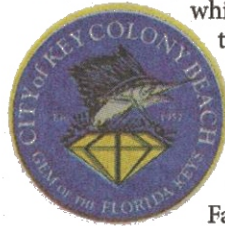


Key Colony selects city hall contractor

JILL ZIMA BORSKI
Free Press Contributor



KEY COLONY BEACH — The new 12,460-square-foot Key Colony Beach City Hall is expected to cost \$5.65 million, which was the low bid of three received from three contractors by the deadline of Oct. 14.

The low bid was submitted by Pedro Falcon Contractors based in Big Pine Key and

included about \$500,000 estimated for insurance, bond and contingency.

KeyStar Inc. bid \$5.83 million and D.L. Porter Construction bid \$5.96 million. The project is funded in part by a \$2.28 million grant.

City Manager John Bartus said the bid award is a positive move toward the Key Colony Beach City Commission's resolution that it would complete five government projects in five years. He said he hopes the city is able to satisfy that.

Bartus added the next steps are contract negotiation and a signed agreement in place before issuing a notice to proceed. Pedro Falcon then would mobilize.

A celebratory groundbreaking likely is to be held, perhaps before the end of this year.

"Everyone is working really hard," Bartus said. "The city is a great place to work, collectively and individually. I get to work with some great people."

CPH Corp., a full-service architecture and engineering design firm headquartered near Orlando, estimated in mid-August that the new city hall would cost around \$3.904 million or \$313 per square foot, noting it has no control over rising costs of labor, materials, equipment or services.

The city has filed a notice of intent that declares it intends to award the contract to Pedro Falcon Contractors.

The commission next meets Monday, Nov. 17, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting may be watched online via Zoom.

jzimatekeys@aol.com