



FRANKLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE
6/25/2020

During action at a special meeting on June 22, 2020, the Franklin County Board accepted the low bid of \$123,000 to complete the demolition of the Franklin County Courthouse.

Shafer Excavating, located in Pontoon Beach, IL, submitted the low bid from five that were submitted. The other bids included: Spirtas Wrecking Co., of St. Louis (\$146,060), Hayden Wrecking Co., of Washington Park, IL (\$203,465), McVicker Excavating Co., of Herrin, IL (\$347,525) and Sierra Bravo, of Sesser, IL (\$598,063).

According to the bid, Shafer is expected to have the work completed in eight days with a tentative start time in mid-July.

The bidding process for construction of the new 46,000-square-foot Franklin County Courthouse is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2020 and run through July 30, 2020 when the successful bidder is chosen. The month of August will be used to complete all contract negotiations on the construction and September 1, 2020 is the projected date when construction will begin. The new three-story courthouse, that will feature a main entrance on the west side and a sally-port on the south side of the building is expected to take approximately 14 months to complete.

Asbestos abatement is ongoing and rapidly coming to a close and expected to be completed by July 3, 2020.

Wellington Environmental, located in St. Louis, was awarded the low bid of \$213,140 to complete asbestos abatement at the 145-year-old courthouse, that has not been in use for the past five months. The budget for asbestos abatement and for demolition was set at \$350,000 so the combined bids of \$213,140 and \$123,000 puts the county under budget by approximately \$14,000 for the initial portion of the mammoth project.

County officials, including judges, elected officials, county employees and board members are continuing to meet with project managers, architects and engineers via teleconference twice monthly going over construction plans and other intricate details in preparation for construction of the three-story courthouse that is expected to be completed in late December 2021.

A parking lot on the property that formerly housed the Benton Evening News has been completed with striping and bumper blocks installed during the last week of April. The parking lot that has the capacity for 26 cars, is located immediately east of the Campbell Building and adjacent to the parking lot near Capitol Park.

The county is also in discussion regarding other potential properties that could be used for additional parking south of the Campbell Building and is also looking to secure temporary parking for the large number of construction workers that will be involved in construction of the new courthouse.

The county board is also in the process of securing furniture bids and also finalized the removal of the final items in the old courthouse including any antique items that will be saved and then incorporated into the new construction when it begins.

The next county board meeting is slated for Monday, July 6. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the county board has been meeting for the past 13 weeks via tele-conference but is expected to begin meeting in person in July. A meeting site will be announced at a later date.