

Fayette County Business Park to receive \$2 million

Amy Revak Herald Standard | Posted: Tuesday, December 7, 2010 4:00 am

Outgoing Democratic Gov. Edward Rendell has authorized the release of \$2 million for infrastructure development in the Fayette County Business Park in South Union Township. The announcement of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding was made Monday by Democratic Fayette County Commissioners Vincent Zapotosky and Vincent A. Vicites, who had lobbied Rendell for the money.

The funding was announced in a letter from the governor's office to Zapotosky last month.

The letter, dated Nov. 19, states that the funding is intended "to provide much needed economic stimulus to the Pennsylvania economy and it is intended to assist in the immediate creation of quality, family sustaining jobs for Pennsylvanians."

Development of the business park began in 2000, when the county commissioners transferred the property to the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority. The business park now includes a Walmart, various retail stores, several restaurants, a motel, an engineering office, the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration offices, Career Link and various medical offices and diagnostic centers,

Since that time, public investment by the county and the state has leveraged more than \$55 million in private investment and led to the creation or retention of more than 850 jobs.

"We've really found a niche with medical related jobs and facilities," Vicites said.

He added that additional medical related businesses would be welcome to make their home in the business park also.

The \$2 million from the state will help develop the remaining 100 acres at the business park and is anticipated to leverage more than \$100 million in private resources and create or retain more than 500 jobs, Zapotosky said.

Vicites was in office in 1999 and initiated a study to determine the best use of the land.

He also was on the board of commissioners in 2000, when they voted to turn it over to the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority.

He said the business park has been a success ever since.

"I wanted to contribute to economic development. That land that wasn't on the tax rolls for a century and now it is not only on the tax rolls but is creating jobs," Vicites said. "We need to finish the last phase of this development and it takes this kind of private/public partnership to accomplish it."

The money will be used for excavating, road construction and installation of utilities such as water, sewers and lighting.

Once the infrastructure is in place for the third phase, the site will provide 100 acres of developable property to interested businesses, Vicites said.