

Council Minutes
February 13, 2023

Attendance: Sherry Eherheimer (for Chip Davidson), Kaylee Price, Wes Wrucke, Sue Wolter (for Mary Ann Schwarz), Stephanie Estel, Matt Hesse, Shirley Kressin, Pastor Cook, Darren Doehrmann, Dave Walls, Shelby Schwartz

1. Welcome – Dave Walls at 6:30pm
2. Devotions – Pastor Cook
 - Psalm 32; reading of the close of day prayer.
3. Financial Report – Darren Doehrmann
 - For January, we budgeted a \$13.6k deficit and our actual deficit was \$14.4k, for a deficit of \$852 compared to budget. Year to date, we are budgeted at a \$2k deficit, and our actual surplus is \$41k, for a surplus of \$43k compared to budget.
 - Facility, Utilities, and Maintenance expenses will all be under “Departments” instead of split between “Church” and “School” categories.
4. Housing allowance adjustments for called workers – Darren Doehrmann
 - Darren motioned to summarize the adjustments and for council to approve; seconded by Stephanie. Details:
 - i. 3 individuals request changes to housing allowances. Reviews done in January and July.
 - ii. There is no change to the actual payment to employees; this adjustment is for the employees’ tax purposes. IRS requires organization’s governing body approve changes.
 - Motion carried unanimously
5. Religious Post-Secondary Grants – Darren Doehrmann
 - 3 written requests by congregation members who are studying to be called workers in the LCMS. Our Savior has the Rulman/Lose Endowment Fund and Lutheran Church Extension Fund for this purpose.
 - Working draft introduced; **council member to read and take into consideration**. Key points are in red, and can change. **Council members to Email Darren with comments**.
 - Darren will continue to research and bring a proposed policy to council’s next meeting.
 - Policy could be in place in advance of the upcoming school year. May 1st deadline (within current draft) likely to be waived this year, and retroactive applications will be taken into consideration. Note - 3 applicants had requested consideration before the school year began.
6. Call Committee Update – Stephanie Estel
 - 3 strong candidates interviewed for Principal. Will have a recommendation for the 26th assembly. Next week interview process for teachers.
7. Cooling Tower Update – Matt Hesse
 - On-track - to be delivered on the 20th to Alpha Mechanical.
 - Credit application was approved.
 - First week of April for expected installation.
8. Women’s Bathroom – Sue Wolter
 - Women’s Ministry are inquiring on women’s bathroom remodel, and would like to get started on this as donations are already being made. The bed in the bathroom is no longer needed as sick preschool children go to the school office; could create small restroom there.

9. Lenten Meals – Dave Walls
 - Feb 22, Ash Wednesday – Council (Soup, Salad, Sandwiches)
 - i. Soup: Emily, Stephanie, Shirley, Darren
 - ii. Salad: Kaylee
 - iii. Dessert: Dave, Matt
 - iv. Crackers & salad dressing: Sherry
 - v. Drinks: Wes (four 2-liters)
 - March 1 - Luther's Bible Study
 - March 8 - Elders
 - March 15 – Young Families
 - March 22 – School Board
 - March 29 – Christian Relations & Parish Ed
10. Voters' Constitution Approval Meeting – Dave Walls
 - February 26th - need 50 people for quorum
11. Lenten concert – Sherry Eherheimer
 - Valley Lutheran High School (Saginaw, MI) presenting a Lenten worship concert Thursday, March 16th at 7:00pm at Our Savior.
 - Requires support from the church in providing an evening meal at 5pm, and a brown bag lunch the next day. No housing required. 82 students and chaperones.
12. Council Reports by Board Chairs – Dave Walls/Pastor Cook
 - Not required via the by-laws yet but could be helpful to start getting used to doing this.
 - If new by-laws are approved, monthly minutes are to be available through the office; bring items that are cross-departmental to council.
13. The Lord's Prayer – Pastor Cook at 7:32pm