

These draft meeting minutes await approval
by the Parish Council.

**SAINT CECILIA PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
Tuesday August 22, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Popelka, Chuck Gilarski, Jean Kresse, Terry Herrman, LuAnn Vulgamott, Sly Upah, Lisa Schmidt, Bill Haas, Father Nienhaus and Mark Bortle.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Weber,

OTHERS PRESENT: Business Manager Jerry Greving, Finance Committee Chairman Randy Dalhoff, Music and Liturgy Director Bob Hauser, B.O.E. Representative Larry Gross and Recording Secretary Jim Westphal.

Prior to the regular Parish Council meeting several members of the Council met at 6:00 P.M. for a primer on budget and accounting practices at Saint Cecilia. **Randy Dalhoff** and **Jerry Greving** went over all of the accounts both receivables and expenditures. Some of the points made were:

- We are forbidden to spend endowment fund principle, and try hard not to spend earnings, unless really needed outside the normal operating budget.
- The church endowment funds are with the 1st National Bank and are invested as capital stock funds drawing dividends.
- The school endowment funds are in the First American Bank.
- We pay approximately ¾% for management fees.

A question and answer session followed.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** **Chuck Gilarski** called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M..

2. **PRAYER:** **Chuck Gilarski** led the group in prayer for Building For Our Future campaign.

Chuck Gilarski had **Larry Gross**, the new representative to the Parish Council from the Board of Education, introduce himself.

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** **Randy Dalhoff** pointed out a typo in the date of the next meeting under Old Business: Budget. The date should have read August 22 and not August 24th.

Bill Haas asked if the representative to the Building Committee has been appointed. Chairman Gilarski said Jonathan Weber would fill that role.

Chuck Gilarski said he would still represent the Social Concerns Committee.

Under Social Concerns it was noted that the organization in Jewell is the Lord's Cupboard and not the Lord's Shelf.

MOTION: by **Bill Haas**, supported by **Mark Bortle** to adopt the minutes of the July Meeting as corrected.
MOTION CARRIED.

Recording Secretary **Jim Westphal** explained that there were two sets of Minutes from a Special meeting held August 1st, as there seemed to be controversy as to the purpose of the meeting. There were the original minutes taken by Jim and an amended version as suggested by Bill Haas and others.

After some discussion, there was a **MOTION** by **Jean Kresse**, supported by **Terry Herrman** to accept the original minutes after striking out the second paragraph. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **STAFF REPORTS:**

Youth Ministry Report - Karen Popelka said there was no committee meeting in August however she did mention that the Youth Group would be hosting coffee and doughnuts after the masses on Sunday and it would be nice to see as many members of the Parish Council there as can make it to show support for this effort.

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Financial Report - Jerry Greving said his report was in the packet ([See addendum #1](#)). Jerry also mentioned:

- Central States Roofing has been contacted to investigate and repair the leaks in the Church roof.
- The Archdiocesan interest rate will be raised from 4 to 5%.

Board of Education - Larry Gross reviewed the points in the Board of Education report ([See addendum #2](#)). He commented on:

- The change in janitorial services and how pleased the Board was with the proposed services.
- A gutter problem, which flooded another classroom. That system will be looked at and flushed.
- Trying to regain interest and redevelop the Generations of Faith Program.

Bill Haas asked if the Board of Education's self-assessment was completed. Larry said it had apparently been mislaid with the departure of Father Terry and he would check into it.

Spiritual Growth & Liturgy - Bob Hauser said the committee did not meet this month but he thanked all of those who helped with Father Nienhaus' installation Mass. He also reported donations to cover the cost of new communion cups from several parishioners after the call went out.

Parish Community Life - Jean Kresse - no meeting, no report.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. CornFest - Jean Kresse thanked the members of the Council and the Parish Staff who made CornFest another success. She reported \$80.00 was made from the dunk tank. In other CornFest matters:

- **Karen Popelka** said no one should be put in charge of the kitchen without the help of someone who has done it before. However, learning from her mistakes, she offered to take charge of it again next year.
- Speaking of next year, **Father Nienhaus** volunteered to sit in the dunk tank and the date was set.
- **Bill Haas** reported the committee for shucking corn shucked 650 ears in 40 minutes. The leftover food was donated to the Food at First.
- **Lisa Schmidt** said some people thought the Saturday night part should be outside. She said the Social Hall acoustics are not conducive to a good music performance.
- Attendance seemed low but it was the last day of the Iowa State Fair.

B. Budget - Randy Dalhoff said that we were about to approve a budget with a \$60,000.00 deficit. **Father Nienhaus** said it was unacceptable to adopt a deficit budget although he would live with it for one year as it was developed before he arrived, but he would not accept it next year. There was a lengthy discussion. Some of the points made were:

1. Reasons for the deficit:
 - a. \$20,000.00 in Pre-School construction costs.
 - b. Salaries
 - c. Raise in utility rates
 - d. No confidence in our cash flow
2. Possible Solutions:
 - a. Cut expenses in all programs 3%
 - b. Increase revenues.
 - c. Need to do both?
 - d. Encourage more ACH usage.

MOTION by **Bill Haas**, supported by **Karen Popelka** that we adopt this budget and direct the Finance Committee to work on increasing revenue and on decreasing costs to achieve a balanced budget. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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C. Parish Council Self-Assessment - Bill Haas handed out the self assessment document the Council has been working on ([See addendum #3](#)) and asked the Parish Council to accept items 6, 7 and 8 and to form a committee to communicate the results of this effort to the Parish.

MOTION by **Bill Haas**, supported by **Mark Bortle** to accept points 6, 7 and 8 of the self-assessment document and to form a committee to communicate the results to the Parish. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Bill Haas asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to develop the communication. Terry Herrman and Lisa Underhill Schmidt agreed to help.

D. Letter Concerning Building For The Future Campaign - Terry Herrman handed out a letter as a draft of what we might send out to the Parish to communicate the progress of the Building For Our Future campaign. This letter contains items from Jeff Witt's timeline and various Bulletin articles over the years.

There was discussion and suggestions as to how to deliver this letter, perhaps as a newsletter? There was also discussion on the second phase of the campaign.

E. October Mass Counts - Bill Haas made a **MOTION**, supported by **Mark Bortle** to attach a copy of the October Mass Counts and the related email communications from Randy Dalhoff and Sly Upah as an addendum to the Minutes of this Meeting ([See addendum #4](#)). **MOTION CARRIED.**

F. School Expansion Committee - Bill Haas said the committee met and recapped the timeline of proposed school expansion goals. Father Nienhaus has accepted these goals. The committee meets again this Thursday.

G. Stewardship Committee - Bill Haas has contacted the Archdiocese and a representative will be here to address the committee on Wednesday, October 11th at 7:00 P.M. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Rectory living room. Couples and young people are especially encouraged to attend.

H. Ad-Hoc Committee-Chuck Gilarski reported the committee is looking at how to address four different groups of people regarding the Building Fund Campaign:

1. Those who have paid off their pledges
2. Those who are actively paying off their pledges
3. Those who have refused to pledge.
4. Those who have never been contacted.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mass Schedule - Father Nienhaus handed out a sheet explaining his reasoning for keeping the present 3 masses per weekend. ([See addendum #5](#)). Father also asked for a committee for short and long term planning similar to the Vision 2000 planning that took place 6 years ago.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Good Shepherd Parish - LuAnn Vulgamott reported:

- There is a picnic planned for tomorrow night.
- She will contact John Hayes regarding Catechical Sunday so that Good Shepherd's CCD teachers can be recognized.
- LuAnn thanked the Social Concerns Committee for their donation to the Lord's Cupboard.

Deanery - No Report

Facilities - No report.

Long Range Building Committee – No Report.

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Social Concerns Committee - Chuck Gilarski handed out a report and reviewed the points in it ([See addendum #6](#)). He also noted:

- Sue Stanton is working toward having a priest from the Holy Land visit and present a Byzantine Mass here in the future.
- Committee income has fallen off about 10%. The committee is looking at ways to present the “black bag” differently.

Sanctity of Life - No report.

Family Life Committee - No report.

Finance and Administration - Randy Dalhoff said the report of the Committee is in the packet. ([See addendum #7](#)).

8. OBSERVATIONS/EVALUATION/FEEDBACK

9. PASTORAL COMMENTS - Father Nienhaus said when he was first assigned to Saint Cecilia Parish, he assumed it was among the top 20 parishes in the Archdiocese. After having visited with Father Terry and touring the facilities he upgraded his opinion to put us in the top 10. Now after being here a month he has concluded that we are in the top 5. Father Nienhaus led us in the Lord’s Prayer.

10. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 26th in the Social Hall.

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Westphal**, Recording Secretary