

Now \$5 Million

# Cost Of Jail Is Increasing

By **PAUL BEATTY**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Supervisor Gary Patton's statement Tuesday "that when the bids come out at \$15 million, we can't proceed with building the jail" took on serious dimensions as staff explained the proposed jail estimate has increased to more than \$5 million and the county has less than one-half that amount in jail funds.

Estimates earlier have been at \$4.6 million for the jail proposed for location on Water Street across from the county center, with construction on the two-year project set for early April.

Supervisors' Chairman Ed Borovatz and acting County Administrator Pat Busch said the problem of coming up with close to \$3 million to add to the county's \$2.3 million jail fund pool has yet to be solved.

A month ago, Borovatz told the press the state was giving serious consideration to requests for about \$2 million, but to date no announcements from state have been made.

Tuesday, the board approved "contract documents" on the jail so that the county can continue with necessary administrative processes toward getting a jail built.

The county has been under the gun of a federal district court to replace the present Front Street jail, found inadequate by the court.

The jail has been a political issue for five years or more, contested by a citizens group and fought for years by Patton.

Patton ultimately voted for a

new jail this year, saying the options on renovation of the old jail had run out due to court action and to meet the citizens group petition that demanded the board reach a unanimous agreement on the questions, or hold an election to determine if a new jail should be built.

In two other actions Tuesday, the board approved establishment of a new position in the public works department for a jail inspector at \$12,000 a year, but will do the hiring by subsequent action, and approved \$8,000 for relocation fee for a tenant occupying a structure on the county property where the jail will be located.

The board was told that the tenant had to have 90 days advance notice and the board could not hold up the relocation funding if the jail planning and process was to proceed.

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