

Redevelopment authority awards contracts for recreation center

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The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority on Thursday awarded four contracts totaling nearly \$3 million for construction of the new North Union Township Recreation Center.

Last month township supervisors began grading the construction site on Commonwealth Drive for construction of the center and in anticipation of the construction contracts.

On Thursday, following bid recommendations by the township's engineer, K-2 Engineering of Uniontown, the redevelopment authority awarded contracts for construction of the center.

The redevelopment authority is working in conjunction with the supervisors on the project, as it is partially funded by Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) secured by the authority.

The authority awarded a \$2,347,000 general construction contract for the project to Repal Construction Co. of North Huntingdon. Other contracts awarded Thursday included a \$202,800 agreement with Hranec Sheet Metal Inc. of Uniontown for heating and ventilation work; a \$130,992 contract with Pine Hollow Mechanical Inc. of Uniontown for plumbing work and a \$266,000 contract with Uzmack Electric Inc. of Saxonburg for electrical work at the new center.

The project includes the construction of the multipurpose recreation facility in two phases on a 2.7-acre lot located at the old Starlite Drive-in theater.

Using large excavation equipment, supervisors and township workers saved an estimated \$130,000 by doing the grading themselves.

Supervisor Curtis Matthews said that center should open in October or November. Redevelopment authority executive director Andrew French said that construction should begin within the next month.

In other business, the authority awarded a \$106,195 contract to John T. Subrick Inc. of Eight Four for a water line replacement project in Republic.

French said the project will benefit about 1,500 people living in the Republic area.

The authority also approved a cooperative agreement with Fayette County to submit an application for a \$127,100 state Department of Community and Economic Development (CDBG) emergency shelter grant.

At the close of the meeting, French noted that he is continuing to assess federal budget cuts and proposed budget cuts at the state level and their impact on the authority.

He noted that in addition to the budget cuts, the authority will receive an 18 percent cut in CDBG funding because of declining census numbers for Fayette County.

He said that Wharton and Washington townships have lost their CDBG entitlements because of declining populations and will now be in competition with outer municipalities for CDBG funding.

French added that while the cuts could affect projects in the future, the authority did receive some positive economic news, noting that they will receive an additional \$500,000 in weatherization funding this year.



Roberto M. Esquivel/Herald-Standard

Future Recreation Center

Rob Tupta, North Union Township Supervisor loads dirt with a back hoe as land is prepared for construction of a recreation center to be located at Commonwealth Drive in the township.