

Two-dozen contracts OK'd for new Jefferson County highway facility

By Lydia Statz, Union staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 9:27 am

JEFFERSON — The new Jefferson County Highway Department facility is one step closer to breaking ground, as a committee accepted more than two-dozen separate contracts for the building's construction Monday.

The contracts, for everything from the project's asphalt work, fencing, landscaping, masonry and roofing to its fuel pumps and pre-cast concrete walls, will cost approximately \$13,470,5 09, slightly under budget at this point in the project.

Several items were removed from the project, saving the county money. Ultimately, the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors' Infrastructure Committee members opted to utilized a pre-fabricated roofing edging, eliminate an aesthetic wall panel, and downgraded to a lower performance model of ventilation fan, among a few other deductions.

All of the contracts approved Monday will have to be approved by the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors before becoming official.

In addition on Monday, the committee heard an update on the now-completed demolition of the old Countryside Home, which was torn down to make way for the new facility. Demolition and remediation of all environmental concerns at the site is now complete, and a groundbreaking for the highway shop tentatively is scheduled for April 16, although the beginning of construction will be mostly dependent on weather.

The \$15 million project, which has been in the works for several years, is scheduled to begin construction this spring and be completed by the end of this year.

The committee also heard a presentation on biomass energy from Supervisors Walt Christianson and Greg David, who were hoping to persuade the panels that steps could be taken at this point in the project to help convert it into a biomass-fueled building.

However, the committee members indicated they believed that it was not practical at this stage in the project development, and that a better approach might be to look at constructing two upcoming highway satellite shops, which are much smaller in size and require much less energy use, as biomass buildings.