

Fayette County receives funding to help with various projects

By Patty Yauger HeraldStandard.com | Posted: Thursday, November 8, 2012 2:00 am

Residents throughout Fayette County will be the recipients of a variety of services following the arrival of nearly \$2 million through various state and federal funding agencies.

Andrew French, executive director of the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority, told board members on Wednesday that the authority had received a \$200,000 from the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to support eligible emergency shelter activities undertaken by Fayette County Community Action Agency.

“This Emergency Solutions Grant-Hearth funding helps stabilize families and to stay in their homes,” said French.

In related funding, the county additionally received \$400,000 through the Emergency Solutions Grant program to aid the nonprofit City Mission-Living Stones Inc. of Uniontown.

About a dozen residences on Mt. Tabor Road in Springfield Township will receive water service following the receipt of a competitive \$500,000 state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The project includes the installation of an 11,000-foot water service line and fire hydrants. Homeowners currently rely on wells and springs for their water supplies.

An additional \$300,000 received through the CDBG program will help defray costs tied to a similar water line extension project in Georges Township to provide water service to 15 households.

French additionally announced that the county will receive \$554,600 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for its Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Residents in need of financial help to pay heating bills or making repairs to heating systems must submit an application through the local office of the state Department of Public Welfare in Uniontown.

In unrelated action, the board bid farewell to longtime member and current Vice President James S. Wolesslagle, who is moving from the county.

“You have been quite an asset with your real estate business background,” said Ken Finney, board chairman. “Your ideas and solutions to some of our problems have been monumental. We wish you good luck.”

In other action, the board also conducted the following business:

n Rejected bids related to the continued demolition of a Brownsville hardware store and parking lot. The two bids received for the parking lot demolition, repaving, landscaping and lighting, were in excess of estimates offered by McMillen Engineering of Uniontown, according to French. The project will be rebid in the spring.

n Entered into a contract with Franty and Sons Excavating of Uniontown to demolish an abandoned Masontown residence. The home at 22 N. Main St. was earlier condemned by the borough code enforcement officer. The firm offered the lowest cost for the project at \$11,800.

n Approved a cooperative agreement with the Fayette County Housing Authority to provide \$346,500 for energy improvements at Mulligan Manor in Brownsville.

n Reviewed the 2011 audit prepared by the certified public accounting firm of Maher Duessel of Pittsburgh.