

County stays in bidding for park land

By Steve Gunn

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Muskegon County commissioners are enticed by the idea of purchasing 91 acres of undeveloped property in White River Township to add to Meinert County Park.

But not for the listed price of \$819,000, based on the price tag of \$9,000 per acre.

Several commissioners, when asked Tuesday to approve an application for a state grant to help pay for the property at that price, seemed ready to pass on the entire idea.

It was only when a compromise was offered, seeking a state grant that would only pay \$273,000 based on the an assumed value of \$6,000 per acre, that commissioners relented.

Now they will wait and see if an earlier request for a federal grant of \$475,000, plus their request for a state grant of \$273,000, are both approved. That would provide \$748,000 toward the purchase of the land, somewhat short of the price tag.

If either grant request is rejected, the park expansion plan is likely dead for at least a year. If both are approved, negotiations with the property owners can begin.

If the property owners want more than the county has in grant money, fundraising can be done to raise the difference, according to officials.

In the meantime, by applying for the DNR grant Tuesday, even at a lesser amount, com-

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