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Tuesday, January 09, 2007

South Union approves sewerage plans

By Kris Schiffbauer, Herald-Standard
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South Union Township supervisors gave their nod to public sewerage plans for the buildings under construction and those to be built at the Fayette County Business Park.

Supervisors Rock Coville, Thomas Frankhouser and Robert Schiffbauer on Wednesday passed a resolution in favor of a sewage facilities planning module requested by the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority for phase 1, 1A and 1B, which covers 51.14 acres.

The plan now goes to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for consideration.

Frankhouser explained the plan would accommodate the Super 8 motel, McMillen Engineering Co. office, the local Career Link office and a doctors' office proposed for the site, as well as 15 other business lots not yet designated.

The plan outlines the water use and designates the sewage to be transported to the sewage treatment plant of the Greater Uniontown Joint Sewage Authority. It requires 52.6 tap-ins to the system.

The issue of tap-in availability was a problem in the past when the DEP limited new connections to the sewage treatment plant after it was found the plant exceeded discharge limits. However, the authority, Uniontown and North Union and South Union townships last year signed a consent order with DEP promising to enlarge the plant and make other corrections to the system.

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Frankhouser said DEP has since allocated 187 new tap-ins, which he said will be more than enough to cover the needs of the county's business park and others.

Also, the supervisors directed solicitor John Purcell to investigate the possibility of vacating or conveying the width of the old New Salem Road to Super 8, which has expressed interest in leveling the ground there to improve sight distance. They said that right of way was never developed into a road.

Among other matters, the supervisors disputed rumors that an Olive Garden restaurant is no longer planned for construction along Route 40.

They approved a sewerage plan last month for H. Moss Realty Inc. that would accommodate the 250-seat restaurant on the property owned by Moss at the location of a former garden center.

Frankhouser said Moss Realty continues to negotiate the sale but has encountered a holdup with regard to a provision in the deed that disallows alcohol. He said Darden Inc. of Florida, which owns Olive Garden, has indicated the restaurant would need a liquor license to locate in the township.

Schiffbauer said Darden also had some concerns about the demographics specifically regarding per capita income of area residents. Schiffbauer said the supervisors sent a letter to the restaurant owner to point out the future growth potential in the area in an effort to dissuade any concerns.

Further, the supervisors reported they approved a request for a liquor license transfer from outside the township to the Don Tequila Mexican restaurant near the Uniontown Mall. They gave this approval at a recent special meeting and forwarded the matter to the state for consideration.

They agreed to apply to the county for \$5,000 in aid that is made available each year to municipalities for road or bridge work. They specified that the money would be used to pave Thomas Drive and Spring Creek Lane in a project that has been estimated to cost \$8,610.

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