
LMC extends deal with housing manager

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**
HP Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — The price is right and the service is top notch, so Lake Michigan College is keeping the management company overseeing its Beckwith Hall student housing complex.

Capstone On-Campus Management will remain as Beckwith Hall managers through 2017 in a contract worth about \$200,000, LMC President Bob Harrison said.

“This is an affirmation of an existing contract that we’d already entered into,” Harrison said. “We weren’t sure how much (money) it was going to run, so now, we took it back to the board for their formal approval.”

Board members approved the contract during their meeting Tuesday at LMC’s South Haven campus.

The contract amount includes the salaries of Housing Director Matt Krevda and Assistant Director Leah Kicinski, Harrison said.

LMC began working with Capstone, based in Birmingham, Ala., before the 2014 opening of Beckwith Hall, the college’s first student housing complex.

“As we were building the housing, we decided to hire people that do this for a living,” Harrison said. “We hired them (Capstone) to help us with the start-up

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stuff – so they actually started providing services ahead of the actual opening of the housing. They provided input, ideas and thoughts as we were building.”

Tuesday’s action was needed to reflect changes to the original contract under which both sides worked before Krevda and Kicinski were hired, Harrison said.

Capstone specializes in managing student housing owned by colleges, universities and nonprofit foundations across the U.S.

According to its website, Capstone manages 25,871 beds and 29 campuses, reflecting \$1.6 billion in assets.

As of last month, Beckwith Hall’s occupancy rate was about 85 percent. The 188-bed complex includes a fitness room, full kitchens, in-suite washers and dryers and Wi-Fi.

In other business, board members heard a brief update on enrollment at the South Haven campus.

“It’s tracking similarly (to the two other campuses). We’re all down, based on the strength of the economy, and adults going back to work,” he said.

Current estimates show the college’s overall student count at between 3,000 and 3,500, but final figures won’t be confirmed until next month, Harrison said.

“It depends on how you want to count in the high school students, doing dual enrollment. We’re still in the midst of re-enrolling those guys. We won’t have the final numbers until all the high school stuff is included,” he said.

For those reasons, the board tabled its monthly financial report until its Oct. 27 meeting.

“Because we’re sorting out the start of the semester (enrollment), any (financial figures) would have been for August, and there just isn’t much going on.” Harrison said.