

Former director appointed to authority

Amy Revak Herald-Standard | Posted: Friday, June 25, 2010 4:00 am

The former executive director of the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority was appointed Thursday to serve as a member on the authority's board of directors. Ray Polaski of Uniontown formerly served as executive director of the authority before retiring in 2005. He was instrumental for the initial stages of the Fayette County Business Park on Route 40 in South Union Township, which is now a thriving retail center.

Polaski held the executive director's job for six years before he retired. He came from Escambia County, Fla., at the urging of his friend Wayland Smith, who was retiring as director of the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority. Polaski's resume showed a succession of work in redevelopment in Lancaster, Allentown and then Florida.

On Thursday, commissioners Vincent Zapotosky and Vincent A. Vicites voted in favor of appointing Polaski, with Commissioner Angela M. Zimmerlink voting against the appointment. Polaski's term will expire in July 2013. He is filling the unexpired term of Ross DiMarco, who died earlier this year.

Vicites, who made the motion to appoint Polaski, said he sat in on the interviews of five applicants, and all were very qualified but noted that Polaski was the most qualified of the applicants, adding that Polaski has more than 40 years of experience in the field.

The commissioners are also seeking letters of interest for another position on the five-person authority board, and anyone expressing interest should send letters of interest to Kathy Winkler at 61 W. Main St., Uniontown Pa. 15401 or by e-mail tokwinker@fayettpe.org by July 15.

In an unrelated matter, the commissioners voted to table ratifying a prison inmate telephone contract with ITI of Bridgeport, Mich.

Zapotosky said he wanted to table the motion because the county prison board hasn't reviewed it. Zimmerlink said although she has requested prior telephone contracts, she still has not received them. She pointed out that Vicites and Zapotosky already have signed the contract and it was being ratified.

Zapotosky acknowledged that he signed the contract in February, but said it had errors and it hasn't been executed.

Controller Sean Lally said the prison has had problems with record keeping and contracts, which are being resolved. He said signing it was a mistake, "pure and simple."

Lally said he did not receive any old contracts for the telephone contract from county prison officials until a few weeks ago.

Zimmerlink said the commissioners shouldn't sign contracts in the conference room and then ratify them at a meeting. She said one telephone contract was signed in 1999, and the new contract extends the contract end date from 2013 to 2020.

Zimmerlink said she would like to have accounting of where the 20 percent royalty is going.

County manager Warren Hughes said he also had been attempting to locate the contracts and he couldn't find them.

In other business, the commissioners voted to transfer county-owned property at 110 Main Street in Fayette City to the borough of Fayette City for \$1 so the existing structure can be demolished and a public park can be constructed.

A motion was approved by a 2-1 vote to grant LERTA, Local Economic Revitalization Tax Act, for a proposed Dollar General in Redstone Township for a five-year, 100 percent exemption from property taxes.

In another 2-1 vote, Zapotosky and Vicites voted to join Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Council for \$300 a year. Zimmerlink said she would be in favor of joining in 2011, adding that the deadlines for many of the grants this year have passed.

Vicites said the county has obtained \$28,000 in the past, and joining now would be beneficial.