

Jail Project

Commissioners sign 15-year agreement

By AMY OBERLIN
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White County Board of Commissioners are finalizing plans to get the construction of the new jail underway.

Commissioners signed a lease between the county and White County Jail Building Corp. Monday. The building corporation consists of five local taxpayers who have agreed to hold the lease for the county.

The 15-year lease calls for payments of \$600,000 a year to cover the \$5,780,000 in bonds to be used to fund construction. Once the lease is paid off, the county will officially own the jail.

Chuck Altman, commission president, recently received an application for the release of design from Schenkel-Schultz Engineering, Fort Wayne. The company drew blueprints and worked with local officials to create architectural plans for the new jail.

Once the release form is signed, Schenkel-Schultz no longer has any commitment to White County.

"We certainly don't want to send this back right away," said Altman.

The commissioners and others involved in the project will review Schenkel-Schultz' preparations carefully before releasing the company from the project. If details have been omitted from

the architectural plans, the county would be forced to pay extra engineering costs.

The commissioners approved a partial payment of \$49,000 to Schenkel-Schultz on Monday. The firm is charging \$357,500 for its services. Auditor Jane Barnes said about \$116,000 has already been paid.

Barnes began preparations on Monday to create a special fund to pay Schenkel-Schultz and construction manager Everett Bucy. Bucy receives \$13,000 a month, \$286,000 a year, for managing the building of the new jail.

White County Council voted to place up to \$300,000 in the special fund on April 15. The money is appropriated from the county's general fund.

The commissioners held payment on a \$125 check from Greg Vogel for appraisals on the Arthur Segal property on Sixth and Hanawalt Streets, the land to be purchased for the jail. A \$500 bill for appraisals has already been paid. The commissioners are waiting for an explanation of the debt before settling it.

Segal will receive \$135,000 for his 17.1 acres as soon as paperwork is finalized on the land purchase.

County attorney John Goss presented a sales disclosure form and closing statement on Monday. Barnes has been instructed to hold the check until Segal's attorney Don Blair submits a completed deed.