

Redevelopment authority awards contracts totaling \$850,000

By: AMY REVAK Herald Standard

The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority Thursday awarded more than \$850,000 worth of road and storm sewer construction contracts utilizing federal money that is geared to stimulate the economy.

Authority executive director Andrew French said with the approval, the authority is probably the first agency in Pennsylvania under the federally funded state Community Development Block Grant project to award contracts.

"We wanted to move forward. The intent is to stimulate our economy and we're obviously doing our part," French said.

The majority of the money awarded for the nine road reconstruction projects and the two storm sewer projects was obtained from the federal economic stimulus bill and designated through the state through the CDBG program.

French said although the date of award was Sept. 23, the authority took a leap of faith by getting the projects ready and putting them out to bid. He said the intention was to get the projects completed before winter. Under the terms of the funding, the contracts have to be awarded within 120 days of receipt of the allocation.

French said the contracts total \$850,609 and include 43,486 linear feet of road reconstruction, or 8 1/4 miles of road, and will benefit more than 2,500 households and "thousands and thousands and thousands of individuals."

He said the projects were put on the fast track.

The nine road reconstruction projects and the contracts for each project include:

n Construction of 7,950 feet in the North Bell View Road, Shoemaker Road, Paterson Road and Hammondville Main Street areas of Bullskin Township, Victor Paving and Construction Inc. of Monongahela for \$109,242 to benefit 31 households.

n Construction of 5,460 feet in the Slaughter House Lane and Upper Sandy Hollow Road areas of Dunbar Township, Victor Paving, \$107,997, benefits 46 households.

n Construction 6,210 feet in the Collier area of Georges Township, A.C. Moyer Company Inc. of Lemont Furnace, \$129,070, benefits 524 households.

n Construction of 8,000 feet in the College Avenue area of German Township, Victor Paving, \$104,642, benefits 744 households.

n Construction of 1,100 feet in the Penncraft Road and Arensburg Road Extension area of Luzerne Township, Victor Paving, \$28,400, benefits 573 households in Penncraft and 17 households in Arensburg.

n Construction of 6,460 feet of road in the Duck Hollow Road area of Menallen Township, Victor Paving, \$88,737, benefits 20 households.

n Construction of 5,000 feet in the village of Thompson area of Redstone Township, El Grande Industries, Inc. of Monessen, \$53,600, benefits 315 households.

n Construction of 1,100 feet in the Old Dinner Bell Road area of Wharton Township, A.C. Moyer, \$32,117, benefits a few houses and the Mountain Citizens Action Center.

n Construction of 2,150 feet on various streets in Vanderbilt Borough, Victor Paving, \$37,115, benefits 565 people in the borough.

The storm sewer improvement projects include:

n Construction of 1,661 feet of storm sewer on Dixon Boulevard in South Union Township, Piccolomini Contractors Inc. of Waltersburg, \$98,770, benefits 1,700 people.

n Construction of storm sewers at a key intersection in the Howell Street and McGill Avenue area of Dawson Borough, Costabile Construction Inc. of Uniontown, \$23,175, benefits 205 households.

Each of the 11 contracts had between six and 14 bidders.

Solicitor Herb Margolis asked if any investigation had been done to determine if any of the contracts that received multiple contracts would be able to finish the work.

French said specifically, Victor paving officials said they could complete all the work.

"We want to get it done. We don't want to postpone it till spring," Margolis said.

The authority also authorized French to execute the contracts for civil engineering for fiscal year 2009 CDBG funded activities. The authority administers the CDBG funds on behalf of the county and there are 11 entitlement municipalities. The contracts are with Widmer Engineering of Connellsville and Uniontown.

The authority approved a contract between the authority and the state in the amount of \$1 million through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for the Fallingwater parking lot and road improvement project.

Board member Dee John commented that \$1 million seems like a lot of money for a parking lot, especially considering that there isn't a state budget. "There are people out there who don't know if they are getting a paycheck and this is a million dollars," John said.

French said the money, for which the authority applied earlier this year, is obtained from bond issues for economic development, and isn't a part of the state budget.

During the executive directors report, French said work continues on other federal economic stimulus money. He said they are anticipating money for the county weatherization program.

French said regarding the neighborhood stabilization funding, work has begun on the construction of three homes in Masontown at the site of a former school, and plans are under way to close on three foreclosed properties in Uniontown this month.

Also, French said 20 properties have been slated for demolition in Uniontown in the Gallatin Avenue and East End areas of the city.

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