PINE TO PRAIRIE MUSEUM – Fosston, MN

The East Polk Heritage Center (EPHC) has held the vision of a museum building since 2005. In the fifteen years since the idea was conceptualized, the organization has accomplished the following:

- By 2014 raised over $106,000 through private donations.
- In 2017, invested $40,000 to complete architectural schematics (95% completed) for the 6,700 SF building that will:
  - Provide space for permanent and rotating historic and cultural exhibits
    - EPHC currently owns several large artifacts that are in storage due to lack of space.
    - Ability to host rotating exhibits from the Minnesota Historical Society and other traveling displays.
  - Room for educational programs, performances, classes
    - EPHC is grateful for the recent funding received from the MN Legacy Arts & Cultural Fund (through the MN State Arts Board and Northwest MN Arts Council) giving us the opportunity to bring artists to our community.
  - Public restrooms – these will replace the existing restroom facility owned and operated by the City of Fosston – the city will partner with EPHC to provide secure, up-to-date facilities that will serve museum visitors and the public.
  - Conference and research rooms
  - Archival storage
- Continue to build on our current $63,200 in cash and pledges.
- In February 2021, a three-year Strategic Plan was completed by the EPHC board and other volunteers. The new museum is one of five strategic focus areas that also include membership, volunteers, marketing, and outreach.

The East Polk Heritage Center Board of Directors supports the successful implementation of its strategic plan and will be actively engaged in fundraising, membership development and strategic partnerships that bring resources into the organization. A successful future for the museum is dependent on the board's efforts in assuring organizational viability and sustainability. The Pine to Prairie Museum will serve as a cultural asset not only to Fosston but surrounding communities and the northwest region of Minnesota as well.