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## Fay-Penn continues to look for ways to bring business to Fayette County

By Rachel Basinger [rbasinger@heraldstandard.com](mailto:rbasinger@heraldstandard.com) Jul 28, 2019

Fay-Penn Economic Development is looking at drawing businesses to Fayette County by providing facilities that are move-in ready.

At a recent quarterly board meeting, Fay-Penn Executive Director Bob Shark said they are in the design/engineering phase of building a 60,000-square-foot “spec” building, a term used for essentially a relatively vanilla shell that is built without a specific occupant in mind. It’s constructed generically enough so it can accommodate a variety of industry needs. Additionally, Shark said, Fay-Penn is also anticipating receiving \$20,000 through an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Power Grant to conduct a feasibility study for constructing an additional, even larger spec building of 100,000 square feet or more.

“We receive business attraction leads from the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, and one of the recent trends suggests that many companies are interested in locating where facilities of 100,000 square feet or more already exist,” said Shark. “A ‘spec’

“A feasibility study for the larger building would include identifying the best place in Fayette County to construct a facility of that size. For example, Fay-Penn has ample space both in the Dunbar Township Business Park and in Springhill Township. Morgantown is experiencing explosive growth,

so Springhill might make more sense than Dunbar. Additional factors to evaluate would include workforce and logistics needs in support of such a facility,” he added.

As for the 60,000-square-foot building, Real Estate Coordinator Earl Miller said that construction will occur in the Fayette Business Park.

Miller said they are working on a preliminary site plan to get pricing on excavating as well as the building itself.

“We’re hoping to get the project under construction early next year,” he said.

In other business, Shark talked about the different real estate projects that Fay-Penn is currently involved in. There are 23 total projects, 16 in support of client expansion needs and seven being internal projects, such as providing better rail access to the Dunbar Township Business Park and improving the Pechin Road turning lane there.

Fay-Penn is also providing technical assistance to local companies.

Currently, they are working with the Pennsylvania’s Foreign Direct Investment office to establish a partnership between an Irish company and a local company to manufacture and distribute the Irish product throughout the United States.

This is also the second year in a row that Fay-Penn is offering grant writing assistance for the Local Share Account (LSA) program to interested townships and businesses in the county. Shark said three townships took advantage of that service this year.

Past LSA grant assistance for the townships included requests to fund the cost of changing ordinances and construction of a building to cover a winter salt supply.