

# Residents tell their vision for IBSSS

by **Jim Morrison**  
News Editor

VINTON – For three hours Wednesday night, citizens considered options and made suggestions for possible future uses of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.

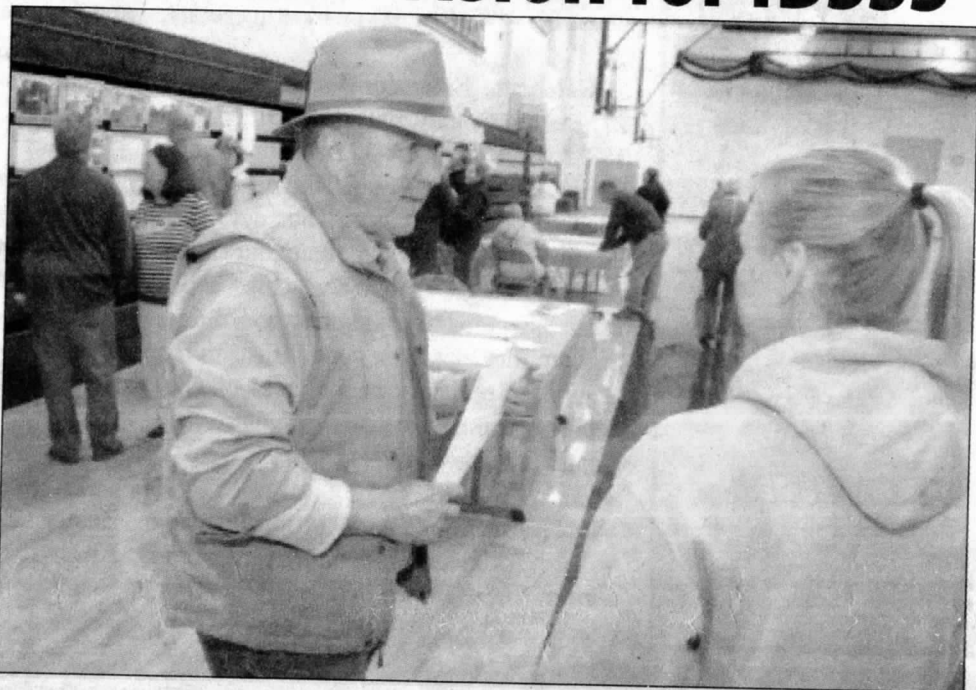
Six stations were positioned around the Vinton-Shellsburg High School gymnasium so information could be given and suggestions accepted. The event was called the Community Idea and Input Expo.

“The goal was to get public input on what people thought the potential might be if the community would decide to take on the property,” said Drew Conrad, University of Northern Iowa’s Institute for Decision Making (IDM) director.

“The steering committee and the city wanted public input.”

**Vision**

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Above, Vinton Mayor John Watson speaks with a citizen about ideas for future uses of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. Left, Tami Stark, a Vinton City Council member who serves on the Visioning Committee talks with Ken Struve about some of the options considered. Photos by Jim Morrison

# Vision: More than 125 share views

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IDM is an economic outreach program which was requested to assist the community.

James Hoelscher, also of IDM, said after reviewing some suggestions left by people that many seem supportive of ideas the Visioning Committee has suggested.

"Some of them are looking at multiple uses," said Hoelscher. "They are seeing it is going to probably take two or three or four of these to make one overall initiative."

Among the ideas suggested by the Visioning committee were hous-

ing, government services complex, indoor and outdoor recreation, making it a tourism destination, an

arts and culture center, education, business and entrepreneurship.