

Jail Update

Construction set to begin shortly after bid opening

By AMY OBERLIN
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The construction manager on the jail project hopes construction can begin within two weeks.

Bids for the White County Jail project will be awarded at a special meeting of the White County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, July 11 at 9 a.m.

White County Board of Commissioners are accepting sealed bids until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9. Until that time, interested contractors can submit their price for one or more of 19 construction packages.

During Monday's regular meeting, the commissioners set the award date with construction manager Everett Bucy. They also signed the title of the building site on Hanawalt and Sixth Streets over to the Jail Building Corp. at the request of County Attorney John Goss.

The Jail Building Corp. will hold the title to the jail until the bonds are paid off by the county. The trustees in the holding company make sure the bond money is used appropriately.

Commission President Charles Altman asked what would happen if the county finds it needs to borrow \$5.6 or \$6.1 million after bids are tabulated.

"It's an enormous problem if

it comes in over," said Goss. Bidding would have to be redone, or the construction package would have to be totally altered.

The total project cost was estimated at \$5,826,184 by Bucy. White County Council promised \$2 million for the project, so not as much would have to be borrowed.

The opening date was moved back from June 25 to July 9. Bucy, construction manager clarified that the scheduling change was not due to permit problems.

He said the contractors needed more time to review plans for the jail and put together their proposals.

"I was pushing them too hard," Bucy admitted.

After bids are opened next Tuesday, Bucy will announce the apparent low bidders. He will then add the bids and choose the lowest combination for all 19 packages.

"We can tabulate these overnight," said Bucy. After the bids are awarded, contracts will be drawn up and a construction schedule will be explained.

"I have an on-site project manager that went on board this morning," said Bucy. Dean Roth, Monticello, works for Everett Bucy Building Service, Inc., and will help coordinate efforts on the job site.