

Redevelopment authority awards infrastructure contracts

By Amy Revak HeraldStandard.com | Posted: Friday, April 27, 2012 2:00 am

The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority recently approved infrastructure projects totaling \$560,499 aimed to benefit more than 600 households in eight municipalities throughout the county.

The various projects are all being funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations. All of the projects were approved unanimously, with Chairman Ken Finney and members Ray Polaski, Odilia “Dee” John, James Woleslagle and Paul Bortz Jr. voting in favor.

Approvals of the various storm sewer, sanitary sewer and road reconstruction projects were given Wednesday during a meeting of the authority.

Executive director Andrew French said the projects represent an investment of \$560,499 in CDBG funds throughout the county, and will benefit more than 640 households in eight municipalities.

“Obviously, this investment is significant and demonstrates the critical importance of CDBG funding to local communities. Despite its tremendous impact, over the past several years the program has been reduced by over 35 percent nationally, jeopardizing the future of the program as well as the ability of local communities to undertake project like the ones just awarded by the authority,” French said.

A \$34,777 contract was awarded to Slusarczyk Excavating and Landscape Supply of West Brownsville for a storm sewer project in the Columbus Street area of Belle Vernon. The project includes installation of about 425 linear feet of storm sewer lines and inlet replacement and will benefit all 334 borough households.

A \$36,860 contract was awarded for sanitary sewer replacement in the Painter Street area of South Connellsville to M&D Excavating of Connellsville. It includes replacing 366 linear feet of sanitary sewer lines, benefiting six homes.

A \$30,373 contract was awarded to Slusarczyk Excavating for a storm sewer project in the Euclid Avenue/Brown Street areas of Brownsville Township. The contract involves improvements to 1,200 feet of storm sewers and will benefit eight households.

A contract for storm sewer work in the Broadway Street area of North Union Township was awarded to Slusarczyk Excavating in the amount of \$162,965. The entire village of Lemont Furnace (225 households) will receive the benefits of 1,000 feet of storm sewer improvements and inlet installation.

El Grande Industries Inc. of Monessen received a \$112,012 contract for road reconstruction work in the Mt. Corral Road, Valley & Caldwell Lane areas of Bullskin Township. The project includes construction of 5,170 feet of road and will benefit 16 homes.

A.C. Moyer Co. Inc., of Lemont Furnace was awarded a contract for \$98,958 for road reconstruction in the Hardy Hill area of Dunbar Township.

The second phase of the project includes reconstruction of 4,500 feet of road, and will benefit 31 households.

The authority approved a \$35,300 road reconstruction project with Victor Paving & Construction Inc. of Monongahela for the Debolt Avenue area of Masontown.

French said the project includes reconstructing 1,900 feet of road and will benefit 12 homes. He said the work is the result of a partnership with Threshold Housing Development, which recently constructed 11 new houses in the area, using money provided through the redevelopment authority's Neighborhood Stabilization Program and Threshold's self-help housing program funded through the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The authority approved a road reconstruction project in the village of Taylor in Jefferson Township with A.C. Moyer Co. for \$49,253. The work includes reconstructing 1,000 feet of road, which follows completion of a waterline extension project in the township. It will benefit eight households directly.

In related action, the authority authorizing French to execute contracts for civil engineering services for the upcoming CDBG activities. The contracts will be with various civil engineering companies.

Numerous bids were received for each infrastructure project, and all were reviewed by engineering firms and recommended for approval prior to the meeting.

During the executive director's report, French said the authority is continuing to work in partnership with the county on the implementation of the initiative to assist county homeowners who make energy-efficiency improvements to their homes.

To date, the authority has assisted 269 households through the program, French said.

The program is funded through a grant the county obtained through the U.S. Department of Energy. All homeowners in the county can qualify for some level of assistance, regardless of income. Information on the program can be found on the authority's website at www.racfpa.org.