

M-COG continues to push joint sewer camera purchase

By **JIM DINO**

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Dan Guldish, executive director of Mountain Council of Governments (M-COG), is trying to get local municipalities together on the purchase of a sewer camera. A demonstration of such a camera was held Thursday.

Guldish said he feels local municipalities can potentially save a lot of money if they combine to purchase a camera that is designed to go inside sewer line.

He said the organization has the opportunity to get a 50-50 Community Revitalization matching grant from the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

An equal local match of dollars would have to be raised. Guldish said that's not expensive compared to what a municipality would have to pay for a camera if there were an emergency that required one.

Guldish said the entire cost of the endeavor would be about \$74,000, but municipalities would share the cost.

"The grant would provide \$56,854, so the COG would be responsible for about \$38,000," Guldish said. "So far, we have four municipalities participating. It will cost them about \$3,000 apiece. The more municipalities that participate, the cheaper it becomes for everybody."

Municipal officials who want more information on the camera can contact Guldish at the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce at

455-1508.

M-COG has 14 member municipalities in three counties, and is the only council of governments in Luzerne County. Its members have participated in joint purchase of materials, and has other joint projects pending.

Another joint purchase the COG is looking at is a pothole filler.

Guldish said one COG member approached him about a joint purchase of a pothole filler.

Beaver Meadows Borough Councilman Bernard Moro said he is familiar with a pothole patcher.

"We used one from New Jersey," Gulick said. "We had it a couple of days, and it cost us about \$3,000. The potholes that were filled held up pretty good because they went through two winter seasons. But you have to fill the pothole the right way."

Guldish said he will look into the idea.

He said a schedule could be set up, so that all municipalities wanting to use it would get a chance.

Another member reminded Guldish that the Asphalt Zipper – a machine that mills streets, and mixes the asphalt pulled up from the milling with fresh oil to provide material to repave a street – is another possibility.

Nanticoke City Manager Greg Gulick said he is familiar with the equipment.

"You can get a street done in a day, from start to finish," Gulick said. "You could do a half-block in an hour. We did three streets in one week."