

**WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM**

Date: 5/12/2022

Weekly Agenda Date: 5/24/2022

**ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN:** Diane Dreves, Chris Country, citize

**WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:**

Support for Movable Area Medical Clinic Construction

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Public Hearing

Other: Informational

Attachments

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Movable Area Medical Clinic Committee, Inc is constructing a new bi-level medical facility. Family practice and specialists will be located on the lower level with entry and parking off Frontage Road in Movable. The upper level will be a physical therapy/rehabilitation unit and a wellness center with entry and access on a widened and modernized East Drive. The area along the east side will become a connection to East Drive and into Woodbury Central school parking lot which has been expanded and paved. There will be ambulance entrances to both levels. The view of the building by passersby would create a very positive impression of our community.

**BACKGROUND:**

MAMCC, Inc is a non-profit organization formed in 1994. This committee was formed to make an impactful contribution toward alleviating or eliminating access to health care problems in underserved rural areas. It was specifically formed to address these problems in Movable but has now expanded to serve others in Lawton, Bronson, Anthon, Oto, Correctionville, Kingsley, Pierson, and Climbing Hill with healthcare coverage; thereby, serving a large portion of Woodbury County and other counties. The mission is to provide high quality medical and preventive services to the communities in the area at the lowest practical cost. We need to provide needed support services to healthcare providers and patients to improve the health of the communities we serve. The present facility was constructed in 1994. A group of concerned citizens united to form MAMCC which received its 501(c)3 designation and began raising funds for a new physician ' s office. This group poured its heart and soul into the project. They not only held numerous fundraising events and received outright donations but they actually built the facility themselves. They dug the foundation with local farm equipment, placed the sewer with local volunteers, painted the walls, refinished the woodwork and obtained equipment from nearby offices that were remodeling. Many of these same individuals continue their dedication to the construction of a new facility. With new regulations, codes, the cost of materials and the age of the members, the committee members are unable to do the work themselves this time. Assistance is being sought from contributions, fund raisers, grants and loans. A physical therapy/rehabilitation center was needed and the basement portion of the building was remodeled to include this service. This area has been operated by CNOS for several years. The clinic operations were purchased by Dr. Wentz of Family Healthcare of Siouxland in 2006. In 2019, he made the decision to sell the clinic back to MAMC. MAMC then established an agreement with MercyOne Clinic to operate the clinic. The agreement with CNOS remained in place and continues today. Rural medicine has difficulty attracting and keeping physicians. Without modern equipment and facilities, the task is even more challenging. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services ' State Variability in Supply of Office-based Primary Care Providers, " The patient to primary care physician ration in rural areas is only 39.2 physicians per 100,000 people, compared to 53.3 physicians per 100,000 people in urban areas. This uneven distribution of physicians has an impact on the health of the rural population. " In many areas, patients have to drive or be transported many miles to be treated. In extreme emergencies, those miles could be difference between life and death. Travel distance is known to be a challenge when seeking primary care as well as mental health care in rural area.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The financial impact is large. During construction, the builders would benefit from a multi-million dollar project. Following construction, an addition of employees would be felt. It is estimated that 12 new employees would be hired. This in turn would hopefully affect the housing industry in this area. Utility companies would profit and property taxes for the clinic would serve as an income to the county. The benefit to Woodbury County should be huge. Because of the location and the fact that an Urgent Care would be included in the clinic, travelers along highway 20 would be able to receive needed care in route. The location also lends itself to this clinic becoming a hub to the other rural towns in Woodbury County. The specialty physician area and lab and radiology departments would allow patients to obtain service here and not force them to drive to Dakota Dunes for some of those services.

The present facility would not be simply sold. Our further dream is to convert the building into a preschool/day care center. There is an empty lot to the east and a modernized park across the street making this area ideal for children. We are not seeking funds for the preschool/day care at this time but rather want you to know our vision does go beyond the clinic needs and will be establishing a plan for further development in the future. Going even further, we have already suggested to the school that we would like to develop a "school-to-work" program with the students to assist them in finding a career.

**IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?**

Yes  No

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is our request that the Woodbury Co. Supervisors would financially support the construction of this regional medical clinic to help benefit the rural citizens of the county.

**ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:**

We are looking for a motion to applying funding for construction of this regional medical clinic in Woodbury County.