



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

TO: John Szerlag, Acting City Manager

FROM: John Lamerato, Assistant City Manager/ Finance and Administration
Cathy Russ, Library Director
Loraine Campbell, Museum Manager

DATE: June 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Donation of Historic Barn by George V. Spencer and George W. Spencer

Background:

- The acquisition and relocation of a historic barn to the Troy Museum & Historic Village has been a long range goal of the Museum staff and the Troy Historical Society. A barn embodies Troy's rich agricultural heritage and provides exhibit space for the Museum's collection of farm equipment.
- The Troy Historical Society with assistance from members of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network and other regional museums compiled a list of ten (10) structures that were visited by the Heritage Campaign Committee, Museum Manager and architects from Hopkins Burns Design Studio and their structural engineer.
- An 1859 dairy barn located in Wixom Michigan and owned by George V. Spencer and his son, George W. Spencer (Spencers), meets the Museum management's age, style, and condition criteria. The owners are pleased and excited to donate to the City of Troy the building, granite foundation materials, milk stanchions and adjacent clay-tiled silo.
- Attached is a proposed gift agreement that has been signed and approved by the owners. Under the terms of the agreement Spencers will convey the barn and additional fixtures to the City of Troy with a bill of sale, which will be held in escrow and delivered when and if the barn is relocated to the Troy Museum & Historic Village. If the Historical Society Heritage Campaign is unsuccessful in raising the necessary funds within a three-year period, then the City could enter into a subsequent agreement providing additional time to obtain necessary funding for the relocation of the barn. If the funding is insufficient, and the parties are unable to reach a subsequent agreement, then the historic barn reverts back to the Spencers, and the City has no further obligation.

- The preliminary site plan for the expanded Troy Museum incorporates the historic barn and silo in a new visitors center.

Financial Considerations:

- The City has \$140,000 designated for the barn relocation and the Troy Historical Society has a \$25,000 donation designated for the relocation of a barn. The Troy Historical Society is committed to raising additional funds required to relocate and restore the structure and fixtures.

Legal Considerations:

- The City Attorney and attorneys for the Troy Historical Society and the owners have reviewed and approved the attached gift agreement.

Policy Considerations:

- Completion of the Troy Museum as an outstanding cultural destination adds value to properties through upgrades to quality of life venues (Outcome Statement II)

Options:

- City management and the Library/Museum Department recommend that the gift agreement by and between George V. Spencer and George W. Spencer and the City of Troy for the donation of a Historic Barn and fixtures is approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute the agreement.

Reviewed and approved:

Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney

[\[LC/ Historic Barn Gift Agreement\]](#)