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Tuesday, January 09, 2007

Work continues at business park

By Amy Karpinsky, Herald-Standard
09/10/2003

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The groundwork is being laid for the next phase of the Fayette County Business Park.

Raymond C. Polaski, executive director of the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority, informed the authority Tuesday that earthmoving is continuing at the park.

Last month, the authority approved a contract with Penn Development Services, LP of Uniontown to raise the level of the ground up approximately 25 feet at a section of the park near Route 40.

Polaski said if any construction occurs on the lots in the future, the buildings will be seen from Route 40. "A lot of earth is being moved," he said.

The contract with Penn Development includes earth moving, compacting, preparation, installation of a retention pond and resolving drainage issues with the pond.

Polaski said since Penn Development is working to excavate the Widewaters Development Group, where a Home Depot, a restaurant and other businesses are being constructed along Matthew Drive, the coordination is wonderful.

Polaski said businesses continue to show an interest in the park, and he anticipated proposals will be on the table within the next couple months.

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Relating to the business park, the authority approved a contract with Community Enterprises LLC of Rifton, N.Y., for \$15,000 for an entrance sign to the business park. For the second time, it was the only bid received for the sign.

Polaski said the company is a subsidiary of the Bruderhof. He said although several companies inquired about the sign, it was the only bid received.

The wooden sign will be installed at Wayland Smith Drive and Route 40. The 91/2-foot sign will include the carved and painted letters of Fayette County Business Park. It will include a 28-inch magnetic message board and detachable panels to designate the names of tenants in the park on the entrance sign.

Steel posts will support the sign. Polaski said floodlights will be put on the sign at night and vegetation will be planted around it.

The park contains the Super 8 Motel, Terry McMillen Engineering and will soon include CareerLink and Fayette County Mental Health/Mental Retardation. Last month, the authority voted to sell land to two doctors to construct a building to hold their practice.

In agenda items, the authority voted to rescind a resolution awarding a \$19,950 contract to C&M Electric of Hopwood for an electrical wiring update project at Nemacolin Castle in Brownsville. Polaski said the company was unable to obtain a performance bond. The authority awarded the contract to James Electric Inc. of Bulger, the next lowest bidder, in the amount of \$21,000.

Polaski said the work is needed for the Christmas event at the castle. He said the wiring is inadequate and may be dangerous. "It costs another \$1,000 but the protection is there. The goal is to have it done in time for Christmas," Polaski said.

Authority assistant director Andrew P. French reported that he has received word that the 2003 Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of more than \$2 million has been approved.

He said the allocation soon will be used for the authority to move forward with various public improvement projects.

The authority accepted the resignation of rehabilitation clerk Doris Sokol, effective Nov. 1, 2003.

Polaski said she had worked at the authority for 31 years and was eligible for retirement.

"We're truly sorry to see her leave, but we understand why," Polaski said.

The authority granted the weatherization director approval to purchase a new 2003 cargo van utilizing the Central Westmoreland Council of Governments Cooperative Purchase Program at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

The van will replace a 1986 pickup truck.

Contracts were awarded for paving in locations in Menallen Township for Victor Paving & Construction Inc. of Monongahela for \$89,625 and for paving in Washington Township to Victor Paving & Construction Inc. of Monongahela for \$116,011.

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