

***Parish Pastoral Council Minutes***  
***Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY***  
***January 24, 2018 at 6:30 pm***

***In attendance:*** Cathy Bellisario, Cathy Bruno, Nick Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, Kevin Haggerty, Rick Hannmann, Matt Heitker, Karen LaFrank, Ellen Murphy, Fr. Joe O'Brien and Frank Putallaz.

***Present:***    ***Absent:*** Amy Boel, Mike Kosar and Eddie Trevino.

***Opening Prayer*** led by Fr. Joe O'Brien. Meeting began at 6:35 pm.

***Review of Minutes*** The November 2017 Council minutes were reviewed. Bill moved we accept the minutes. Cathy Bruno seconded the motion. Council members accepted the motion adopting the minutes.

***Old Business***

**None**

***New Business***

In a conversation at the beginning of the meeting, several members commented on having church reports available for December but not school reports. Questions had been raised at the last Council meeting regarding unemployment and benefits details. Mike Kosar and Fr Joe O'Brien met with Nora Rucinski, our bookkeeper, to address these questions.

Fr. Joe told the Council that the unemployment insurance overpayment issue had been resolved and that Holy Spirit Church and School had been reimbursed by TrustCo Bank. Incomplete journal entries for employee benefits expenses were identified as the problem in the summary of benefits expenses. They had been adjusted for the church report but not completed for the school report.

Kevin Haggerty asked that the Council devote agenda time to a discussion of our finances and financial reporting at our next meeting.

***Building Plan Status***

Kevin Haggerty detailed the next steps in the plan to Council members which are centered on the building of a new garage with additional storage space to serve parish needs. Relocating the garage to the corner of the Parish Center would provide for a new formal entrance for the Parish Center, leading people to our new meeting space for parish meetings and events on the ground floor. More accessible entrances for the Parish Center are part of the design. Bids had been received by three local contractors; the bid was awarded to Wainschaf Associates.

Kevin indicated that we need to prepare a report of Building Plan fundraising (total gifts and pledges) and expenses, keeping in mind that the parish Finance offered up to \$250,000 of parish savings to assist the project. The Facilities Planning Committee wishes to manage, oversee the project in a way that does not utilize that level of support.

At our next meeting, Kevin asked that information be provided to the Council that we may consider the scope and range of potential remaining improvements to the Parish Center in light of our finances.

### **Church and School Financial Overview**

As of the end of December, the church reported a surplus of \$9,426. Weekly offertory was \$7,664 ahead of last year at this time. The Christmas collection was down \$2,352 from a year ago but this does not reflect the gifts that came in on or about the following weekend - January 1st.

In view of the conversation at the beginning of our meeting, there will be full financial discussion of church and school finances and reporting at our next meeting.

The January report will reflect a \$10,000 expense, a payment to the school to assist with their heating unit replacement for the Middle School wing. Frank Putallaz requested that the diocese be notified of our additional support for the school. In view that Holy Spirit, not the diocese, was providing this assistance to the school, could this be reflected in how our Bishop's Appeal goal would be calculated? Fr. Joe said he would contact the diocese.

### **School Report**

Catholic School Week will be coming up January 29th thru February 2nd. An Open House for all grades is scheduled for Saturday, January 27th. Visitors are welcome for Catholic Schools Week and it is hoped that the Open House will enjoy a good turnout of interested families.

Cathy Bellisario spoke about a program that St Jude's was a participant to receive services for children with special needs through Rensselaer County. This integrated program was focused on pre-K and kindergarten populations. Would Holy Spirit School consider this as an option?

A Council member asked if the school had ever looked in to the market for care for toddlers, perhaps one day a week for two hours?

### **LIFT**

The recently completed January gatherings were centered on living the Sabbath in contemporary times. Mary Fay, a speaker from the diocese, was presented at both our Sunday and Monday gatherings.

### **Next Meeting**

After some discussion, it was determined that we would not meet in February but would schedule our next meeting for Wednesday, March 14th at 6:30 pm.

### **Closing Prayer**