

Dickinson County Newsletter #31

January 16, 2007



New Courthouse Construction Update:

Court house schedule:

Tower construction completion:	6/29/07
Exterior Site Work completion:	9/7/07
Owner Move-in Phase 2:	9/4/07 through 9/17/07
Phase 3 scheduled for 45 days	9/11/07 through 11/12/07
Project completion	11/12/07
Grand opening/open house	Considering spring 2008

Phase 2 new furniture is partially stored in the Courthouse basement, the remaining will be scheduled to be delivered prior to 9/4/07.

Major current issues in the new courthouse:

1. Chiller – noise created when the chiller is running – still considering options
2. Electrical – Hallway lights – vendor is replacing parts on all of them.
3. Doors and locks – the hardware on the electrified doors may have bad sensors - manufacture has been notified and will replace the hardware.
4. Plumbing - there have been 6 sewer backups since the move-in. The last one on 1-2-07 was probably caused by construction debris being poured down a sink but no proof available.
5. Roof guards – The manufacturer will not provide a warranty on the snow guards that were ordered and have arrived. Only the same brand snow guards can be installed and those cost six times the ones specked for phase 2 and recently ordered for phase 1. The snow guards also should not be retro-fitted in freezing weather but instead should be installed when the shingles are more pliable, leaving the County with the dilemma of what options are available.
6. Boiler faults – The vendor has taken the pressure value from boiler 2 and put it in boiler 1. They are trying to see if the problem moves with the valve to boiler 1.
7. Jail booking room floor – Poor workmanship – still unresolved

Change orders: To date 43 change orders have been approved equaling approximately \$678,292 – current change order estimate at completion with known phase II changes is \$829,556. The budget was \$680,000.

Electronic Doors: Anytime an electronic door is held open 15 seconds it sounds an alarm in the Com Center. Try to remember this and not hold the doors open while carrying on a conversation.

Time Capsule: Each Department can start preparing items for the time capsule. Each office will be allowed a legal size envelope, no thicker than ½ inch. You should shy away from anything electronic like videos, computer disks, etc. The equipment to play those types of media may not be available in 100 years.

Parking during construction: Parking is going to be an issue during the spring and summer of Phase 2 construction. The south city parking lot has been sold to the Bank and will be the site of a new bank building. 19th Street is scheduled to be redone summer of 07 taking any 19th Street parking away. The Supervisors have hired a salvager to remove the Quonset hut and the Morton building just south of the Quonset. Those two buildings are to be removed by March 1, 2007. The plan is to use that area for parking until phase 2 construction is completed. Permanent plans for that area have not been determined.

IRS income tax result: It was reported late last November, that because of the delay in completing the new Courthouse, the County could be required to pay tax on the interest earned on the bond money. After consultation with the Ahlers' Firm out of Des Moines and further consultation with another firm, it was determined that the County will have to pay tax on the bond issued in January of 2003. The estimated figure is \$40,000 and will be taken out of the interest accumulated over the past three years. The tax will not be due until the project is completed which is still anticipated for November 2007.

BUDGET SCHEDULE is set: Budgets due to the Auditor January 15th; Budget reports to the Supervisors January 22nd; Supervisors meet with Depart Heads Jan. 23rd thru Feb. 2nd with changes to the Auditor by Feb. 2nd; New reports and first est. of levy Feb. 6th; budget completed by Feb 16th; Set a public hearing on Feb. 20th; Publish the budget Feb 28th; Public hearing and budget set on March 13, 2007.