

Local

## Communities receive CDBG funds

✎ By Stephanie Salmons Messenger-Inquirer

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Two Ohio County communities have received Community Development Block Grants that will aid with infrastructure projects.

Gov. Matt Bevin announced \$5.7 million in CDBG funding for 13 projects. Of those, Centertown received \$403,000 for a water tank project and Hartford received \$896,250 for a water system capital improvements.

The CDBG program provides assistance to communities for use in revitalizing neighborhoods, expanding affordable housing and economic opportunities, providing infrastructure and/or improving community facilities and services, according to a release from the governor's office.

Centertown will use the funds to replace a 150,000 gallon water tank, city clerk/administrator Pat Kessinger said.

According to Kessinger, the city re-did its water system beginning in 2009 and replaced a water tank. The tank, however, was faulty and the city had to file a lawsuit against the contractors.

"After that was said and done and settled, we lacked enough money to replace it," she said. "We had some money, but needed more to make sure we could actually do the complete work."

Kessinger said the city used \$400,000 of the lawsuit money as matching funds for the CDBG grant. She was unsure when the project would go to bid.

"We're ecstatic because it's very competitive," Kessinger said of the city's grant. "We were very shocked and elated at the same time that we got it. We're very excited and very happy to get the project going."

In Hartford, Mayor Dean Minton said the grant will be used to refurbish the city water system's existing water plant, which was built in 1992, and update infrastructure throughout the town, "basically to make corrective measures of areas we think will cause problems in the very near future."

Minton said planned work calls for corrections will be made at the intakes at the river, dead end lines to be connected, fire plugs and older lines to be replaced and work on the city's 1 million gallon water tank. The total cost of the project is about \$1.5 million.

The city has applied for a low-interest federal loan to cover the remaining costs of the project, he said.

"That's already in place and once we obtain the grant from the state, we'll be able to access that money also."

Minton said city officials will return to Frankfort early in March and "hopefully within the next six months, we'll be ready to advertise for bid."

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