

**St. John Paul II Parish
Adams, MA
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
on Monday, August 3, 2020**

As a result of the Covid-19 epidemic and accompanying restrictions imposed due to the attendant lockdown, the Parish Council of St. John Paul II (“SJP II”) Parish met on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Those present: Fr. Steven Montesanti; Kathy Luczynski (chair) (Finance), James Loughman (Secretary) (Communications), Jan Rogge and Louise Charon (Family Life), Chris Milesi and Barbara Wisniowski (Hospitality), Lawrence Clairmont (Property) and Barbara Armata (Spiritual Life).

Also present: Joseph Rogge and Richard Wisniowski

Fr. Steve gave an opening prayer.

Then Kathy called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Jim noted that the minutes of our last meeting on June 15, 2020 had already been approved via email and were online on the Parish website.

Financial Update

Kathy submitted the FY 2020 year end report, which was mildly encouraging.

Although our Parish’s finances were down, but not as severely as initially feared when the Covid-19 epidemic began.

However, the repercussions of the epidemic were somewhat obscured by the facts that:

(a) Our Parish’s fundraisers for FY 2020 were completed before the outbreak, which will not be true for FY 2021.

(b) Our Parish faces significant cleaning costs going forward due to the epidemic.

(c) Our Parish has not been billed for the last three months of Diocesan assessments, and it is unclear whether the Diocese will waive those assessments or is merely deferring them.

Given these challenges, it is currently projected that our Parish will incur a \$135,000 deficit in FY 2021 unless it can secure alternate sources of funding to make up the difference.

The Finance Committee has recommended selling both the Manor and the Mill Street property to simultaneously cut expenses and raise revenue for the Parish, and is looking into the feasibility of doing so. However, Kathy cautioned, there are lots of “steps” to the process, and the Parish will need to dot its I’s and cross its T’s before moving forward with doing so.

The premiums for our Parish's property and liability insurance (through the Diocese) have risen substantially, and so our Parish has sent a letter to the Diocese disputing some of the evaluations upon which those premiums are based, and in the meantime is paying a compromise amount premised on what the Parish believes to be truly owed.

Likewise, our Parish also sent the Diocese a letter disputing some of the items upon which the Diocesan *cathedraticum* (i.e., tax on collections) is based, and is similarly paying a compromise amount in that regard.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Steeple

Larry said that the Property Committee had expected to be able to go over the report regarding the St. Stanislaus Kostka steeple with the architectural engineer in early August, but the date of that discussion has been pushed back to the end of August or early September because the estimator and the roofing consultant have not yet submitted their reports.

Fundraising

A number of suggestions were submitted for the special fundraisers that our Parish might pursue to make up for the loss of revenue from our inability (due to Covid restrictions) to hold the ones that we have traditionally relied upon.

Unfortunately, a number of those suggestions do not appear to be practical to put into practice due either to the Covid restrictions, the amount of labor required to implement them and/or the lack of volunteers to organize them.

However, there were two suggestions which appeared to be particularly promising.

The first suggestion, which the Parish is moving forward with, is a Fall Fest Raffle. Diane Wyman, who has organized our Parish's Fall Fest for the past several years, has graciously volunteered to run this fundraiser, for which tickets were recently mailed out.

The second suggestion, by Larry Clermont, was an SJP Club 1000, patterned after a similar fundraising campaign in the Catholic parish in Northampton.

Under this arrangement, participants would pay membership dues of \$10/month (or \$110/year), and be eligible for a monthly drawing of \$1,000.

This campaign would require a relatively small number of people to organize and run. However, it would require a minimum of 150 paid participants (of whom, ideally, at least 40 would be pre-paid annual dues of \$110).

Larry, his wife Pat, Jim Loughman, and Barbara and Dick Wisniowski all agreed to serve on the Committee for this campaign. They will try to solicit a few more individuals to join it.

Jim offered to approach the local Knights of Columbus for their support.

Larry promised to get the other Committee members a written outline of how the campaign would work so that they could share it with others.

The tentative plan is to launch the campaign in October.

Joe Rogge cautioned the Committee to try to time the campaign to avoid overlapping with the Diocese's Annual Catholic Appeal and/or St. Stanislaus Kostka School's fundraisers.

SSK School

Joe said St. Stanislaus Kostka School is currently scheduled to open on September 2nd while most of the local public schools will not be opening until the second week of September. He said that the School has worked out a plan to deal with the plethora of issues raised by the Covid-19 epidemic, and will issue a detailed announcement on that score on August 7, 2020.

Enrollment is currently down a bit (to 70) from last year, but is expected to grow somewhat in the next few weeks based on comments by parents who have expressed interest in enrolling their children at SSK School but have been hesitating due to uncertainty about what the public schools will be doing.

Joe thanked our Parish for the support that it has shown during the current crisis.

Adjusted Mass Schedule

Fr. Steve reported that the adjustments to the Mass schedule in light of Covid-19 have worked pretty well so far, with attendance generally approaching but not exceeding capacity.

Fortunately, only a handful of individuals have had to be turned away from Mass on a couple occasions. due to attendance exceeding the Covid-19-related restrictions on capacity.

Family Life

Jan reported the Family Life Committee has been continuing with its card program. Although there has been a slight backlog, the Committee has been trying to keep up with it, and hopes to "catch up" in the near future.

Next Meeting: Our Parish Council's next teleconference meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Following that, the next meetings are tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2021 and April 19, 2021.

Fr. Steve gave the closing prayer.

The meeting then adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Loughman