

## **Courthouse Renovation Project**

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, the Swift County Board of Commissioners approved moving forward with renovating the Swift County courthouse. Our courthouse is a historic building; therefore, our goal is to preserve the beauty of the building for years to come, and yet maintain its functionality and safety for our residents and employees.

The majority of the \$3.6 million project will address deferred maintenance; specifically the HVAC system, fire suppression, windows, and exterior maintenance. The third floor, used by Courts, will have extensive improvements to security, accessibility, and functionality. The main floor of the courthouse will see further improvements to streamlining taxpayer service departments.

We have been invited to submit a full grant application to the Minnesota State Historical Society for replacing all of the windows in the courthouse. If we are not awarded the grant, the windows will be repaired not replaced.

Currently we are looking at various options of emptying the courthouse during the renovation process and housing staff elsewhere in Swift County versus staying in the courthouse during the renovation. There are pros and cons each way. The County Board will make the final decision at their March 7th meeting.

The architects, Wold, are in the process of finalizing the scope of work. This will allow the project to go out for competitive bids. Once the bids are selected, bonds will be sold and construction will begin. Construction is projected to be completed as early as January, 2018.