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Franklin Township gets preliminary grant letter for fire protection

State Representative John Hornaman today presented Franklin Township Supervisors with a preliminary Department of Community and Economic Development award in the amount of \$25,000 to aid fire protection in the township. Accepting the DCED Community Revitalization Program award letter were the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors John Sachar, and Supervisors David Henderson and Gary Truitt.

“This is a vital project for the residents,” Hornaman stated, “because it will provide water supply ponds with dry hydrants in two parts of the township that are currently devoid of any water source for firefighting. At least 150 homes will be impacted by the addition of these two supply ponds.”

Volunteer firefighters need adequate water supplies when fires break out. Water supply ponds with dry hydrants provide easy access and fast hookup to fill tanker trucks regardless of weather.

These two ponds with dry hydrants will complete a longstanding township project. Supervisor Dave Henderson noted that they have constructed twenty-two dry hydrants over the past ten years in areas of the township that already had existing ponds. “Two areas of our township have no existing bodies of water into which we can put the hydrants. The cost of creating both the totally new ponds and adding the dry hydrants in these two neighborhoods without any water supply is prohibitive for us.

“Our small general fund budget of about \$45,000 just cannot pick up the costs that this grant will now be providing,” Henderson noted. “The residents of these two areas will also benefit because insurance rate categories will change, giving them a reduction in their rates.”

PAGE TWO
Franklin Township DCED
January 7, 2008

The Township now has to go through the processing of a contract with the State according to Representative Hornaman. "The check is not in the mail, yet, but these folks have a good knowledge of working with various state offices and once their paperwork is completed and the contract signed, the project can be finished. It's a win-win situation for Franklin Township residents and I am happy to have played a role in providing the funds," Hornaman concluded.

Supervisors are hoping the project can be completed this summer.

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