

HERMITAGE

Combine gets sidewalk contract

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by Joe Pinchot, *Herald Staff Writer*

Hermitage commissioners awarded a contract Wednesday to a Sharon firm to build sidewalks and pedestrian-friendly accessories along North Buhl Farm Drive and at Hazen Road.

Combine Construction Inc. submitted the lowest of two bids at \$488,156. The second bid was about twice that amount. Asked about the discrepancy between bids, Community Planner Jeremy P. Coxe said Combine's bid was comparable to the \$500,000 estimate by engineer Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering Inc., Coraopolis.

"We don't see any problem with Combine's bid," Coxe said. "They've done a lot of good work around the valley. The project is funded by a \$500,000 state Residential Reinvestment Grant, also known as an Elm Street grant.

Combine will build a sidewalk along the west side of North Buhl Farm from the sidewalk at Burger King on East State Street to the sidewalk on Highland Road; crosswalks across Theota Drive and Buhl Farm on the south side of Theota; handicapped accessible curb cuts at Theota; and a pedestrian activated light that flashes a warning that the crosswalk across Buhl Farm is being used. Mailboxes and newspaper boxes will be removed and replaced.

At Hazen, Combine will construct a short sidewalk along the south side between Buhl Farm and Monticello Boulevard; pedestrian landing areas at the southwest, southeast and northeast corners of Hazen and Buhl Farm — the northwest corner is in Sharpsville; two crosswalks with handicapped accessible curb cuts; two benches; and a pedestrian warning light for the Buhl Farm crosswalk.

Storm water improvements will be made in both areas. Coxe expects at least some work will be done this winter. The contract calls for the work to be completed by June 1, and the grant must be spent by June 30, he said.