

Fremont school board approves new bids for work

LESLIE BIXLER - June 8, 2010

FREMONT -- The city school board approved contracts Monday night for new bids for electrical and HVAC work for the new middle school.

Bids were received May 20.

The HVAC work went to Warner Mechanical of Fremont for a total of \$2,988,400, while the electrical work went to Lake Erie Electric for a total bid of \$2,572,212.

Last month, the board voted to seek new bids after rescinding contracts for plumbing, HVAC and electrical work in accordance with a court order.

The contract for plumbing and HVAC work originally went to Warner.

Another bidder, Vaughn Industries LLC of Carey, had submitted a bid for the HVAC package and a combined bid for the HVAC and electrical work.

Vaughn Industries challenged the board's award of the HVAC contract to Warner Mechanical in a lawsuit in the Sandusky County Common Pleas Court on April 14.

In court, it was found that the combined HVAC and plumbing contract could not be awarded to Warner Mechanical because of an error in completing the bid form.

The new bid for the HVAC work is \$30,000 less than the original bid in March.

The new electrical bid is \$180,000 more than bids in March.

Board member Linda Hershey questioned Chris Moore, project manager for Touchstone CPM, on how the electrical increased that much.

"It's a pretty big screw-up," she said.

Moore explained the process of how the bid packet is scanned and sent to a legal counsel.

"In this case we didn't receive anything back indicating a problem with this," he said. Three out of six bidders in the re-bidding process still didn't fill out the form correctly, Moore said.

Superintendent Traci McCaudy said the bidding rules were clearly presented to bidders both times.

McCaudy said it's still possible for the board to get the alternates for the middle school.