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Supervisors agree to use grant to improve living conditions

By Jackie Beranek, Herald-Standard

DUNBAR TWP. - Supervisors agreed Thursday that they will use \$131,594 in 2004 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to improve living conditions in five areas of the township.

The first item on the list is a waterline extension project in the Hutosky Lane area of the township off 80 Acres Road near the Airway Inn Road. A storm sewer improvement project in the DeWitt Avenue area was added to the township list in addition to a new fire hydrant in the Leisenring/Vanderbilt Road area.

The supervisors agreed to improvements to the Dawson Lion Club Park and support for HOME-funded housing rehabilitation activities.

Andrew French from the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority said altogether the township would receive \$169,383 in CDBG funds administration cost for the program will eat up about \$37,789.

French said since 1985 the township has received between \$2.5 and \$3 million in CDBG funds.

"The money has been used to improve roads, recreation and waterline projects," said French.

Supervisor Gene Frazier said supervisors have spent over \$2 million in waterlines alone.

Several residents had suggestions on how the money should be spent and tax collector Marigrace Butela said she thought

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that past CDBG funds should have been used to help low income residents pay for tap-in fees associated with installation of sewer lines.

Resident John Tabaj reminded the supervisors that there are a lot of people in the township who still need water.

Frazier reminded everyone that most of the people in the township who got water got it through the CDBG program because they qualified under the low to moderate federal income guidelines.

In other matters, supervisor chairman Tom Yekel said he and the other supervisors will remove the dumpster outside the township building if people continue to dump tires, garbage and cardboard containers in it.

Yekel admitted that 98 percent of township residents are using the dumpster for what it is intended for, but said the other two percent who are using it for garbage are going to ruin it for everyone.

"We've talked, talked and talked about this until we are blue in the face," said Yekel. "On two different occasions within the last two weeks we have removed at least 24 tires."

Yekel said the dumpster was placed at the municipal building for people who didn't know how to get rid of hard to handle items but was not placed there for people to get rid of their garbage and tires.

"We are going to let it go for one more cycle (about two weeks) and if we still continue to get garbage and tires we will have it removed," said Yekel. "I know we have said it before but this time we mean it."

In other business, supervisor Ron Keller said he would advertise for bids on four one-ton township trucks and a 2 1/2-ton truck next week. Keller said the trucks are in poor condition. He also said that anyone interested in looking at the trucks before putting in a bid can do so at the township municipal building, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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