

heart of the prairie COMMUNITY SURVEY

H.A. H.A.G.G SCHOOL BUILDING

In 2015, the Clarkfield’s Economic Development Authority along with City of Clarkfield, rallied help from Yellow Medicine County to expedite the tax forfeiture process in order to begin the process of saving the old school building that resides in Clarkfield, MN. The theme of a recent public meeting held for the old school building was “fiscal responsibility”. It is important to update the community on historical events leading up to the situation that our community is currently in. At a joint EDA-Council meeting on May 15, 2012, discussion took place on the old school regarding YME wanting to rent the space for 3 years at \$15,000 per year from the new owner of the building. There was no decision made on the school at that meeting as a local individual named Bernie Fry was interested in purchasing the building. Discussions took place regarding the charter school moving into the old school building, but with no commitment, Fry stepped away from the purchase. At the June 5, 2012 council meeting, discussion took place regarding the City purchasing the building that currently houses the charter school and there was a motion which passed to not purchase the building for at least 3 years. At the same meeting, a motion failed lacking a second to allow the City Administrator to work with all entities involved to determine if there could be a deal completed by the deadline for the school. Yellow Medicine East School District ending up selling the building to an individual named George Duncan for \$6,100. He at that point put an additional \$10,000 to improve the heating system in the west end of the building and leased the gym and locker rooms to YME for \$15,000 per year. George Duncan put the building for auction on E-Bay and sold the building for \$70,411 and the fate of the old school building was soon revealed. There were no any public meetings or discussions on the future of the school with the community. There was a lot of potential for building to offer future housing options, along with business opportunities for the community as well as future education and child care needs. We could have kept business and investments local. We are now looking at spending more than \$6,100 to find a solution for the building. Some sections of the building are beyond repair and need to be torn down, though other sections of the building are in good shape and could be saved. Regardless of the solution that is chosen, it will be an expense to the City. At the November 7, 2017 council meeting, the city officials motioned to approve turning on electricity in the west gym section of the school building to save it. This decision does not come lightly as the County and City have spent two years of resources focusing the tax forfeiture process and finding a solution for the best use of the building. After two public meetings and hearing from the community, the City decided that saving a portion of the school is a priority and is moving forward with the planning and implementation of a community space within the west gym section of the building. The last public meeting held on Tuesday, November 14th was to inform the community on the plan of the west gym section and to see if there was interest in saving more of the school. After some heated discussion of whether the City should be involved, the decision was to send a community survey. The expense is only going to get larger the longer we wait to do something. This has been the first opportunity since 2012 for the City to take the fate of the building into their own hands. The City is working closely with the County to find funds for the demolition and we foresee the expense of rehabilitation of the west gym be donation based. We are looking at how other communities have managed to save their community school building. There are other communities like Milan and Appleton that have banded together for a solution for their school building and I believe Clarkfield can do the same!

Please provide your thoughts.

Please fill out the survey below and return to the City Administration Office by Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

- I support the City Council’s decision to save the West Gym, Locker Rooms and Wrestling Room and would support saving more of the school for future use and development.
- I **DO NOT** support the City’s involvement in the old school building and would rather leave the building stand for another 20 years.
- Other thoughts: _____

CITY OF CLARKFIELD

812 10th Avenue | Clarkfield, MN 56223

Phone: (320) 669-4435

Fax: (320) 669-4815

info@clarkfield.org

www.CLARKFIELD.org

In Case of Emergency: 9-1-1



Ambulance Office (Non Emergency)

(320) 669-1674

Police Office (Non Emergency)

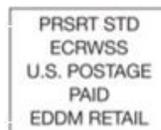
(320) 564-2130

Clarkfield Public Library

(320) 669-7651



City of Clarkfield
PO Box 278
Clarkfield, MN 56223



Local Postal Customer
Clarkfield, MN 56223