

New doctor's clinic takes shape

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Hospital board, officials waiting for word on USDA loan.

Nailing down some of the financial details in building a \$3.1 million doctor's clinic was the first agenda item for the Gothenburg Memorial Hospital board last Thursday.

Actual construction is estimated at \$2.63 million but \$300,000 to \$400,000 has been added to cover contingencies or unexpected expenses.

Hospital and board officials are hoping to cover costs with a \$2.2 million loan from the United States Department of Agriculture and a \$500,000 loan from Gothenburg State Bank.

"It's highly likely we will receive the USDA loan but it's not approved yet," said GMH administrator John Johnson Friday.

The 16,900 square-foot clinic, which will accommodate eight practitioners including doctors and physician assistants, will be constructed where the long-term care wing is now on the south part of the hospital.

The south wing of Long-Term Care, which is scheduled to close Sept. 30, will be demolished

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before construction begins in March of 2011.

However the east wing, which includes the dining area and nurses' station, will be remodeled. Offices and two sleep study rooms will move into the space as well as an information technology room and a sleeping room for physicians.

Johnson said a new clinic is needed because the current clinic is too small and officials want the ability to attract doctors in the future by having adequate space.

At their meeting Thursday, board members had an eight-minute hearing to receive comment about the project. No one from the public attended except a representative from The Times.

Johnson said clinic doctors will lease space from the hospital, like they do now at Gothenburg Family Practice, which would make the clinic a taxable entity.

However, he said the current clinic will be removed from the tax rolls. He added that plans for that clinic are unknown at this time.

The board later revisited the project when Johnson said he and certified public accountant Kurt Mournal had been working on funding issues.

Johnson said he also requested and received a special use permit

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