

Funding could delay newmedical clinic

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Johnson talks about project at annual GIC meeting.

Uncertainty over federal funding could hold up construction of a \$3.1 million doctor's clinic.

At their annual meeting Nov. 16, Gothenburg Memorial Hospital administrator John Johnson told Gothenburg Improvement Company stockholders that Republicans elected to Congress could change what happens with funding sources.

"We're in a hurry-up-and- wait mode," Johnson said during a luncheon at the Monsanto Water Utilization Learning Center.

The GMH board approved the building of a new clinic last spring with hopes to break ground in October.

That date was moved to March. The hospital's long-term care wing, where the clinic will be built, will be demolished before construction begins.

Johnson said officials plan to fund the project with a \$2.5 million loan from the United States Department of Agriculture and a \$500,000 bank loan.

Three physicians and two physician's assistants operate from a clinic attached to GMH which Johnson and board members say is too cramped.

"We need to prepare for new people coming in and for an environment as up to date as possible," he said.

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The clinic will be part of the hospital with a south-facing entrance.

Johnson said there will be rooms for eight practitioners, 21 examination rooms, two treatment rooms for minor surgeries and a laboratory on the main floor which will be 15,000 square feet.

Storage and a mechanical room will be included in a basement with 3,000 square feet.

The clinic will probably be furnished with furniture built by

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