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Silvis aldermen approve bids for new fire station

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By Seth Kabala, seth@sethkabala.com

SILVIS -- At a special meeting Tuesday, aldermen unanimously approved bids for construction work for a new fire station on 10th Street across from Lighthouse at Silvis. The ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for October 4 at noon.

The approved low-bidding contractors and respective work areas are:

Cornerstone Construction Group, \$276,000, concrete; Lower Construction, \$72,400, general trades; T.D. Kurtz Glass Co., \$16,246, glass and glazing; Allied Construction, \$74,128, drywall and acoustical; Hy-Brand Industrial Contractors, \$241,000, pre-engineered metal building; Mechanical Services, \$89,000, plumbing; J.L. Brady Co., \$109,506.00, HVAC; Rock River Electric, \$90,348, electrical; and Tri-State Automatic Fire Sprinkler, \$15,699, fire sprinkler system.

Prevailing wages will be paid as part of the bid package, Mayor Bill Fox said.

Two additional bids for masonry and flooring have yet to come back to the city and will be awarded at a later date, Mayor Fox said. These total approximately \$65,000.

Construction management firm Point Builders' fees and project costs total \$137,340. Finally, architectural fees of \$86,000 bring the total project cost to almost \$1.3 million, all of which will be paid with money from Tax Increment Financing District No. 1, Ald. Bob Fulton, 3rd Ward, said.

Also included in the \$1.3 million is about \$60,000 to construct a new park and restroom at Silvis Heights Park, which is located near Illini Hospital. The facility will boast the same rough-edged concrete block and metal roof construction as the fire station, Mayor Fox said, adding that he estimated the city saved \$10,000 by bidding the projects together.

The park will contain six picnic tables and have grilling areas, city clerk Jim Nelson said. The city will seek to coordinate with the garden club to hold the ground breaking simultaneously with the fire station.

"This is a monumental day," city administrator Jim Grafton said. "They've been waiting 23 years for a new fire station," he said, referring to when TIF #1 was first established and how long it has taken for it to build up enough funds to construct the new station.

After the meeting adjourned, council members were huddled over color swatches—shades of red and green were visible—giving input on what combination would look best for various exterior station materials.