

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

LMC makes tech buys

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**
H-P Correspondent

BENTON TOWNSHIP — With the price set, Lake Michigan College has added two key technology items to its Hanson Tech Center project.

LMC trustees agreed Tuesday to add a dual-sided video display system and some information technology support items for estimated costs of \$115,648 and \$134,475, respectively.

The additions bring the total project cost to \$11.8 million, which is still in line with the original budget, LMC President Bob Harrison said.

“It’s planned, and it’s within the scope of the project. So, now, we’re just updating the total project, now that we’ve got clarity about the cost of the video screens, and the information technology,” he said.

LMC is building the center at its Napier Avenue campus with the intention of housing all its manufacturing programs in one spot. As part of the process, the board sold the M-TEC building — where some of the programs were housed — to Whirlpool Corp. last December.

The center will be next to Western Michigan University’s building.

The video system will go in the center’s front lobby and include flat

“We’re pleased. We’ve still got a lot to do, but we’re continuing on. My expectation is it’ll be towards the end of December before we wrap things up. We’re really encouraged about all the community support for what we’re doing with our various programs and services, as well as the physical plant changes that we’re making.”

BOB HARRISON
LMC President

panel displays to show details of upcoming academic functions and special events, a summary in Tuesday’s board packet states.

The information technology support package includes items that weren’t part of the original construction project, but identified by LMC’s information technology team as important.

As a result, the center will get network equipment specific to the college’s needs and uninterruptible power supplies, according to the summary. Every classroom will get a media station, and each office will be outfitted with voice over Internet protocol systems.

The college is funding the project with a combination of general fund money, M-TEC sale proceeds, and a capital campaign that’s reached about 75 percent of its \$7.5 million goal, Harrison said.

“We’re pleased. We’ve still got a lot to do, but we’re continuing on. My expectation is it’ll be towards the end of December before we wrap things up,” Harrison said. “We’re really encouraged about all the community support for what we’re doing with our various programs and services, as well as the physical plant changes that we’re making.”

LMC plans to open the building for next year’s fall semester. Plans call for moving equipment and furniture from M-TEC by next summer — most likely, before the Senior PGA tournament, Harrison said.

“The next big step is fabricating the steel, so we’ll go through a period where they’re doing the foundations, and it looks like nothing’s happening for awhile. We’re still on schedule,” he said.