



**Milford Township Hall
Former District 50 School
20837 U.S. Hwy. 14, New Ulm, MN
Brown County, Minnesota**

Relocation and Renovation Project

Historical Significance of Milford Township Country School (See Attached "A" and "B")

The Milford Township Country School educated our community's youth from 1912 to 1971... 59 years of education! For our German immigrant farm community, this school embodied the hopes of parents for their children's full participation in the American dream.

This school not only served an educational purpose, it also provided the glue which held the community together. Lifelong friendships were formed between classmates. Parents as well bonded through daily encounters while delivering their youngsters. Friendships were also formed through school board meetings, Christmas programs, end of year picnics and graduations. Even chores such as school cleanings brought neighbors together.

Despite the school closure, the building continued to bring the community together... as the Milford Town Hall. Here the township citizens participated in the most basic grassroots form of democracy, and the building served as a site for township meetings and electoral voting.

During its years as a town hall, the building also provided a convenient location for youth to gather at Milford Arrowhead 4-H meetings and social events.

The building itself has most of its original charming characteristics: Wood-trimmed blackboards, library shelves and cupboards, tin ceiling, wooden floors and woodwork. The building looks very much as it did back in 1912.

1. Description of the Milford Town Hall project, including purpose and objectives.

Recent Problems and Challenges (See Attached "C" and "D")

In recent years, the Milford Town Hall has not been used as a voting/polling location, due to lack of handicap accessibility. The present location also lacks sewer and water, making it difficult to sponsor community events. In addition, its location in the midst of high-traffic curves on US Hwy 14, make entrance and exit potentially dangerous.

Purpose and Objectives (see Attached "E")

In August 2012, the citizens of Milford Township voted to move the Town Hall into the nearby small unincorporated village of Essig (located two miles to the west, also in Milford Township). There are a number of reasons for the move:

1. The Town Hall will have ready access to Essig sewer and water.
2. The Town Hall will be adjacent to a community baseball field, which draws players and spectators from all over Minnesota and neighboring states.
3. The Town Hall will be located on a safe local road.
4. Essig needs a community center for social events and business meetings.
5. Essig needs an emergency shelter, especially for summer baseball events.
6. In addition to moving the town hall, it will also be renovated for handicap accessibility to better serve all citizens and restore the hall to a voting/polling location.
7. A small kitchenette will be constructed to accommodate social events.

In October 2012, Milford Township was awarded a grant from the Minnesota State Historical Society to hire a historical architect-preservationist. Since that time, the township has been working with the preservationist to determine the Town Hall building's eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. At Milford Township's Annual Meeting on March 11, 2014, the preservationist indicated he would recommend the Town Hall's inclusion on the National Register. This confirms the township's local pride in the historical significance of the building, which is one of the few remaining country schoolhouses in our area available for use by the general public.

While inclusion on the National Register would create opportunities to acquire Legacy Grant Funds, it would also prohibit moving the Town Hall building into Essig. We would essentially have a renovated building on the National Register, but with limited utility as an Essig Community Center and emergency shelter. The highway access safety concerns would not be addressed. Furthermore, with the Town Hall's location within yards of Highway 14 and the railroad, any future expansion of Highway 14 would ultimately jeopardize the Town Hall site.

Local Support

The Milford Town Board has shown its support in this relocation and renovation process. Township Supervisor Frederick Juni is committee chair of the project.

Charlie Guggisberg has volunteered to oversee the renovation. Mr. Guggisberg is a life-long Milford resident, former Milford Township supervisor and former Brown County Board Commissioner. He is also a skilled carpenter, having been self-employed in the carpentry business for decades.

Deborah Dove is assisting in grant applications and bookkeeping duties. Ms. Dove and Lisa Besemer have researched the unique history of Milford Town Hall and attended a national conference on country school preservations. They have spearheaded a local group of concerned citizens who are interested in preserving Milford Town Hall.

For restored use as a voting location, the Town Hall would serve approximately 1,300 citizens of Milford and Sigel townships. As a community center, it is anticipated that numerous people would utilize the facility for meetings, family gatherings, and graduation and anniversary parties. Due to the Essig baseball and softball fields' extensive use in local, state and regional tournaments, the Town Hall's basement would be used by players and fans as needed for emergency storm shelter.

Bonding Bill Request

Milford Township sees renovation of the Town Hall and its relocation to Essig as the most viable and efficient use of funds. Given the size and scope of this preservation effort, funds totaling \$100,000 are needed to save this historic country school/town hall and restore its utility. A local levy of this magnitude is not feasible. As a small rural community with limited resources, we respectfully request assistance in this endeavor.

2. Project expenses and sources of funds.

Expenses

The projected moving, handicap-access renovation and emergency shelter expenses are:

- Move building \$ 20,000
- New basement 20,000
- Electrical 10,000
- Plumbing 10,000
- Furnace, A/C, Water Heater 15,000
- Carpentry 10,000
- Brick porch restoration 20,000 (Original brick porch cannot be physically moved with the building)
- Energy efficient windows & doors 20,000
- Sewer and water hook up 2,500
- Kitchenette appliances 5,000
- Era-appropriate lighting fixtures 1,000
- Restore wooden floors 5,000
- Landscaping, painting, general repairs 5,000
- Sidewalks 2,000
- Outdoor flag pole and lighting 2,000
- Historic Preservation Consultation 2,500
- Former site clean-up 1,000
- Preservation of original school drama curtain 15,000 (has unique local advertising and landscape painting)

○ **TOTAL EXPENSES = \$ 166,000**
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Revenue Sources

- Grants
 - Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation Grant \$10,000
 - New Ulm Area Foundation Grant 3,000
 - Minnesota State Historical Society Grant 2,500
 - *Grants Received* 15,500
 - Township Capital Account 13,000
 - Sale of present land site 12,000
 - Future Local Fundraising Efforts 25,500
 - Local & Grant Revenue Sources 66,000
 - ***Requested Minnesota State Bonding Bill Funds*** **100,000**
- **TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES = \$ 166,000**
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Continued funding for maintenance and upkeep will be generated from annual Milford Township levies.

Milford Township is a government entity.

State tax number: 3107347; Federal tax number: 41-1277357

A complete list of the organization's governing board members, including their mailing addresses.

Position	Name	Address	City	Zipcode
CHAIRMAN	Leon Haubrich	17661 US Highway 14	New Ulm	56073-4154
SUPERVISOR	Michael Dove	24279 County Road 11	New Ulm	56073-4029
SUPERVISOR	Frederick Juni	28246 215th Ave	New Ulm	56073-4118
CLERK	Thomas Giefer	27332 187th Ave	New Ulm	56073-4071
TREASURER	Verne Radloff	25283 County Road 11	New Ulm	56073-4208

EXHIBIT "A"



EXHIBIT "B"
Original 1912 Woodwork, Tin Ceiling, Wooden Floors



EXHIBIT "C"



**Original 1912 School Library
(used as voting booths 1970s-1990s)**



**Original 1912 Toilet Facilities
(not functional; not handicap accessible)**

In recent years, the Milford Town Hall has not been used as a voting/polling location, due to lack of handicap accessibility.

The present location also lacks sewer and water, making it difficult to sponsor community events.

EXHIBIT "D"



The Hall's location in the midst of high-traffic curves on US Hwy 14, make entrance and exit potentially dangerous.

EXHIBIT "E"

YAHOO!



Proposed re-location of the Milford Town Hall into the nearby small unincorporated village of Essig (located two miles to the west, also in Milford Township).



Proposed relocation site