

St. John the Baptist Finance Commission
Minutes for meeting of April 23, 2014

Present: Father Skluzacek, Chris Lieser (Vice Chair), Scott Johnson, Lesia Zownirowitz, Deborah Case, Bob French, George Weinberger, Gene Rezac, Ken Houston

Not Present: Gary Horn

Staff: Principal Ann Laird, Stacey Meyer, Alan Foley

1. Opening Prayer (Fr. Skluzacek)
2. 2014-15 Budget – The staff had sent out all three budgets for Commissioners’ review prior to the meeting with explanations of the assumptions made and recommendations.
 - a. School (Alan, Ann) Alan and Ann led a discussion of the proposed school budget, including past decisions to increase tuition by \$125. Also discussed was the schools response to the retirement of 3 long term teachers. There were questions about:
 1. the hot lunch program (Scott and Gene) which is expected to be down in revenue and in cost again next year due to less family utilization of the program and fewer kids enrolled in the school.
 2. the cost of benefits (Deb) which is increased despite a rebate from the Archdiocese – it is based on the benefit choices being made by staff
 3. Student Activities (George) – this was developed by an actual projection of the activities and expected cost of next year’s field trips, etc.
 - b. Preschool (Alan, Ann) – The budget is balanced. Ann pointed out that in addition to the brief explanation provided by staff, the budget also assumes increased fees for next year.
 - c. Parish (Alan) Alan went over the major points from the material that had been sent out previously. Gene expressed concern that our available asset balances are being invested too conservatively. One way to address declining giving is by taking advantage of higher yielding investment options. He feels that an analysis followed by prompt action is needed to take advantage of other appropriate opportunities that are available. Alan apologized for not convening the Investment subcommittee (Scott and George) for the last couple of months.

Vice Chair Chris Lieser asked for a motion to recommend to Father that he approve the budgets as submitted. The vote was unanimous.

3. PLC Report (Chris) – Chris reported on last month’s PLC meeting. Father Skluzacek said that within the Archdiocese right now there are many parishes that are down but this is by no means uniform. He suggested that in addition to the adverse impact of the clergy sexual abuse scandal, our giving has been greatly affected by the death of a large number of significant donors.
4. Financial Update – March (Alan) – Alan went over the material that had been sent out prior to the meeting that related to our financial position as of the end of the 3rd quarter.

5. Logos to ConnectNow Transition (Stacey) – Stacey described the process as it has been described by the Archdiocese in order to implement “ConnectNow”, which is the replacement accounting software for Logos.
6. Subcommittee Reports – The school subcommittee work is completed, as is the work of the parish revenue subcommittee. The investment subcommittee will be meeting next week (Tuesday afternoon). I will be scheduling a meeting of the Policy subcommittee shortly.
7. Father’s Requested Projects (Alan) – The request by Father that we make sure that we are attending to the long term Capital needs of the parish is a part of the Capital Budget process. The Commission understands and supports the suggestion that all or part of our mortgage payments be included in the operations budget. However, given this year’s budget constraints we feel that this will need to be deferred and discussed again next year.
8. Announcements & Other Business
 - a. OSMG Update (Alan) – We do not yet have results to report. However, Father has asked all six of our OSMG co-chairs to meet in May to engage in a discussion relating to plans for our 2015 OSMG renewal.
 - b. Next Meeting – May 21, 2014
9. Closing Prayer (Chris)
10. The meeting adjourned at 7:40.