



heart of the prairie PRAIRIE POST

JANUARY 2018

TAX LEVY DECREASES

The City Council ended 2017 on a positive note and trimmed over \$20,500 from the budget as the 2018 general fund budget does balance. At the December 5, 2017 council meeting, the city council voted to decrease the proposed 2018 tax levy of \$443,396.98 to \$384,750.00; which is a decrease from the 2017 levy amount.

	History of Tax Levy	Increase by %
2011	\$308,785.00	
2012	\$318,766.00	3.13%
2013	\$326,480.00	2.36%
2014	\$346,068.00	5.66%
2015	\$365,041.75	5.20%
2016	\$372,342.58	1.96%
2017	\$388,870.00	4.25%
2018	\$384,750.00	-1.07%

CARE CENTER UPDATE

There has been a lot of rumors and misunderstandings with the City's stance on the Care Center. The City Council wants the best outcome for Clarkfield, as Clarkfield has to win. The Care Center is currently not for sale, nor was put on the market. A motion by former Mayor Lobdell was approved to do our do diligence and send out RFP's (request for proposals) for a management company for the Care Center. The City did not receive any proposals back for a management contract, but did receive interest of a change in ownership. The City Council explored this option with conversations and the interested party did tour the facility, but both parties did not see a change in ownership was the solution at this time. The Care Center had nearly \$600,000 in an escrow account designated for the bonds against the Care Center last January. The financial situation of the Care Center was a concern to the City Council as they needed to withdraw \$300,000 to operate in 2017. Between the money held at the City for the Care Center bond security and the amount left in the escrow account, the City Council voted and approved paying off the bond. This action by the City Council reduces the risk to the tax payers, as well as saves the Care Center over \$267,000 in interest payments along with freeing up about \$80,000 for cash flow for the Care Center annually. The City Council is still exploring options for the Care Center and will be implementing a "Senior Living" taskforce in 2018. This taskforce will focus on senior needs for Clarkfield with the goal to assess the senior living needs and make a recommendation to the council. We are in the beginning stages of implementation of the taskforce and are hoping to move forward with a market study.

CHANGE IN UTILITY RATES

The City of Clarkfield is committed to maintaining critical infrastructure and complying with all applicable rules and regulations to deliver safe, dependable, and efficient water and sewer services to our citizens. The City strives to maintain the affordability of these services. The City needs to increase rates for these utilities in the upcoming fiscal year. Rates are determined based on the proposed budgeted expenditures for both capital and operational expenses in a given fiscal year. The use of, or replenishment of financial reserves during a given fiscal year will also influence rates. For 2018, the water base will increase by \$1.25 and usage will increase by \$0.75. The sewer base will increase by \$1.00 and the usage by \$0.75. The City of Clarkfield also will bill for storm sewer at a rate of \$.75 per month.

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)

Police Office (Non Emergency)

Clarkfield Public Library

COUNCIL MEETING

1st & 3rd TUESDAYS of
each month at 7:00 PM.

City Hall Meeting Room

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Dale Stringer III

mayor@clarkfield.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dale Stringer Jr.

(320) 669-6857

Sue Fritz

council2@clarkfield.org

Jerry Kaupang

council3@clarkfield.org

Emily Bruflat

council4@clarkfield.org

CITY OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

FRIDAY

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Amanda Luepke

amluepke@clarkfield.org

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

THURSDAY

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM/
2:00 PM - 6:30 PM

FRIDAY

1:00 PM - 5:30 PM



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(320) 669-1674

(320) 564-2130

(320) 669-7651

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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

CITY WINTER WEATHER POLICY

Local Postal Customer



The City of Clarkfield City Office will follow the school district, Yellow Medicine East, winter weather policy on deciding to close the City Office. The school district notices will be broadcasted via radio and television. Please visit the City's website - www.clarkfield.org for more detailed information. Information about the City Office closing will be posted on the City of Clarkfield Facebook page. The decision to close the City Office, to start late or close early is difficult due to weather conditions that can vary considerably from town to town. For this reason, your cooperation and understanding is much appreciated.

CLARKFIELD MEETS THE CHALLENGE



In November, Thrivent made an offer to groups in southwestern Minnesota. If a group would collect 500 donated food items this month, stack them into a pyramid, and take a photo, their local food shelf would receive \$500.00. We challenged Clarkfield to rise to this offer. We had over 500 items by Thanksgiving, and on Nov. 24, we wrestled more than 500 cans, boxes, packages and bottles into a pyramid. We submitted the photo and have been guaranteed that we will receive \$500 for the Clarkfield Area Food Shelf. Items have continued to arrive, and we have now received nearly 700 items. Thank you Clarkfield citizens! You met the challenge and exceeded it!

H.A. HAGG UPDATE

The City-County H.A. Hagg Taskforce met to review the survey results and discuss next steps with the old school building. The taskforce will meet again in June 2018 in order to have a better idea of funding and where we stand with the legislative bill. There were 94 surveys returned with 39 in favor of not saving the building and 55 in favor of saving the building; of which 47 wanted to save more than the west gym.

CACS FUNDRAISER



THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018 • 6:30 PM
CHARTER SCHOOL GYM

Come shop the amazing fashions of multiple lularoe retailers along with the fantastic organization of thirty-one bags! A portion of every item sold will be donated to the parent/teacher group of CACS to help create special events of the students.

GET INVOLVED!

2018 brings new opportunity for community involvement and input. Please consider submitting an application to be a part of one of the many city committees, boards, and taskforces. There are positions available for the budget committee, parks committee, public works committee, library board, economic development authority, educational needs taskforce, and senior living taskforce. Please contact the city office at (320) 669-4435 for more information.

2018 BUDGET APPROVED

General Fund	\$770,436.00
Council	\$14,536.00
Financial Administration	\$232,445.00
General Government	\$183,650.00
Hwy, Street & Road/Public Works	\$267,700.00
Parks	\$14,105.00
Library	\$58,000.00
Public Enterprise	\$261,996.70
Water Fund	\$148,606.85
Sewer Fund	\$113,389.85
Total Budget	\$1,032,432.70

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