

Pax Christi Collaborative Finance Council

Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2021
6:15-7:05 p.m.

Facilitators: Fr. Philip Erickson, Business Manager Lisa Baxter

Council Members: Jerry Raque, Judie Greiner, Carol Holliger, Rick Reinert, Paul Moon, Hank Weiter and Monty Reeves

Excused: Tony Reed, Jeff Korfhage, and Bob Schroeder

Recording Secretary: Clare Vize

The meeting began with Lisa relaying written comments from Jeff and Bob, who were unable to be at the meeting. Both included sentiments regarding staff raises, as it had been 2 years since the last raise; Bob also commented via email that there are workable options to balancing the budget with fundraising. Jerry suggested both OMOS and STT utilizing their gymnasiums for income purpose events such as ball tournaments and wedding reception rentals. Carol noted that the OMOS gym floor needs repair work to make it safe for ballgames and Lisa noted the need for volunteers to run these programs. When the 1st draft budget was sent out, Lisa requested the formation of a “task force” to explore income options; Jeff and Bob both volunteered in their response to the e-mail.

Lisa noted a mistake on the budget for STE – the depreciation for the 2 new roofs was not added in, she will need to do so for the final budget; the amount will be \$5466.60.

Regarding that task force discussed at the last meeting, Father has suggested a Collaborative bingo, with shared labor and profit. Jerry suggested one member from each parish on the task force could be offered to discuss and recommend options. Hank said he would talk to Bob about STT. Jerry asked how many people it took to run the bingos. At OMOS it was 12-13; at STT it was 6. Carol noted that people are asking about the bingo starting back up. Father noted it would require a lot of volunteers.

The Council agreed, of the 3 proposed budgets submitted, we would use the budget that included raises for the staff and a change in percentages. STT percentage will remain at 26%, OMOS and STE will swap with the new OMOS percentage being 34% and the new STE percentage being 40%. The Council further agreed to add prospective fundraising and rent income to balance OMOS budget shortfall (with add back for the virtual expense of depreciation), STT would add fundraising to balance the same way and STE's only change would be the depreciation. The Council noted that percentages can be changed annually.

Rick and Bob met with Lisa, Tony Paulin and Chris Wilmes of JR Enterprises regarding the wall project at STT. All were in agreement that the General Restoration proposal for \$428,648 was the best choice. Project will be paid for with funds from last year's bequest.

STE roof bids were compared and a discussion of vendors ensued. The outcome was acceptance of JR Enterprises bids, using the shingle option for both School and Rectory. We are developing a relationship with Chris from JR and he's been very helpful even on the projects he was not bidding. Lisa's chart for cash balances and options for financing were reviewed; her proposal for Elizabeth to use \$50,000 of their own funds and STT and OMOS to loan STE \$16,000 each was accepted. OVEC's monthly rent of \$4,860 will be split in thirds with STE retaining 1/3 for operating expenses, 1/3 being paid monthly to OMOS and 1/3 being paid monthly to STT.

These payments will begin in September 2021 and end June 2022 to be paid in full in the same fiscal year.

Father will write letters to Archbishop Kurtz for permission on both projects. Once we have approval we will sign the contracts.

Father asked members of the Finance Council to formally vote on budgets, percentages, and projects. Each proposal was passed unanimously with no one against or abstaining from the vote. Jerry said we are all in agreement for the good of all three parishes.

Father stated that he wants to pull a council together to serve the parishes; his job is to preserve the faith of the people, not the buildings!

Father then updated the Council on the visit by Bishop Danylo of the Ukrainian Catholic congregation to St. Therese Church. He liked what he saw there. While the Bishop himself stayed with Fr. Philip, he is concerned that his visiting priests' wife staying in the rectory overnight might cause scandal. Other bishops in the region might bring their communities to STT on rotating Sundays for liturgies in the different rites.

There being no further discussion, the meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.