

Vilas public property committee moves ahead with maintenance project bids

Circuit court construction nearly complete

By Kelly Holm

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Vilas County public property committee, on April 13, approved several maintenance projects to be forwarded to the finance and budget committee for final approval. These included engineering design for

three standby generators, which will be installed at the Boulder Junction garage, the courthouse, and the highway garage and forestry building.

The committee gave the green light to an engineering design proposal from The Samuels Group, which will cost a lump sum of \$44,900.

“Once it’s engineered, then we’ll put it out for bids for the generators and everything,” maintenance director Russ Szuta said.

He estimated that the generator project itself would cost around \$700,000, which would come out of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Jail hot water/boiler replacement

For the replacement of boilers in the county jail, the committee selected a bid from A to Z Plumbing & Heating for \$126,820. This would also be funded with ARPA monies.

“The thermal solu-

tion boiler is a non-condensing boiler that’s similar to what we have for heating, and knock on wood, I’ve had no issues with those in any way,” Szuta said. “We are also adding an alternate heat exchanger that will run off of the existing heating system ... if the domestic boilers in the jail do fail, at least we have redundancy on the other side to give them hot water ‘til the other boilers are repaired, which right

now we don’t have.”

Parking lot sealing

The committee chose a bid from Pitlik & Wick for a parking lot sealing project at the courthouse, which came in at \$20,847. Though Szuta said that the sum was over the budgeted amount for that line item in 2022, committee member Willy Otterpohl motioned successfully to approve the project for this year, as the cost would likely go up if it were moved to next year.

Circuit court construction

The committee’s vice chair, Art Kunde, said that construction for the county’s new circuit courtroom was nearly complete, with the final state inspection taking place at the end of April.

“(What’s left is) basically finishing up trims around doors and stuff like that, nothing major,” Kunde said.

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TREVOR GREENE/LAKELAND TIMES

GAS LINE UPGRADES ALONG HWY. 47

Employees from Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) and an outside utility construction company work to upgrade natural gas mains and service lines along State Highway 47 south, from Gehrke Road to Brunswick Road on Wednesday, April 13 in Minocqua. WPS is working to complete the project before the end of this month as part of a larger road reconstruction project by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation which will span from Kildeer Road in Lake Tomahawk to the Vilas County line.

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