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Firm gets contract to raze Page Dairy

BY BLADE STAFF WRITER

A Michigan firm has been awarded the contract to demolish one of the city's oldest eyesores: the vacant Page Dairy building near Central Union Terminal.

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority board of directors voted yesterday to accept a \$257,000 bid from Homrich Wrecking of Carleton, Mich., to tear down the decrepit structure and crush the brick debris into stone. *Aug. 26, 1994*

The stone will be used as base material for parking lots and roadway improvements planned in conjunction with the port authority's proposed restoration of nearby Central Union Terminal. *Blade*

Page Dairy has been vacant since 1975 and has been a repeated target of vandals and arsonists. The city of Toledo obtained the property from Lucas County, which had seized it for back taxes, and obtained a \$1 million federal grant that will pay for the dairy's demolition and other neighborhood improvements.

Four other companies, along with Homrich, bid for the demolition contract. The contract does not include the cost of removing asbestos or underground fuel tanks from the site, which will be done separately.

Seaport Director John Loftus said the port plans to begin demolition around Oct. 1. The project should

take 30 to 45 days to complete.

The port authority still is negotiating final terms for acquiring Central Union Terminal from Conrail, Mr. Loftus said.

Port board chairman Richard Ruppert, meanwhile, said Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner has pledged to include a \$500,000 appropriation in the city's 1996 capital budget for the terminal project, plugging what had appeared to be a shortfall in the project's funding.

"We no longer have a funding problem, just a timing problem," Dr. Ruppert said.

Mr. Loftus said he has received letters of intent from Amtrak and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments to sign leases to occupy the restored depot.

In other business, the port board approved an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation that establishes the port authority as lead agency for construction of a bridge leading into the Port of Toledo and appropriated \$25,000 for an environmental study of the area where the bridge is to be built.

The Tiffin Avenue bridge over the CSX railroad would replace a grade crossing on Front Street that is often blocked by trains.

If all goes well, Mr. Loftus said, a contract for construction could be awarded late next year.