

FINANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

May 4, 2021

Present: Rev. Jazdzewski, John Durtschi, Dan Marx, Steve Edge and Sharon Sliwka. Denise Ives was excused. Meeting held via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Rev. Jazdzewski and began with a Gospel reading and opening prayer.

Financial Statements: April financial statements were reviewed by the Finance Council. Members accepted the statements as presented.

Buildings & Grounds: Work on the St. Patrick parking lot is expected to resume in July. Site map review, property line adjustments and neighborhood approvals are making their way through the City of Eau Claire Planning Committee. The site map includes about a 20-foot section of land located by the 5th Street parking lot exit to be abandoned by the City and included as church property. This will clean up parish property lines from neighborhood land transfers recorded over the past 150+ years.

Sharon Sliwka, Gary Ida and Steve Edge attended a meeting in April at Grace Lutheran Church regarding the Omaha Street reconstruction and the financial impact the project assessment will have on the five cemeteries. Statute options for relief may be available and are being pursued by Tom Guelzow, a concerned member of the Lutheran parish and practicing attorney. The statute relating to cemetery associations (*Gen. St. 1878, c. 34, § 259*) provides that “the cemetery lands and property of any association formed pursuant to this title are exempt from all public taxes and assessments.” The statute has since been changed; however, due to the age of the cemeteries, its original intent is being reviewed.

The Sacred Heart Church Renovation Committee had asked for Parish and Finance Council directive on how to proceed with renovation plans. Bids are higher than expected with clarification needed regarding task priorities and timetables. A Joint Council meeting including Renovation Committee members and others was held April 20 to discuss these concerns. A discussion occurred inquiring if there was a potential for one of the churches to close. Everyone agreed this can't be answered right now as the parish doesn't know what the future looks like. Parishioner input would be needed, and an analytical assessment of each building would need to be done. The Finance Council agreed repairing the front steps is a priority, but it may be best if the Renovation Committee holds off meeting regarding other items until a decision by the diocese is made on a potential diocesan-wide capital campaign this fall.

The 2021-2022 budget was reviewed and is coming in at -\$98,452, as written. A final draft will be submitted to the Finance Council prior to June 1, for approval at that meeting. Members reviewed a mailing being sent to parishioners later in the week. A request for increased giving, to make up for the negative budget will be included in the letter.

Father Jazdzewski informed the Finance Council he will be away on retreat the month of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM with a closing prayer.