefit from the funds,

including tuckpointing and roof repair at the rectory, new windows for the hall, painting the interior of the hall, refinishing the hall floor, and others.

Land Purchase

Dave Samber reported that he called Tom Kennedy's office and spoke with Mr. Kennedy's assistant, who stated that Mr. Kennedy is awaiting a report from Bishop Perry. The nature of the report was not clear. Dave will continue to follow up with Mr. Kennedy.

New Business

The Council discussed proposed plans for the blessing of the hall. It was agreed that Fr. Bob would inquire as to the availability of Archbishop Cupich for an upcoming Sunday. Contingent upon the Archbishop's schedule, the Council prefers a Sunday mass at 10:30, followed by the hall blessing. Jim Sherman offered the services of the Hospitality Committee to organize the event.

Sara West reported that Bill Kusek was interested in taking Erin Makowski's place on the Parish Council, as Erin indicated to Eileen that she will be unable to complete her term. Sara suggested that Bill join the Council effective the next meeting. The Council unanimously agreed.

Virginia Picken noted that the Thanksgiving dinner for seniors will be held in partnership with the Rotary Club on November 22. About 100 seniors are expected to attend, and another 75 home-bound seniors will receive delivery of the dinner.

Jim Sherman will follow up with The Gazette regarding advertising.

Fran Williams noted that the Knights of Peter Claver Founders Day will be celebrated with a members' turnout at the 11:30 mass on Sunday, November 8.

Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the Steering Committee will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2 in the Rectory.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara West.