

## **St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting**

**Meeting:** January 09, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:02 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  
Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

**Guests:** Jeff Zdrale

Minutes from December 12, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve by Father John, seconded by Paul. Approved by all.

**Guest:** Jeff Zdrale

- a. Jeff asked about placing pictures of annual picnics, pictures of Bishops, etc. in Herrick Hall. Per Paul, there is a wall that has been designated to have pictures mounted after the wall has been painted.
- b. Jeff would like to be considered as a candidate for the position of Recording Secretary for the next term.

### **Reports/updates/old business:**

#### **1. Priest's report – Father John:**

- a. A standing desk was donated to Father John to use in his office. He is very appreciative.
- b. The Book Club is going well. People have approached Father on how much they enjoy the Book Club.
- c. St. Matthew parishioners served at the Homeless Shelter on December 26, which went very well.
- d. Next Sunday, January 14, there will be a speaker coming from House of Hope. On that day, we will also bless the waters at the park in De Pere.
- e. Last year we had a nice Lenten retreat and Father is thinking of inviting a speaker again this year. More to come.

**2. President's report – Paul Novak:**

- a. The Christmas trees were packed up yesterday and have been placed in the furnace room. The ornaments are upstairs in the storage room. Flowers were sorted and taken care of.
- b. There were many compliments on the holiday decorations.
- c. Compliments were made to Mark Massopust regarding the recent biannual newsletter that was sent out. The new format looks nice.
- d. AED:
  - 1. Paul completed the grant application for AED. The grants only cover part of the cost of the device.
  - 2. There were also questions regarding training which may involve the fire station personnel or the Red Cross
  - 3. Paul will send Parish Council members a copy of the AED information and the grant
- e. We continue to house furniture on the second floor for a neighbor. Father will contact her for an update on her plans.

**3. Vice presidents' report - Matt Tomac: absent**

**4. Treasurer – Tom Julian:** attached is the 2024 proposed budget.

- a. Actual income for 2023: \$193,107; Budgeted income: \$172,000
- b. Actual expenses for 2023: \$159,755; Budgeted amount: \$172,300
- c. Seminarian support: Pedro received the first of two payments - \$1,800. Donations have been received to cover the second \$1,800 payment.
  - 1. In 2023, the unspent money for the McClanahan family was given to Pedro and family (\$4,500)
  - 2. With \$3,600 for Pedro, the remaining \$1,000 can be split for expenses at the two chapels (Sister Bay and Waupaca)
- d. Tom noted that over 90% of Orthodox Churches are using fund raisers as sources for ongoing expenses.
- e. Tom commented on building expenses, ministry donations, Fall Festival profits
- f. \$30,000 in income budgeted for the iconography project:
  - 1. We have over \$30,000 now donated for iconography
  - 2. Without the \$30,000 in the budget, the actual figure would be \$171,500 which is a lower budget figure than in 2023
- g. Tom also gave an update regarding the Sister Bay Chapel including expenses. Possible request to the city for easement was discussed. There are no plans to move on this action currently. There was some window work and tree cutting performed at Transfiguration Chapel in Sister Bay, Wisconsin.
- h. As discussed at our meeting in March, insurance costs have gone up significantly. Therefore, this budget line was increased to \$9,000.
- i. It is noted that we spent more in flowers this past year. There were some donations.

- j. Motion was made to accept proposed budget for 2024 by Paul, seconded by Mark Massopust and accepted by all.

**New Business:**

a. On January 15, Melissa McNeil will paint the walls and window trim in Herrick Hall and will be reimbursed for materials purchased. Anyone is welcome to help.

b. On January 27, Chuck Bayerl and Gabriel Landergren will be building the wall in the Narthex. On the same day, Deacon Spyridon will repair the wooden beam in the ceiling in the Nave.

c. St. Matthew Annual meeting will be January 28<sup>th</sup> after Liturgy.

1. Last year's minutes are on the St. Matthew website. The minutes will also be sent via email attached to the Saturday emails from Paul for two consecutive Saturday's prior to the meeting.

2. the agenda will be the same as last year with reports from Father John, Paul Novak and Tom Julian.

3. Mark Massopust is willing to continue in the Corresponding Secretary role

d. Tom offered to donate a conference table with 6 chairs for the upstairs office. The table is about the same size as the current table. Will continue to discuss.

The next meeting will be the Annual Church meeting on January 28 after liturgy.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.