

Initiative aims to raise cash for public housing

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MILLVILLE — The Millville Housing Authority will try to raise more money by extending its services beyond its own properties.

The authority's Board of Commissioners approved the creation of Holly City Property Management, a subsidiary of the authority's nonprofit organization Holly City Development Corp., at Tuesday's meeting.

The idea of the new company is to serve properties outside of the MHA to raise new revenues.

The authority receives its money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, but MHA Executive Director Paul Dice said the department's allocation is down 3.5 percent, or \$60,000, this year. He said future awards are also expected to drop.

"HUD is forcing us into a model of greater self-sufficiency," he said. "We need to find more ways to generate income."

The new company will offer janitorial services the first year, but could include other services like landscaping, rent collections and ultimately full property management to non-MHA residential developments, he said.

The authority served as the property managers to the former Millville Gardens complex when the city took ownership before it was demolished last year. The authority also manages the Glasstown Residence at River Park on South 2nd Street, which it formerly owned.

Board chair G. Larry Miller said the authority will not be adverse to working outside of its boundaries.

"This proves the organization is trying to be as efficient as possible with the few dollars we have available," he said.

Also at the meeting, the board accepted the resignation of member Juanita Avilles-Childers for family reasons. The mayor will have to appoint a new commissioner to the seven-member board.