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# LMC approves bid for winery center

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Lake Michigan College is getting ready to build a permanent home for its Wine and Culinary Education Center project.

LMC Board members unanimously awarded infrastructure bids for the center Tuesday night to Kalin Construction of Sodus for \$642,217.

LMC expects to make the new center into a major Midwest destination spot for the industry, President Emeritus/Acting CEO Bob Harrison said.

“This will cement our position as a key part of that tourism hospitality industry,” Harrison said after the meeting. “It’ll be

a primary feeder – not just for the wine industry, but also, culinary programs. We’ll be able to support local entrepreneurs and restaurants, and we’re very excited about that.”

Kalin beat out the only other bidder, CPM Construction of St. Joseph, which quoted \$1 million for the work, which includes electricity, forced sanitary sewer mains, new water and sanitary sewer service, and expanding the existing stormwater detention basin.

The board agreed to expand the new center’s construction budget from \$1 million to \$1.25 million, which it did for two reasons, Harrison said.

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“This amount includes the design work. We changed the (project’s) scope bit to include culinary, so that’s why the price increased. And then, infrastructure costs have gone up, too,” he said.

The revised figure includes a 10 percent contingency fund for infrastructure work, a summary in Tuesday’s board packet stated.

ALDS Architecture and Design of Benton Harbor crafted the construction drawings and specifications.

The college is operating the center at a temporary space on the Mendel Center’s northeast corner until the project is complete, Harrison said.

The new center will go up at the corner of Yore and Empire avenues.

“The equipment that we bought for the temporary (site) will move over to the new winery, as well as the temporary culinary

as the temporary culinary kitchen,” he said.

Harrison declined to give a timetable for the surprised to see only two bidders because “the construction industry is really busy right now,” he said.

When asked why the spread between both bids, Harrison said, “This is a lot of earthmoving, digging ditches, and stuff like that. That probably better lines up with Kalin and what they do on a daily basis.”