Agreement is another step toward new administration building and renovation

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Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – Approval of an agreement by the Lake County Board of Commissioners Feb. 18 brings the county one step closer to the construction phase of the new Lake County Administration Center and Nolan Building Renovation Project.

The professional services agreement sub-part 1 with Burgess and Niple, Inc. is not to exceed $123,500.

"In 2013 the commissioners decided to start taking a look at our facilities in the county," said Lake County Administrator Jason Boyd. "It's no secret that the Lake County Jail, future public safety center, is someplace on the horizon. So, starting with that facility and looking at our other office spaces throughout greater Painesville, including Mr. (Jim) Gills' office (Lake County Engineer) on Blackbrook Road, we decided we needed to take a hard look at where we're going to be in the future from an office space standpoint."

In reviewing the office situation, the idea of leasing more space was considered, then discarded as economically unfeasible. It was then decided property would be purchased for constructing a new facility. The proximity of the current Painesville Area Senior Center to the current county administration building made it the logical choice.

The property was purchased in 2015 and the Senior Center was granted one year to allow for relocation. That year is up in May.

A request for qualifications (RFQ) was sent out in May 2015 and nine businesses responded. When the field was narrowed to four businesses with interviews and research, a second round of interviews was held.

Ultimately, Burgess & Niple was selected as project manager.

"We're excited to move forward on this today," Boyd said. "I can't stress the amount of due diligence the commissioners and the review team put into this process. This contract today will be the first step on providing the information needed to go toward full-fledged design ..."

The initial process will include a review of the Nolan Building's basic structure, an environmental study, zoning review, historic considerations and parking.

"As you know, Burgess & Niple has been involved in many design and public infrastructure (projects) in Lake County ..." said Mark Hutson, utilities infrastructure director for B & N. "So we're really excited to continue that relationship with the County ..."

Commissioner Dan Troy said the decision to choose among the final four firms was difficult. The fact that B & N has an office in Painesville and a wide array of experience with projects below ground as well as above were factors in its being selected.

Boyd noted they were anticipating completion of the construction and renovation in spring or summer of 2018.

Resolutions passed Feb. 18:

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

• Approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of $2,055,395.00 for Hardy Road, Oakwood Boulevard and Lake Road Waterline Replacement-Improvement Project 360W and Oakwood Boulevard Waterline Replacement-Improvement Project 374W and advertising for bids for same with a bid opening date of March 9.

The project involves replacing 6-inch and 8-inch ductile iron waterlines including associated valves, hydrants and 102 connections in the right-of-way.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• Appointing community members to the Lake County Workforce Development Board Youth Committee.

"This is just another piece of the transition between WI (Workforce Investment) and WIO (Workforce Initiative of Ohio)," said Bob Dawson, Income Maintenance Administrator. "I was in Columbus yesterday and I'm pleased to tell you there are still 15 local workforce areas that haven't even certified their boards so we're way ahead of this curve and I think it's a testament to how we do business here in Lake County and thank you for your support."

Those being appointed include:

Carol Darr: Non-WIO member with special interest/expertise in youth policy (out-of-school youth)

Sally DeLong: Non-WIO member with special interest in youth policy (employment and training)

Mindy Hughes: Foster youth advocate

Ronald Jaksic: Local public housing authorities

Gail Leonard-Stawiery: WIO member with special interest/ expertise in youth policy (vocational education)

Mark Rosborough: WIO member with experience relating to youth activities

Mike Stanic: Youth service agency (juvenile justice)

Lisa Sturgil: parent of eligible youth

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

• Approving payment of bills in the amount of $595,358.03.

• Approving purchase orders in the amount of $397,689.75.

NEW BUSINESS

• Troy stated the Joint Committee on Elections comprised of representatives from the Ohio Association of Elections Officials and County Commissioners Association of Ohio held a conference call concerning the replacement of voting machines around the state.

There was discussion about why the machines needed replacement—replacement parts were no longer being manufactured—and having the state share a greater part of the cost since the Constitution says "elections are the responsibility of the state," Troy said. Currently the counties bear the brunt of the cost.

Another point of discussion was whether counties should all have the same voting machines.

He asked people to encourage their state legislators to support the state accepting more financial responsibility for the purchase of voting equipment. He added some states pay all the costs for elections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

• The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel-employment.