

Day-care project to trim design

ORANGE CITY — Four bids came in to construct a new day-care facility in Orange City, and all four were well over the estimated \$1.25 million on the plans. Bids were opened on Friday afternoon, Sept. 21, and the Orange City Council held a special meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 25, to review the bids.

A & S Construction of Orange City submitted the low bid of the four, \$1,599,000 million. Bids ranged from that figure to \$1,695,64

Matt Barstad from the Spencer office of Cannon Moss Brygger and Associates of Sioux City was present to discuss the bids.

The council heard no comments, nor were there any written comments, in the public hearing prior to the adoption of plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the new facility for Orange City Day-care of Orange City.

The council delayed action on awarding the bid until a later date. The council has

30 days in which to consider the bids.

City administrator Duane Feekes said the project has access to a few funding streams beyond the ones planned to assist construction. A bank loan with equipment as collateral is possible. The building itself will be built with public funds and will not be able to be mortgaged. Feekes said the city has been contributing from \$15,000 to \$18,000 annually through its general fund to the day-care center, and that annual contribution could be continued to help the project.

Barstad said that there was not one individual portion of the project that came in substantially higher and that his firm is "looking at 15 to 20 moderate to small different things that we can do without sacrificing quality or code issues. We're working hand in hand with the engineer and contractor.

Gary Richardson, chairman of the Orange City Area Daycare, said his board is

"excited about the project and have been for more than a year." He said it was not uncommon for bids to come in higher than estimates. He said mechanical/electrical plans for the facility are being looked at closely. "If we can get anywhere close to 10 percent [overage] we'll be in the ball park.

"We're in the middle of a campaign drive," Richardson said. "We want to make the cash flow work."

Marty Guthmiller, Orange City Area Health System Chief Executive Officer, said the process of building a day-care center is already well under way. "We're going to make this happen, but we need quantifiable numbers."

The board is taking a look at the center's finances, Guthmiller said, after the recent \$115,200 state grant for pre-school programming was awarded to the MOC-Floyd Valley district. "The new grant will have a substantial impact on day-care plans," he said.