

St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: December 12, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Opening prayer was given by Father John

Council members attending:

Paul Novak – president

Matt Tomac – vice president - excused

Tom Julian – treasurer

Mark Massopust – corresponding secretary - excused

Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

Minutes from November were reviewed. A motion was made to approve by Paul Novak, seconded by Tom. Approved by all.

Guest: Jeff Zdrle, who came into the meeting at the very end as he was traveling. Jeff complimented Father John on having the Christmas tree placed inside the church nave this year. The tree looks very good.

Reports/updates/new business:

1. Priest's report – Father John:

Father has spoken with Bishop Daniel about formalizing the official establishment of Saint Macrina Chapel in Waupaca. Making it a Chapel is the next step in growing this outreach program for the Waupaca area. Father is awaiting the formal letter from the Bishop on this status.

Father thanked Jeff for his work on the Kids decorating the Christmas trees in the Naive and Herrick Hall along leading the children in Christmas Carols.

The Book Club will be starting on December 21st. There has been good interest in this. Father, Melissa, Debra, Mary and others will be cooking and serving the meal at the St. John Mission on Dec. 26th. Cost for this meal is around \$500 and will be paid for from our missions fund.

Father will be out of town in Kenosha from Dec.27th-Dec.30th.

2. President's report – Paul Novak:

The main two icons, one of Christ and the other of the Virgin Mary, which are on the Icon stands in the Nave, need to be replaced. The film on these icons is starting to separate from the icon. Paul made a motion for Fr. John to research and price out replacements. Tom seconded the motion. All approved. *Note on 12/21/23.* Father has found two Icons which he reviewed with the Parish council via email. The council approved the purchase of the Icons Father selected. Father has thus ordered the Icons so that they would be at SMOC in time for the Nativity of Christ.

Paul discussed getting \$250 Menards gift cards for Marc K. , Chad R. and Chuck B. for their work on the outside siding, Herrick Hall windows countertops. Tom made a motion to agree to this. Father second. All approved. Mark M. to secure the cards.

A discussion was held about replacing the vanity and mirror in the ladies restroom. These items are very old and need to be replaced at some time. While not urgent it is something we can do during the winter time months if we can. Paul made a motion to replace the vanity and mirror. Tom Second. All approved. Chuck B. has confirmed that he can do this work.

Paul reported that there are AED grants available. After discussion a motion was made by Paul and second by Tom to apply for a grant. All approved

3. Vice presidents' report - Matt Tomac: excused absence

4. Treasurer – Tom Julian:

Giving continues to be steady and good. All Bills are paid and Iconography giving continues.

The Building and Maintenance Fund is in good shape.

We continue to pay extra on the mortgage every month. A discussion was held on thinking about when we could focus on paying off the Church mortgage. There was no clear timing on when we can do this.

Old Business:

Misha Mykhaylyuk is working on getting a second bid for Herrick Hall roof.

Siding, window and countertop project continues to progress.

Much discussion has been made about building the wall in the Narthex. More information to come.

The next Council meeting will be January 9th at 6:00 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn by Paul and seconded by Tom, approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.