



PFEED Members,

In May of 2021, the Community Development Department was contacted by a concerned citizen regarding the condition of the property located at 632 5th Ave SW, Oelwein, IA. The concerns were the sanitary conditions of the home and the condition of the structure.

The Community Development Department responded to the complaint and verified both items of concern.

The Community Development Department did not enter the home due to unsanitary conditions but was granted permission by the owner to enter the basement. After inspection of the basement, it was brought to the owner's attention by the Building Official, the home would be placarded as an unsafe structure due to the structural and sanitary conditions.

Ellen Sue Rodgers bought this house from Mebyer Corporation on contract. Ellen and her family were moving back to Missouri, forfeiting on the contract with Mebyer Corporation.

The building official sent an unsafe structure document to Mebyer corporation stating it was in the Building Official's opinion that the structure be demolished by July 19, 2021. A forwarding address was not provided to the Community Development Department for Ellen Sue Rodgers; therefore, the document was not sent to her.

The demolition deadline of July 19, 2021 was not met. In an attempt to find Ellen through Beacon, the Community Development Department discovered that the property was quit claim deeded to her on May 28, 2021.

The Community Development Department was notified that Ellen moved back to the area and was able to contact her. She was notified that the property was quit claim deeded to her and she was now the legal owner of the property and had full responsibility for all abatements and violations against the property.

Ellen was sent another abatement document requiring the property to be secured as to not create an attractive nuisance and a public safety hazard. Doors are open, windows have been shot out, the structure harbors vermin and is in such unsanitary condition on the interior, the odor can be detected from the exterior of the home. Ellen has been cited to court for non-compliance.

Ellen has since sent an email to the Building Official stating that she would like to give the property to the City of Oelwein.

City of Oelwein Community Development Department

20 2nd Ave SW Oelwein, Iowa 50662

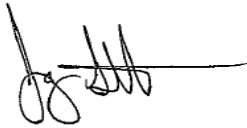
319-283-5862

As the Building Official it is my recommendation that the City of Oelwein accept the property located at 632 5th Ave SW, Oelwein, IA. Ellen does not have the financial means to demolish the home and maintain the property.

If the city does not accept the property, the cost of demolition would fall upon the city through legal action, along with the city maintaining the property, i.e., lawn mowing, snow removal. These items would be special assessments or liens against the property, making it unaffordable to future buyers.

Ellen has not currently met the requirements for the Oelwein Property Forfeiture Policy. If the City of Oelwein PFEED members make a recommendation to accept the home, please keep in mind that it should be contingent on Ellen meeting all requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Shekleton", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jay Shekleton

Building Official/Zoning Administrator

City of Oelwein Community Development Department

20 2nd Ave SW Oelwein, Iowa 50662

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