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## Grant allows for Union Station stabilization work to begin

By Patty Yauger [pyauger@heraldstandard.com](mailto:pyauger@heraldstandard.com) 7 hrs ago

A \$35,000 grant from the Heinz Endowments will allow the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority to proceed with stabilizing the Union Station Building in Brownsville.

In unanimous action Wednesday, present board members Paul Bortz, Jonathan Garlow and Philip Michael approved the agreement with the foundation. Board members Dale Malinzak and Dee John were absent from the meeting.

"We believe your proposal represents an important endeavor in advancing our overall goals," said foundation President Grant Oliphant. "Our success hinges on the organizations and projects we support, so we strive to be thoughtful about our partners and rigorous about the work we support."

The goal of the project is to replace the roof and stabilize and mothball the downtown building to allow for continued marketing for redevelopment of the property for commercial, retail and residential reuse.

Andrew French, authority executive director, said the roof rehabilitation project is a part of the ongoing improvements in Brownsville.

"Of all the properties in the downtown (the authority) owns, the Union Station definitely has its challenges, but it is one of the most stable," he said.

While other efforts to secure funding were unsuccessful, Heinz Endowments became interested when it learned the authority had a similar amount it would invest in the project.

French credited Trek Development representatives for interceding with the Pittsburgh-based foundation on the authority's behalf.

While the progress is slow, there are signs of improvement in the small community, added French.

The Snowden Square project — a park and stage area — in the downtown area, was recently completed. The community, Brownsville Students in Action, along with the county and authority partnered to undertake the endeavor.

Trek is currently constructing a senior housing complex in the borough.

In related action, the authority approved the hiring of RW Sleighter of Lemont Furnance to design the roof replacement for the Union Station building at a cost of \$8,693.

Turning to other matters, the board also conducted the following business:

n Awarded a contract to Rygiel Excavating of Fayette City for the extension of a storm sewer along Painter Street in Everson Borough.

n Transferred an unused 1999 Ford pickup to the Wayne County Redevelopment Authority.