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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Sandi Christman, Mayor

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Notification of New Grant Funding

We have some very good news here at City Hall and we wanted to share it with you. The City of Kewaunee has been notified from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation that we were funded for our proposal for a Site Assessment Grant which will provide Environmental Investigation and Site Clearance of the former Marquette School building. The grant totals one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) and will be added to the five hundred thousand dollars \$500,000.00 the City has received in Community Development Block Grant funding to assist with taking down the old school. The city will also be allowed to use approximately one hundred and fifty thousand dollars \$150,000.00 of in-kind match from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. This latest grant award will allow the City to save significant tax funds while cleaning-up property.

The City has received bids for the demolition of the Marquette School. Overall, the bids came in close our estimate of \$1.1 million dollars for demolishing the old building. That is also very good news as there was a concern that the cost had increased due to the deterioration of the building that had taken place in the two years since the estimate was developed. Our engineering consultants are currently vetting the low bidders and will make their recommendation to the City Council when they hold a special meeting on May 7th at 6:00 p.m. to award the contract for demolition and pass a resolution to take ownership of the building.

Finally, the process of taking ownership is a great example of inter-governmental cooperation between the City and Kewaunee County. It is planned to have Kewaunee County take possession of the Marquette School property on delinquent tax foreclosure. Kewaunee County will then sell the property to the City for one dollar \$1.00, forgiving the owed back taxes. The City is grateful to Kewaunee County for their patience and efforts to make this project a reality.

These awards represent over \$900,000 in City services that are being off-set with state and federal funds, rather than local tax dollars. Congratulations to all of you for your efforts at making this funding happen!

Please feel free to call 920-388-500 with any questions.