

# LMC launches Mendel Center improvements

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Lake Michigan College is following its management team's recommendation to proceed with a \$161,160 weatherization project at the Mendel Center.

Board members unanimously awarded bids Tuesday for the work to D.A. Dodd of Rolling Prairie, Ind. Dodd prevailed against the only other bidder, Andy Egan Co. of Grand Rapids, whose quote came in at \$190,758.

The goal is to address various climate control problems pinpointed dur-

ing a review of the Mendel Center's electrical, heating and cooling, and mechanical functions, said Anne Erdman, LMC's vice president of administrative services.

"It's a combination of issues we've uncovered," Erdman said. "As an example, the heating system in the kitchen is no longer functioning correctly — and so, we're putting in a new heating system."

For similar reasons, the project includes a switch from wet to dry fire extinguisher systems, "so that if something breaks, there's dry chemicals — rather than water, and flooding into electrical (systems)," Erdman said.

As a third example, Erdman cited a section of the Mendel Mainstage where the air comes down into the seats, "and it's cold for patrons — so there's going to be diffusers that cause that not to happen," she said.

Dodd's bids include seven projects that fall under the weatherization banner at Mendel, plus three more that LMC plans to parcel out over the next couple months, Erdman said.

"As an example, one of them is to overhaul the chiller — that's a normal maintenance function that we would do every 10 years," she said.

LMC will use its general

fund to pay for the project, which it hopes to wrap up by Dec. 19, according to Erdman's administrative report.

In other business, the board approved an 80-20 percentage split for its employees' health insurance, as state Public Act 152 requires.

Passed in 2011, the law requires municipal entities to decide between the 80-20 split, and hard cap — or fixed annual amount — and go on record with their choice. "

"We're recommending the least expensive (option), which is where staff and faculty pay 20 percent of the cost," Erdman told the board, before it voted.