

# Board Accepts Juvenile Hall Plans

By Len Klemphauer

True to his promise in the morning session, Supervisor Robert Burton yesterday afternoon tried to block acceptance of final plans for the new juvenile hall until after the November 6 election.

But his efforts failed as Supervisors Hulda McLean, Lewis Nelson and Francis Silliman turned him back and later in the meeting voted together to accept the plans. Vince Locatelli went with Burton on both motions.

Burton said adoption of the plans shouldn't be considered until after the election.

He has been the primary factor behind getting a proposition on the ballot calling for voters to decide whether a new courthouse should receive construction priority over juvenile hall.

The board has voted equal priority.

After Burton's motion was seconded by Locatelli, Board Chairman Silliman reiterated his morning statement that the "political merits of the pending election" shouldn't be considered.

"There is a contract with Mr. Wong (Warren Wong, architect for juvenile hall) and if the plans are basically acceptable, they should be accepted," Silliman explained.

Locatelli argued that the architect shouldn't be finally paid until after the contract for building juvenile hall is awarded.

But Silliman said architects were paid in every previous instance when final plans were accepted for other county building programs.

Burton then said juvenile hall plans shouldn't be accepted until courthouse plans are ready.

"You people (Silliman, Nelson and Mrs. McLean) voted on equal priority (of the courthouse and juvenile hall)," Burton said, indicating each step toward eventual completion of the two buildings should be done simultaneously.

Burton then said he had some "important" changes to make on Wong's plans.

Burton said Wong didn't know how to figure out the square footage of the building.

"I get \$33.24 per square foot for the security area; the architect says \$22," Burton stated.

Wong went over cost estimates and the plans, stating it would be approximately \$26 per square foot. The architect explained his original \$22 figure did not include site preparation, fixtures, and furniture costs.

Burton then said there would be no sunlight coming into the hall cells.

Nelson answered, saying Burton was right. He added there that block glass walls will be used to cut down maintenance costs.

"This was thoroughly discussed by the juvenile justice commission, the superior court judge and the grand jury," Nelson said.

Burton argued that the eight offices and nine storage rooms are excessive. Locatelli seconded his remarks on the storage rooms.

At this point Mrs. McLean broke in, obviously irritated.

"I don't see why the board wasn't present at the juvenile justice commission meeting, when it was invited to go over all this," she said. "This isn't the time to discuss it."

But Locatelli replied the time was right because the board is "taking final action."

Wong said the offices are for the probation department and the storage rooms would be for juvenile clothing, belongings, equipment, janitorial supplies and grounds equipment.

Wong explained that other juvenile halls he had surveyed before drawing the plans did not have sufficient storage space.

Burton then said he wants the walkways and grading taken from the portions to be awarded to a contractor, stating the county could do the work itself.

Nelson answered that county and union workers can't be on the same job at the same time.

Burton recommended five other minor changes, and Wong explained reasons why he had drawn them.

Nelson then called for the vote.

"What is it?" Burton asked. "You made it," Silliman replied.

"Oh, yes," Burton answered. But the vote to stall acceptance until after the election was defeated, 3 to 2.

Silliman asked Wong what the terms of the contract are.

Wong replied his pay would be 80 per cent of 8 per cent of the estimated cost on final adoption of the plans.

Wong will receive approximately \$27,800 for the estimated \$435,000 juvenile hall cost. He received most of it when plans first were submitted.

Wong told Burton that he will have to give some of the money back to the county if construction bids came in lower than estimated.

"Whichever way the election turns out, I'll go with the side that wins. But you're giving me the impression that you're hurrying this through," Burton said.

Mrs. McLean countered, "There is no impression of hurrying it through. The impres-

sion is that a minority of the board is dragging its feet."

The motion to approve the plans carried, 3 to 2, with Burton and Locatelli dissenting.

Later, Lowell West, Burton's No. 1 supporter in the priority issue, asked if the county has a site for juvenile hall.

Nelson said a site has been agreed upon but purchase has not been completed.

"I doubt if negotiations will break down," Nelson said. "In the event all else fails, we do have the power of condemnation."

Site for the juvenile hall is approximately seven acres adjacent to the county hospital. The county owns about four acres and is negotiating with Helen Nanna for 3.49 acres more through a land swap of 1.5 acres of county-owned Glen canyon quarry property.

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