

Metro

Macomb tract sells for \$3.5M

Luxury apartments possible at Hall Road site

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Luxury apartments could be coming to a nearly 9-acre parcel of land on Hall Road after a developer made a \$3.5-million bid for the Macomb Township site that was up for sale by Macomb County Public Works.

The offer on the site at Garfield Road was received in a public auction Wednesday held by the public works department. The office was

selling three parcels of land, with the Hall Road location the largest and most lucrative.

The site has been owned by the Macomb Interceptor Drain Drainage District for about 20 years and was purchased for \$2.5 million during construction of a sewer interceptor along Garfield in the late 1990s, according to public works.

With this sale, the office will have sold nearly \$4 million in property since Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller took office in January 2017.

"This office is not in the land business. We are in the drain business."

Candice Miller
Public Works Commissioner

"We're not in the business of holding on to land and doing nothing with it for decades. My goal is to sell these excess properties, get them back on the tax roll and let them be developed in a way that benefits the community," she said

in a release Thursday.

Her office is not releasing the name of the local, private developer who made the \$3.5-million bid because he has a 90-day period to conduct a due diligence review of the property before the transaction is finalized.

The other two properties that were sold include a lot at the corner of 21 Mile and Sugarbush roads that sold for \$100,000. It was bought by the Chesterfield Township Library Board as a site for a proposed new library.

Miller said the drainage district board agreed to sell the property at below its ap-

See **MACOMB**, Page 5A

Macomb

Continued from Page 4A

praised value to support the development of a new library.

The office also sold a 4.5-acre site along the Hawken Drain, just west of Ryan Road between 19 Mile and M-59 in Sterling Heights, for \$250,000. The site is in the process of being developed for luxury homes.

Revenue from the sales will be used to support maintenance and upkeep of the drainage district's assets, which provides sanitary sewer service to more than a half-million residents and businesses in 11 communities in the county.

The district oversaw the sewer interceptor in Fraser that collapsed in 2016.

The revenues from the sale of the site along the Hawken Drain will be used to support storm drain maintenance operations in Sterling Heights, according to the release.

"This office is not in the land business. We are in the drain business. I cannot understand why these properties were held by this office for decades, to no public benefit. These sales will contribute to the economic prosperity in our community while providing additional funds for our drains. The public is the big winner today," Miller said.

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The 8.89 acres for sale at the northwest corner of M-59 (Hall Road) and Garfield is one of three excess parcels that was sold at auction by Macomb County.

MACOMB COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS