

Redevelopment authority gives green light to municipal road projects

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The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority has approved the expenditure of more than \$750,000 in state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other funds for several projects throughout the county.

In unanimous action Wednesday, board members Paul H. Bortz Jr., Dale Malinzak and Odilia A. John, approved the funding allocations for six road reconstruction projects and a lone demolition project as requested by the various municipalities.

Board members Johnathan Garlow and Philip Michael were absent from the meeting.

Washington Township supervisors and its engineering firm, K2 Engineering of Uniontown recommended that A.C. Moyer Co. Inc. of Lemont Furnace be awarded the road reconstruction project in the Mikula Road area of the municipality. Moyer offered the lowest bid of \$90,760 for the work.

Andrew French, authority executive director, said the township has approximately \$46,700 in CDBG funds with the township prepared to contribute the remaining amount to complete the project.

“[The project entails] the entire length of Mikula Road, which is a main road in the township,” said French. “It will be a benefit to the entire township, not only to the residents that live along the road.”

Moyer was also the lowest bidder for a second Washington Township project in various locations, according to Andrew French, redevelopment authority executive director.

In addition to road reconstruction, the project will include milling and seal coating work.

The company’s bid was \$69,687. The township will defray the cost of the related project, said French.

Widmer Engineering Inc. of Connellsville, recommended Moyer also be awarded the contract for road reconstruction work along East Keefer and Gault School roads in Bullskin Township.

The project includes the rehabilitation of approximately 4,000 lineal feet of roadway, said French.

“It will directly benefit 18 households,” he said.

Four contractors offered cost proposals for the project, with Moyer submitting the lowest bid of \$78,965. The township will use CDBG funds to defray the cost of the project.

Several Dunbar Township roads will also undergo reconstruction during the fall months following authority action to allocate \$112,865 in CDBG funds to Moyer to complete the work along Frick Hollow, Reservoir, Gouker, Furnace and Mt. View roads.

Widmer also recommended Moyer receive the contract to undertake a road reconstruction project in the Rockwell Road area of Nicholson Township.

French said that in addition to repaving work, the project includes the implementation of flood controls.

“The township has already gone in and installed storm drains,” he said. “[The second phase] will be to restore the road using CDBG funds.”

Three bidders submitted proposals with Moyer offering the lowest cost of \$39,186.

El Grande Industries Inc. of Monessen will undertake two road reconstruction projects in Luzerne Township, according to redevelopment authority action.

After reviewing the bids, James Rabatin, authority public works director, recommended El Grande’s bids for \$105,236 and \$195,702 for road reconstruction work in the Penn Craft Road and various other areas, respectively.

Piccolomini Contractors Inc. of Waltersburg was awarded the contract to demolish the former Foodland building in Masontown Borough.

A total of six bidders offered cost proposals with the borough’s engineer, R.W. Sleighter Engineers and Architects of Lemont Furnace, recommending that Piccolomini be awarded the contract after submitting the lowest bid of \$87,000.

The work includes the demolition of the former Foodland store, a small shed and an asphalt parking lot.

French said the borough requested assistance to have the building removed.

In related action, the redevelopment authority allocated \$17,622 from its affordable housing fund to Threshold Housing and Development Inc. for the purchase of the 201 W. Church St. property to support the development of up to three new homes through the county homebuyer development program.

“Our intent is to eliminate blight by getting rid of the (structures and parking lot), and then create some home ownership opportunities,” said French.

Approval of a Georges Township project was tabled for 30 days to allow township officials and its engineering firm to secure remaining right-of-way agreements.

Whitehorse Excavating LLC of Berlin, was the lowest of eight bidders for the sewer line extension project along Burgess Field Road, submitting a bid amount of \$127,266.

French said the bid amount remains intact for 60 days.

In an unrelated matter, the board approved a pledge agreement with KeyBank National Association due to the purchase of First Niagara Bank.

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