

Building Demolition Appropriations Double

Asbestos Hazard Added to Costs

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6/6/86

Prince William County officials fell short by about \$87,950 earlier this year when they asked the County Board of Supervisors for \$87,000 to tear down some old buildings the county owns in the city of Manassas.

The board originally set aside \$87,000 to cover demolition and hauling expenses for three buildings. But the lowest estimate the county received when it put the project up for bid was \$174,950.

Three additional buildings were marked for demolition after the board approved the money, and cancer-causing asbestos has since been found in at least one of the buildings, county documents show.

The old county jail, the old Bennett School Annex next to County Police headquarters, and a cottage near Peabody Street will join the the old sheriff's office, the quonset hut, and an old house the county owns in the county complex near downtown Manassas when the walls come tumbling down this summer, according to Deputy County Executive Larry Hughes.

"The increase in number of buildings and recent substantial price increases in materials, equipment, and handling of asbestos-containing materials in the buildings to be demolished are the factors which affected the cost of the project," a memorandum from the County Department

of General Services to the board of supervisors reads.

Hughes said that siding on one of the smaller buildings was found to be made of asbestos. He said demolition of the house would not present a health hazard to workers or people who live and work near the old county complex.

"They'll have to bag (the asbestos) and dispose of it in a contained area when they take the building down," Hughes said.

Some of the buildings date back to World War II and earlier. The land on which they sit probably will be seeded with grass and left open for the foreseeable future, Hughes said.

"At this point, we really don't have any specific plans for the sites," he said. "We're just trying to clean up our neighborhood."

Manassas officials were scheduled to join Hughes this afternoon in a walk-through of the buildings to be demolished.

The board of supervisors is slated to vote Tuesday whether to set aside the \$87,950 needed to complete the project.

... is expected to decide whether to spend \$87,950 for