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# LMC goes hi-def

College will upgrade video offerings

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP** — Keeping up with a digital world isn't cheap, but new high-definition video equipment will be in place by fall at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center.

LMC board members unanimously awarded the lone bid last week for the project to TPC Technologies Inc. for \$433,809. Board Chairman Mike Lindley and Trustees John Grover and Mary Jo To-

masini were absent.

The amount includes TPC's base bid of \$427,133 and \$6,676 in desired alternates.

The current analog system has served the college well, but is over 20 years old, said Kelli Hahn, vice president of financial services.

"You're dealing with the technology that existed 20 years ago, for which we can't get tech support and repairs (so easily) anymore," Hahn said.

For those reasons, LMC often has to rent high-definition equipment "in order

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to meet Mendel Center client expectations,” a board memo stated.

The memo further noted that, over the last decade, high-definition video systems have become the standard in classrooms and conference centers “due to the vast improvement in quality that comes with the higher resolution.”

Hahn said she expects the new equipment to be in place by mid-September, “just in time for our first Economic Club speaker,” she said.

LMC this year took over the series, which features an array of big names from finance, politics and show business.

LMC had been working on the video project since May, when it sent out a request for proposals.

Three companies responded, including Bluewater Technologies, TEL Systems and TPC, who all participated in the mandatory site visit and walk-through, the memo said.

However, TPC was the only company to respond, which isn’t unusual in these situations, LMC President Trevor Kubatzke said.

Asked why only one firm pursued the project, Kubatzke replied, “We’re seeing a number of construction projects – for instance, you’ve got a number of hotels going up along the highway (by I-94). People are busy right now, so it’s difficult to get a contractor.”

In another Mendel-related item, the board decided to seek a \$20,000

grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs to help cover the cost of putting on the musical “Cabaret,” which is scheduled for May 3, 2018. The show is part of the Mendel’s 26th annual performing arts series.

The series is intended to “make quality performing arts opportunities locally accessible in southwestern Michigan,” said Mendel Center Executive Director Mike Nadolski, in a memo to the board.

The college expects to cover its cash match from the show’s revenue, so no additional fundraising will be needed, Nadolski said.

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