

ST. BRENDAN PARISH  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 23, 2015

The meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by John Phillips. In attendance: Bridget Harris, Chris Lunn, Katie Clouser, John Phillips, Florence Carlsen, Tony Partington, Arline Prib, Roberta Merlitti, John Fogliani and Linda Haptonstall. An Our Father was said and the March minutes approved.

**REPORT FROM PASTORAL COUNCIL LAISON:** Ken Elliott was not present but Linda represented him. She reported holy week, confirmation and retreat went well. Fr. Jim is still working on finalization of the deficit and is considering putting off announcing this to the staff. Stewardship wants more business people to be involved as leaders. Father says he has the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee to advise him.

The food fair and concert was a hit. Could have used a larger room. \$4000 was raised.

The repose garden structure we built and filled with water but there is no drainage. The Repose Life Committee wants money to complete this. Pastoral Council did not approve this to start with and these sort of groups should apply for money before starting projects.

A new roof is needed for the school and this will cost about \$180,000.

**CENSUS MAILING;** John P said a census form was mailed out to all in the parish with a reply envelope. There were questions and boxes to be checked – i.e., moved to another parish; do not want envelopes; place for email address. John F asked about the cost of this. Answer was it probably was in the hundreds but well worth it. The answers will help with what is expected in the annual appeal.

**CELL TOWER;** A firm called SPA Communications (the third largest provider) will act as a middle man between us and ATT. We have referred them to our consultants. This is still very preliminary but there is still interest.

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Morgan Sound is willing to put in just a new digital board. The analog board we have is shot. At the Easter Vigil, several times the sound was cut out. It is aged out of usefulness and can't even get parts for it. They will charge \$10,000 to do this. There ensued a discussion whether we should go ahead and have the whole system fixed which Morgan has bid us \$30,000. We have these funds which are restricted funds from the Catholic Annual Appeal. The committee feels this should be communicated with the parish and not just one time – Put in bulletin several times and even announce it. We have a facebook page, web page, parish app – all ways to more effectively communicate. Father is getting advice from the Archdiocese on communication strategies. The funds were just for this project. After a discussion all said, "Lets do it all now".

Page 2

Linda says the sound system is critical to liturgy. She felt the speaker part could be delayed and in the end, just the new board will be installed.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL REPORTS:** In getting the new budget started John F said he felt we could use the top portion of the 2014-2015 budget for the new budget. We have to look for volunteers to do certain things and we need new revenue ideas. We may need to present ourselves like a new parish or smaller parish and not do all the things we have been trying to do as a larger one. Linda mentioned there is talk of several parishes going together on certain offerings and sharing these. A lot of questions are waiting for answers from the Archdiocese. Another idea was to put "Factoids" in the bulletin to let parishioners know the good things that we do and be aware of different expenses. Linda suggested we craft messages to Fr. Jim.

Chris wanted to know when to expect a preliminary budget. John P said by next week he should have this.

We have \$2868 in rebate from the annual catholic appeal which will be used for vestments. Linda also brought up the idea of ripping out the kitchen below our committee meeting room and remodel this into more meeting rooms, and a new kitchen. This could also be used for small receptions. We will explore this.

In the end it was stated over and over that we have to generate revenue or cut staff. Linda will create a message for Father to communicate from and Kathy will review this.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 with a Hail Mary.