

M'ville Housing Authority hires security firm

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MILLVILLE — The Millville Housing Authority has hired a professional security company to investigate incidents of violence and fraud at its complexes.

The authority's board of commissioners approved a contract with Mazzeo Detective Agency in Dorothy at Tuesday's meeting. The authority will pay the detective firm \$1,500 per 40-hour work week to investigate and conduct surveillance on the properties, and act as a liaison with local law enforcement.

MHA Executive Director Paul Dice said they could reduce those hours as some areas are "cleaned up." The authority will spread the cost for the firm across the general operations budget of all the complexes, he said. The authority also laid off its lease enforcement officer, he said.

The firm provides a new skill set and it was cheaper to outsource these services,

Dice said.

"We need law enforcement speaking to law enforcement," he said.

The authority has a zero tolerance policy and has promised to pursue evictions on tenants who break the law or violate housing authority rules. The authority hopes the detective firm will be able to compile professional reports it can use for municipal eviction proceedings, Dice said.

Board member James Parent noted the arrangement also will alleviate work for the city's police department.

Also at the meeting, the MHA said it will apply for more than \$20,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Area to recoup money spent to clean up after the recent snowstorms. Dice said the costs include overtime and purchasing salt and snow blowers. This is the first time the authority has tried to apply for FEMA money, Dice said.

"We thought it was worth a shot," he said.

Hall of Fame will induct Jim Parent

MILLVILLE — Former mayor Jim Parent is scheduled to be inducted into the state Elected Officials Hall of Fame today.

Parent, who served on the City Commission for 20 years before deciding not to run for re-election in 2009, will attend the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' Mayors Legislative Day at the Statehouse in

MILLVILLE — Amato's Pizza & Restaurant closed its location at Main and Buck streets Monday.

Massimo Volo, owner of the building, said the restaurant's owners closed