

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Bid for jail upgrades accepted

By **BEN BULKELEY**
Staff Writer

The Sullivan County Commissioners accepted a bid from KNE Corporation, out of Norwood, Mass., to upgrade the security at the Sullivan County House of Corrections. The bid was for about \$180,000, the amount set aside in the budget for security upgrades to the facility.

“Overall, we received four bidder letters,” said Superintendent of Sullivan County Department of Corrections Ross Cunningham.

“KNE offered a holistic approach to the security updates. They said they want to do it right the first time, and they went beyond the scope of

what we had in the bid packet,” said Cunningham.

As a part of the security upgrades, KNE will replace doors in the Unity facility and add or improve security cameras and intercoms to the doors.

“What we have now is at some doors in the facility. There is not a camera in place that can monitor the doors when someone comes through,” said Cunningham. “We need to have a way to monitor the doors.”

Overall, 13 doors will be upgraded with the installation of 14 cameras and 12 intercoms.

KNE did not have the lowest bid, but according to Cunningham they offered the best package and were the only

See **JAIL** - Page A8

JAIL FROM PAGE A1

bidders to visit the facility.

Commissioner Ethel Jarvis agreed with Cunningham that the quality of work was more important than the price.

“Sometimes the lowest price isn’t the best deal,” said Jarvis.

KNE was also the most local company.

“They will install traditional equipment— GE equipment, and Dell Computers,” said Cunningham.

Because the current doors are surrounded by cement, KNE will remove the entire door to install the wiring for the electric doors’ locking device.

The other bids included the lowest bidder, Easter-Owens, at \$169,000, KNE at \$180,000, Southern Folger’s bid was \$198,000, and Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. bid \$355,000.

The security update was the latest in a string of improvements scheduled for the House of Corrections.

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning system and roof are in the process of being re-done, in addition to the recreation yard.

Ben Bulkeley can be reached at (603) 543-3100 ext. 105, or by e-mail at bbulkeley@eagletimes.com