

[print](#)

Central High sewer could begin next month

by KATIE DUNN • Staff Writer

11.20.12 - 12:21 am

WISE — The county Public Service Authority has obtained a private easement that will allow it to bring sewer service to the new Central High School.

Following a closed session last Tuesday, the PSA's board of directors agreed to accept a 20-foot permanent easement and 40-foot construction easement on property located below the school site and owned by Tim Morgan.

Thompson & Litton Vice President of Engineering Darrell Stapleton said last Wednesday that Morgan will also benefit from the sewer project.

Morgan owns 11.5 acres below the school site. He recently said that he plans to market the property. Wise County is proposing to rezone between 40 and 50 acres in that area — including Morgan's property — from an R-1 to B-2 zoning designation. At a county planning commission meeting last month, Morgan told commissioners that he was unsure he favored the rezoning since he did not yet know whether a residential or commercial venture might best fit the property.

Stapleton said last Wednesday that when the new sewer line is installed, Morgan will have the opportunity to connect to it, if and when he develops his property.

The PSA has contracted with Thompson & Litton to determine the sewer line's route and perform surveying and design work.

An existing sewer line that runs along a road beside New Peoples Bank and below Walmart will be extended to the future high school, which is being built above the Norton Commons Shopping Center. Stapleton said last Tuesday that this will require about 1,400 additional feet of 8-inch sewer pipe.

The project is being done in conjunction with ongoing sewer work in Hamilton Town. That \$1.2 million project involves installing sewer lines on both sides of Route 757, between Norton and Wise, starting below the shopping center.

PSA Director of Project Development Wayne Watts said last week that

this project is substantially complete, with 77 residents and four businesses now connected. He added that one resident still needs a connection and this will be done when the school's sewer work begins.

Extending the sewer line will cost \$186,790. The board last Tuesday approved a change order with contractor Mendon Construction Co. for the increase. The company is also the contractor for the Route 757 project.

The board also last week approved a change order to decrease the overall cost of the Route 757 project by \$107,203. This stems from a reduction in material quantities needed for that work. Stapleton said this decrease will help address the cost of the school's sewer line. The PSA has also received \$90,000 from the Lenowisco Planning District Commission to aid the school work.

Stapleton told board members that construction hopefully should begin by Dec. 1.

© thecoalfieldprogress.com 2012