

SHD Approves Energy Audit

Proposal to Look at Energy Saving Projects for Medical Facilities

By Dustin Wright
Sentinel Managing Editor

Following a brief presentation and months of negotiations, members of the Seminole Hospital District's Board of Directors unanimously approved of pursuing a directed energy study of the Semi-

nole Hospital District campuses and facilities through McKinstry.

McKinstry, according to company representatives in Monday's presentation and the company's website, is a full-service design, build, operate and maintain (DBOM) firm.

"This is something we have considered doing over the past several months and could be a way the (hospital) district could save some energy money in the long run," said Betsy Briscoe, Chief Executive Officer of the Seminole Hospital District in Monday's meeting.

Company officials, in their presentation to SHD board members, said they could save the district between \$44,000 and \$54,000 annual in energy savings through energy management control system upgrades, HVAC equipment improvements, lighting improvements, computer power management, water conservation measures, and other energy management practices.

According to company figures, the SHD could earn \$650,000 to \$800,000 for self-funding facility improvements over a 15 year period, through the proposed project.

"Those are savings you can put back toward the hospital district for various improvements or additional needs, which in turn would help better serve your patients," said Mike McDaniel, a representative with McKinstry during Monday's meeting.

With Monday's approval by the SHD Board of Directors, which included an approval for the district to join the The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS/TAPS), McKinstry will now conduct a full energy study evaluation of the hospital district and develop an energy savings proposal for SHD Directors to consider.

The study, which will include a complete walk-through of the SHD campuses and facilities, as well as a design and pricing period,



is anticipated to take 8-to-10 weeks to complete.

A preliminary Energy Cost Index conducted by the company as part of their proposal to SHD officials, showed the Memorial Hospital campus was operating at a cost of \$1.80 per sq ft, while the district's Assisted Living Center operated at a cost of just over \$1.20 per sq ft.

"For a hospital facility this size, and for this age, that's about where you should be without any energy

savings upgrades," said McDaniel. "However, with energy saving upgrades, we could cut that cost down considerably less per square foot than what you're paying now."

The Energy Cost Index showed the district's Home Health Offices operated at a cost of \$1.20 per sq ft, while the Seminole Family Medical Clinic (Dr. Michael Q. Watson's office building), was operating at a cost just under \$1.00 per sq ft. The SHD's records storage facility, in the

study, was operating at a cost of just over 80-cents per sq ft.

SHD officials, in Monday's meeting, stated they spent \$20,000 in electricity for the prior month for the Seminole Hospital District, an additional \$8,000 in water services.

"We could help cut those costs down considerably," said McDaniel.

In other action Monday eve-

ning, SHD officials approved of the exterior renovation to a medical building located in the 1000 block of Hobbs Hwy. In addition, SHD members also tabled a motion to consider the construction of a parking lot southeast of the newly constructed AeroCare hanger facility, on the southeast corner of the hospital district grounds.

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Lynn Brisendine.....Publisher
Dustin Wright.....Managing Editor
Christy Hawkins.....Office Manager
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Matters of Record

Seminole Police Dept.

Sept. 13 -- Seminole Police Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 400 block of S.W. Ave. E, in reference to a residential alarm. SPD officers found a broken window in the back of the residence. A report was taken and an investigation is underway.

Sept. 26 -- Seminole Police Officers were dispatched to the Seminole High School campus, in reference to a theft. A report was taken and an investigation is underway.

Sept. 28 -- Seminole Police Officers were dispatched to the 600 block of S.W. 10th St, in reference to a death report. SPD officers witnessed the destruction of medication and a report was taken for the incident.

Sept. 30 -- Seminole Police Officers recovered a stereo system from a business in the 1100 block of Hobbs Hwy., which had been abandoned.

Sept. 30 -- Seminole Police Officers conducted a traffic stop one mile north of Seminole, on U.S. 62/385, in reference to a traffic violation.

Upon further investigation, SPD officers found the driver of the vehicle to be intoxicated by an alcoholic beverage.

The driver, identified as Curtis Michell Miller, 51, of El Paso, was placed under arrest for a charge of driving while intoxicated, and transported to the Gaines County Law Enforcement Center, where he was booked for a charge of driving while intoxicated.



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