



New Courthouse News:

Basement construction: Following the March 8th Supervisors' meeting Pam, Paul and Mardi took a tour of the New Courthouse construction with Bob Schlaeger. You can see by the picture to the left, the Press also attended the tour. The tour consisted of a walk across the first floor of the building and a peek into the basement. The Construction crew was busy in the basement pouring and smoothing out the cement floor. They expected to complete the basement floor that day.

Courthouse Brick: During the March 3rd construction meeting Wayne and Paul were advised that a special 3 X 5 ft sample panel

had been constructed showing how the planned brick would look on the courthouse exterior. The general contractor strongly suggested that the Board of Supervisor take a look now, not when actual brick laying begins. Rather than just looking at a few brick stacked dry, McHann thought it much better to actually see a sample wall that uses brick and mortar. The

specifications call for a blend of red brick in 3 different red tones. The contractor advised that if the Board wanted to make a slight tweaking of the blend mix, that might be possible. Soon after being awarded the contract, McHann locked in a kiln production date with the brick supplier so any dramatic change in brick colors would not be possible unless the Board is prepared to accept a delay of brick delivery until December. At the March 15th Board meeting, the BOS agreed that the brick colors were okay. McHann plans to build a larger sample panel to be placed by the construction fence so that the public can see what is planned.



Courthouse security system: What type of security is planned for the Dickinson County

Court House? The construction bid included a Duress Security System that utilizes transmitter devices. The transmitter buttons are wireless and are intended to be carried by the person they are issued to or are to be mounted to desks, benches, etc. Pressing the buttons on the transmitter will send a signal to a computer located in the 911 control room. The signal is triangulated so that the location of the person/transmitter is known (within the building) and security can be dispatched. RDG specified the transmitters in the construction bid as follows: 30 User, 10 Security, 4 Maintenance. The only thing that needs to be done is determine if additional transmitters are required. The contractor can provide pricing for the transmitters. In addition to the Duress system, the court house is equipped with a "card access" corridor system to the judges chambers, jury rooms and to clerk of courts area. Card access or locked doors are also planned for any office area opening into the main hallways on the first and second floor.

New Phone system: The phone RFP was distributed to the Board of Supervisors for their review at the March 1st board meeting. Since then, several changes have been made to the RFP. The system being proposed is a Voice Over IP system with integrated voicemail. The Courts have indicated that they do not want VoIP phones so the proposal requires both VoIP and analog phone sets and both regular POT lines and T-1s. The committee is expecting board approval on March 22nd. If everything follows the schedule, the notice to bidders will go in the newspaper on April 26th, receipt of bids on June 7th and the contract is to be awarded on June 21th. The estimate has increased to approximately \$160,000.

Dickinson County '06 budget was influenced by the following factors:

General fund levy increased from 3.03 to 3.23

Rural Services levy increased from 1.77301 to 1.86301

On-going expenses

53% increase in recycling costs

22% increase in tort liability costs

13 % increase in Workman's comp costs

25% overall budgeted increase in fuel costs (this may not be enough)

25% overall budgeted increase in utility costs

240% increase over 05 Budget for Juvenile detention costs

Accumulated payroll increases over 2003, 2004, 2005, & 2006 in the amount of \$680,000

One-time expenses

\$135,000 for required upgrade to the County's voting equipment

\$75,000 for required upgrade of the County's management software

\$159,301 in Drainage District 22 charges

The budget reflects the need to review and cut back on the County's non-mandated Mental Health services, it reflects a new calculation of partially self-funding the current health plan, it reflects negotiations of 3-year contracts with both unions, it reflects a fair increase in employee's pay, it reflects the need to upgrade the County's technology and ultimately it reflects an effort by each County department to reduce their original tax asking for fiscal year 2006. The County is once again budgeting more expenses than the revenues budgeted to come in. This could be the last year this can be done.

