

Bids

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MacLeod said moving the Solarium is not a dead issue, but the earlier process raised the cost of moving the building beyond what the city thought was reasonable. MacLeod said there were originally 10 contractors interested in bidding on the project. Of those, half of them picked up bid specs, and only one returned them to the city. The question raised by one of the contractors on Friday had to do with whether or not the demolition included the Solarium, or whether it was to be moved. MacLeod said the addendum was added to include the demolition of the

Solarium if that is the course the city takes. "We're looking at other possible options, but if comes to the moment when a decision has to be made, it's needed in the specs - bidders need to understand it's part of the demolition process," MacLeod said. "We need to have the language included if we cannot find another means for moving the building at a reasonable price." The city had to notify all the bidders of the addendum, and since it was just a few days from the bidding date, and because the city has to allow a required number of business days in the notification process, the earliest the city

could receive bids would be June 3. Once the bids are received, Cape May City Council must pass a resolution authorizing the award of the contract for demolition and construction of the new Convention Hall. It has been the city's intention to award one contract for both the demolition and construct phases of the project. It's not known how city council will vote with regard to the contract. Councilman-elect Jack Wichterman asked city council to declare a moratorium on the project until the new council is seated July 1. Last week, Wichterman said while campaigning he found

more than half the people he talked to said their main concern was the Convention Hall project, particularly the cost and the size of the project. "Frankly, I found very few people are in favor of what we are proposing," he said. Wichterman asked for the moratorium so the three new council members could be involved in the final decision. "You will all be involved," Mayor Edward J. Mahaney Jr. said. However, the three new council members will not have a vote until they are sworn in on July 1. On April 6, city council rejected 11 bids for the Convention Hall project.

Cape May voters approved a bond for \$10.5 million to reconstruct Convention Hall, and the lowest bid to come in was \$10.1 million. MacLeod said that basically included the building and left only \$400,000 for everything else necessary to the completion of the project. MacLeod said there were three separate and distinct prices included in the bidding: the building, the improvements to the promenade, and the geothermal. The city must move the project 24 feet toward Beach Avenue, based on stipulations of the CAFRA permit, which means the promenade has to be redesigned and reconstructed to go around

Convention Hall. The city has also intended to invest in using geothermal energy, in addition to having a solar array on top of the structure, to save on future energy costs. The bids anticipated on Tuesday, now scheduled for June 3, would include those three elements, and a building design with the larger footprint. In April, MacLeod said the city was concerned about scaling back the project, which all three new council members support, citing the difficulty of keeping the project on schedule for completion before Memorial Day 2011.

Goods

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unopened boxes, included: 71 Dyson vacuums, 23 GPS systems, 22 MP3 players, 8 home security systems, 8 televisions and 4 power washers. Other items listed include tools, kitchen cabinets, light fixtures and barbeque grills. According to Beyel, the sale of the confiscated items would help offset the cost of the investigation and help the county capture as much revenue as possible from the items. "The County decided with this significant number of items to be sold over several weeks that an online auction would bring the most revenue back to the county and our taxpayers," Beyel said. According to Beyel, the

county has been using GovDeals and thought it would be a good venue for selling this cache of confiscated items. The first online auction started May 22 and runs through June 1. A second auction is scheduled for June 26 through July 6. Anyone interested in viewing county surplus property, including the items confiscated from the Thomas Moran case, should go to capemaycountygov.net and click online auction. People can also go to www.govdeals.com and find the Cape May County section. In order to bid, individuals must pre-register with GovDeals. There is no charge, but it can take 48 hours to process the registration.

According to Cape May County Purchasing Agent Kim Allen, All sales are final and items are sold "As Is" and "Where Is." Again, buyers are responsible to pick up the items they purchase as arranged on specified dates and times at a Cape May County location. Buyers are required to use PayPal to pay for items purchased through GovDeals. Allen said there are also special terms and conditions regarding the confiscated property, and those conditions are available on the website. Buyers are not permitted to inspect the property before they purchase it, but there are pictures and a description on the website. A visit to the website, yesterday, showed items ranging from an easy glide mousepad

with a bid of \$5 to a Dewalt 36-Volt 4-Tool Combo Kit, which had drawn 21 bidders and received a bid of \$400. County Auction process for buying confiscated property: - Access the county website, www.capemaycountygov.net and click "online auction" on the left. - In order to bid, buyers must register with GovDeals. The process takes 48 hours. - The first auction started at 7 a.m. on May 22 and closes in 10-minute segments on June 1 by 9:20 p.m. - There are 50 categories of items - close to 100 pieces to be sold. - Items include a picture, description and an ID number.

Under the special terms and conditions listed, bidders make a bid and subsequently increase the bid using their ID/password. When a bidder is successful, at the close of the auction GovDeals will notify the bidder by email to send payment. Payment will be made to GovDeals through PayPal, not to Cape May County. GovDeals will then issue a receipt of payment. When the auction ends there will be three designated days for pick up of items at the racquetball club. Buyers will provide the receipt and the county will release the item. Facts related to GovDeals: GovDeals has more than 3,000 clients nationwide and New Jersey governments are

one of the fastest growing segments in the country using GovDeals for surplus, confiscated and seized asset disposition. Currently there are 272 New Jersey governments and agencies utilizing the GovDeals online auction solution. Since program inception in 2006, more than 7,300 items worth \$8.5 million dollars have been sold by New Jersey governments and agencies on the GovDeals site. For more information about the Cape May County confiscated items auction, please call Purchasing Agent Kim Allen at 609-465-1125.

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Fisherman found dead

LOWER TOWNSHIP - A Georgia man working on a scallop boat was found dead from a single gunshot wound, a New Jersey State Police spokesman said. Vernard Ellingson, 54 of Cairo, Ga., was found dead shortly after 9 a.m. Saturday, May 22, by a crewmember. Ellingson's body was found lying at the bottom of stairs near the wheelhouse aboard the Adrianna, a 72-foot scallop boat belonging to Atlantic Fisheries. Sgt. Stephen Jones of the New Jersey State Police said police from the NJSP Marine Unit out of Atlantic City responded to the call. He said a Crime Scene Investigations unit and detectives from the Major Crimes Unit were involved in the investigation, because foul play could be ruled out. "There are some indications this could be suicide,"

Jones said. Ellingson was pronounced dead at the scene, where the medical examiner at Cape Regional Medical Center took possession of the body. According to Jones an autopsy was performed Monday and the cause of death was determined to be a gunshot wound to the head. "The manner of death remains open pending the conclusion of the investigation," Jones said. Jones said a handgun was recovered at the scene but he declined to identify the type of handgun because the investigation was still open. The NJSP notified law enforcement in Georgia, who in turn notified Ellingson's family. Jones said the NJSP did speak to Ellington's wife, who was not identified.

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