

Money Troubles Loom For Seniors' Tower

Livonia's tentative tower for senior citizens with low income is leaning.

To build it, architect David L. Jones, assistant director of the Department of Public Works and president of the Housing Commission, said the bidders anticipate even higher labor costs and material prices even before the work on the structure could start.

The Housing and Urban Development regional office in Chicago, however, said Washington is making no allowances for the increases already made.

The Livonia housing program for senior citizens has been underway four years, and the commission is attempting to obtain twin towers, each with 81 units and for retirees with low income, at full government cost.

When six bids were opened this week by Charles L. Cook, secretary director for the commission, the lowest bid offered for the job was a flat \$1,200,000 by A. J. Anderson, of Harper Woods.

That the estimate was too low for rising labor and material costs was indicated by the other bids—two just slightly above the Anderson minimum.

They were Utley-James, Inc., Pontiac, \$1,307,000, and R.E. Dallery Co., Southfield, \$1,308,000. Holtzman and Silverman, Detroit, bid \$1,300,000; Hyatt Construction Co., of Wayne, \$1,389,000 and A. J. Elkin Construction Co., of Oak Park, \$1,407,575. Five others withdrew and two failed to appear at the deadline.

Simplified forms for concrete walls, rather than made to give the building a few trills to avert a factory-front appearance, may be substituted.

But, said Jones, if the Housing Commission will recommend that the city council pick up such bills as paving, walks, landscaping, and inspection, which could be done by DPW crews, the bidder could reduce his figure by that amount and federal approval probably would be given.

A garden type housing program, with 215 units for the elderly with better but limited income and assets, either at federal cost or through private enterprise, also is in the planning stage.

LAND for the total project—8.8 acres at Purlingbrook and St. Martins, has been purchased and is being rezoned for the residences.

Just how the commission can save the building program, Jones said, is under study.

Before the bids are forwarded to Chicago for consideration, Jones said, the architect—Joseph St. Cyr, and the contractor will see what can be done to reduce construction

costs.

But if the city fails to come to the rescue, Jones said alternate plans may be submitted to the regional housing office. They could provide the "turnkey" type construction, whereby a contractor would put up the building without benefit of certain features, and at specified cost, and turn the key over to the commission when finished. That type eliminates government inspectors and other costs.

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Price Gets Top Post In Chamber

Harrison T. Price, plant manager, Chevrolet Spring and Bumper Plant, is the new Livonia Chamber of Commerce president.

Price was elected by the board of directors Wednesday.

The new president will take office on February 1 for one year. He will be installed at the Chamber's annual dinner meeting at Roma Hall February 11.

Dr. Robert J. Hornack, the



HARRISON T. PRICE
New C-C President

gulling light in the Chamber's recent capital improvements bond issue drive, was elected first vice president.

Waldon F. Clark, Waldon F. Clark Realty, was elected second vice president.

John Shimko, Jr., manager of the Cranston Branch of the National Bank of Detroit, was elected treasurer.

Alice Johnson, Johnson Personnel Services, was re-elected secretary.

Price has had extensive association and experience in Chamber affairs. He joined the board of the Livonia Chamber in 1966. He is a past president of the Saginaw chamber, and, as a result of his Saginaw experience, brought to the local organization, when he joined, a depth of insight and knowledge on the Chamber movement which will insure continued progress in Livonia.

Among his many concerns, membership development will be a major effort of his administration.

Out-going president Elvin D. Dougherty was elected to the executive committee which is composed of the officers and an additional Director.

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