

## ICC bids promise savings on upgrade work

Written by EMILIA TEASDALE  
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KINDERHOOK--The Ichabod Crane Board of Education held a special meeting last week to accept bids for a three construction projects that are part of the \$7-million capital improvement project voters approved last December.

“We are about \$300,000 under budget,” said Superintendent George Zini at the July 23 meeting, referring to the bids. The board awarded contracts for roofing construction, masonry restoration and track restoration for a total of \$494,805.

S. D. Carruthers Sons, Inc., from Argyle, will do the roofing work on the high school, which the capital improvement project architect Eric Tomosky from Bearsch Compeau Knudson said was “the most crucial” part of the project. That bid came in lower than the estimate of \$204,030. Western Building Restoration Company from Albany will do the masonry work, also at the high school. The price is \$187,000, also less than anticipated. Mr. Tomosky said the contractor had a “desire to win the job.”

The track restoration only had one bidder, Copeland Coating Inc. from Nassau. Mr. Tomosky said that there were only two companies in the state that restore tracks. Board member Bruce Naramore was concerned that accepting the one bid would look like the board is diverting from the norm of having more than one bid. When what he called “a six-figure project” was under consideration the district should seek another bidder, he said.

Mr. Tomosky responded that the price of \$103,775 was low.

“I don’t think it’s out of the ordinary to get a single bid,” said Mr. Zini, pointing out the specialty aspect of the project.

“Everything came in under budget as a total,” Mr. Tomosky said. He added that the money saved with the lower than anticipated construction costs for this phase of the project will help with the next phase, which will include upgrades to the high school gym and locker rooms.

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Any money left unspent after phase two will be used to cover the list of alternative projects that were cut from the original construction project, Mr. Zini said. The money has to be used for capital improvements and cannot be moved to the general fund.

The board approved moving \$400,000 from the general fund to the capital construction project at the same meeting. Mr. Zini explained that the \$400,000 was money that the district was awarded in a healthcare settlement and was scheduled to be moved to the capital fund account when the project was approved.

Only five members of the board attended the meeting, just enough for a quorum, and members present approved the resignation of bus dispatcher Diana Huyck. Mr. Zini said the district has some interim help in the Transportation Department and plans to advertise for the position soon.

The board also approved hiring Richard Phillips as the district's internal claims auditor.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 6 at 7 p.m. in the Middle School library.

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