

The Telegram



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County, US Rail move forward on Jisco site

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Keramida Environmental, Inc. Senior Manager Terry Hair met with the Jackson County Commissioners on June 11 to bring them up to date on several projects.

At the top of Hair's list was the former Jisco site just outside Jackson, which has been cleaned up and given to the county thanks to a series of Clean Ohio grants. The final work on the site, Hair said, is on hold pending the sale by the county.

The Commissioners had just emerged from an Executive Session with Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Blanton to discuss US Rail's expressed desire to make

an outright purchase rather than a lease-to-buy arrangement. On a motion by Commission President Rick McNelly, Blanton was authorized to draw up the necessary documents to sell the land to US Rail at a total purchase price of \$208,300. US Rail plans to establish a rail-car repair shop at the site.

Hair said there are still three areas at the former Jisco site where hazardous soils must be removed. The first step is to confirm the specific contamination, then gain state approval before going to bid on the work.

An underground storage tank has been found at the site. It appears to contain tar or grease. A sample must be taken to confirm the contents, then they will be removed.

The base of the old furnace has defied attempts to remove it. A three-foot hole was dug around the base without finding bottom. It is solid and is likely to remain. A suggestion had been put forward to turn it into some sort of memorial to the industry that once flourished there.

Ohio Firebrick Site

The Ohio Firebrick site in Oak Hill has been awarded a Clean Ohio grant to investigate the extent of hazardous materials left on the grounds. Hair said the first step will be to do a geophysical survey, including an underground magnetic scan. Then an asbestos survey will be conducted before any demolition can begin.

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The next step will be to do 20 to 30 soil borings to a depth of 20 to 30 feet. The last testing step will be to drill shallow wells. If contamination is discovered, then those wells will have to extend to bedrock to see if the aquifer has been affected.

Courthouse Project

Hair also noted that work in the Courthouse basement is largely complete. The asbestos, he declared, is cleared. However, there is still a bit of mold in the basement. To remedy, the crawl space under the Courthouse will be temporarily sealed off along with the floor drain and the area will be cleaned again. Hair said the work is nearly complete.

Frick-Gallagher Building

Hair also spoke of a meeting that had taken place at the instigation of Wellston Mayor Edgar (Butch) Hayburn in conjunction with the Jackson County Economic Development Board in reference to the Frick-Gallagher building.

Currently, Hair noted, no funding is available through Clean Ohio. Therefore the city did not want to take ownership of the building since nothing could be accomplished. The meeting had included, Hair said, several people who had expressed interest in the property. That included Jim Riepenhoff.

McNelly said that he had not been aware of the meeting and had called Mayor Hayburn and asked to be kept aware of such meetings in the future.