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\$2 MILLION GRANT BOOSTS FAYETTE BUSINESS PARK EXPANSION

Uniontown, PA – A \$2 million state grant will allow for the next phase of Fayette County’s economic growth to begin in 2021.

State officials announced last week that the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority (RDA) was approved for the grant to help bolster construction on the 200 acres neighboring Mount Saint Macrina in North Union Township.

The planned business park will include office and commercial spaces; and have the capacity to create at least 1,000 new, family-sustaining jobs.

The Redevelopment Authority worked with Aspire Grant and Development LLC to secure the new funding, which will be supported through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). RACP is administered by the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational and historical improvement projects.

RACP previously awarded the business park project \$500,000 in 2018, for early site development. The project will now enter the pre-construction phase, with bidding slated to start in June 2021.

In 2004, a similar \$2 million state grant was secured to create the Fayette County Business Park on state Route 40 in South Union Township. Since then, the county has seen nonstop business growth.

“This latest round of funding from the state is vital to making this project a reality, because we now have the means to purchase the property and fully infrastructure the site,” Commissioner Vince Vicites said. “This will continue to give the county opportunities for future economic development and expansion of the efforts that began with Route 40’s business park developments years ago.”

Vicites said economic development is the “most important aspect” of improving Fayette County citizens’ lives.

“With 47 businesses and \$115 million in private investment, the existing business park has generated more than 1,200 jobs,” he said. “This expansion project will create even more quality jobs and help boost our local economy, just as its predecessor did.”

Vicites and fellow commissioners Dave Lohr, chairman; and Scott Dunn will continue working with RDA Executive Director Andrew French and the property sellers, Mount Saint Macrina’s Sisters of Saint Basil, as the project moves forward with matching funds from the redevelopment authority.

“Jobs that pay family-sustaining wages are the single most effective way to improve the health and well-being of a community, and that’s why economic development and job creation are critical,” noted Commissioner Chairman Dave Lohr. “The plans for this business park are in perfect alignment with our

economic development strategy, which emphasizes improving the skills of our workforce, reducing the cost of doing business and making available the resources businesses need to compete.”

Commissioner Dunn said the latest round of RACP funding arrived at “the perfect time.”

“The proposed business park is designated for professional and medical entities,” Dunn said. “With the purchase of the Uniontown Hospital by WVU Medicine, we anticipate ancillary medical businesses to relocate to Fayette County. We stand ready to assist these businesses.”

County officials previously deemed the site ideal for expansion because of its close proximity to both state route 119 and 40. The next steps in the process are for the county commissioners to formally accept the award letter, which is expected to arrive by April, and begin meeting with RACP officials to detail the process.

“I’m excited about this business park and the development opportunity it brings – it’s another piece in the puzzle as we work to put Fayette County on the cutting edge,” said Commissioner Lohr. “When businesses thrive, families thrive, and when families thrive, communities thrive. It’s a simple equation.”

For more information, contact the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority at 724-437-1547.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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