

NEMHS Community Residents

Over the last year, NEMHS has been planning an 11,000 sq. ft. addition and 20,400 sq. ft. renovation at Trinity Hospital, which would create approximately 40% additional floor area at the hospital and an additional 70% increase in the clinic floor area. In Poplar, plans are to build a new 3100 sq. ft. clinic that will be attached to the hospital to provide central access to the radiology and laboratory services, and 3,700 sq. ft. renovation to the current laboratory and radiology departments. The renovation of the radiology will increase its floor space by 50% and laboratory by 100%. Each facility will also have structural issues resolved such as boilers, roofing, water and sewer lines, and asbestos abatement.

We are now in the beginning phases of our construction project for both Poplar and Wolf Point. So, I would like to give you all an update on where we are and how the project will be phased and the funding.

The following is our working plan:

At Trinity:

Phase I. Clinic addition, ER, Business Office, and part of the new entry

Phase II. Main entry, LDPR, laboratory, Clinic renovation, Chemotherapy, Pharmacy and ICU

Phase III. Radiology, Center core, observation unit

Phase IV. Nurse's station

Phase V. Waiting area, Public restrooms, Administration and Medical Record wing

In Poplar:

Phase I Clinic addition

Phase II. Radiology and Laboratory renovation

Phase III Nurse's station, Pharmacy, CSR

There will be 5 abatement phases in Poplar and will take approximately 6 months to complete. The various phases will affect virtually all areas of the hospital at some point. There will no doubt be many inconveniences as we proceed through these phases, so please bear with us. We are estimating the completion time for the Poplar campus to be 12 months and the Wolf Point campus 18 months.

The Governing Board has been working very hard at securing financing for the project, which is estimated to be \$12,500,000.00. This past December, the Board voted to finance our project through a publicly placed, tax exempt revenue bond issue using DA Davidson as the underwriter. We are also working with the Montana Facility Finance Authority and have secured an enhancement through the Montana Board of Investments, giving the bonds a Aa3/AA rating by Moody and Fitch.

This is a very exciting time for NEMHS. The only time Poplar campus has been renovated was in 1991 with the addition of the Emergency Room, main entry and administration/office. For Trinity, the only addition/renovation was when the clinic was built in the 80's. Our corporate vision states: *to gain the support of the communities we serve, which will enable us to be the people's first choice in health care.* It is only because of your continued trust and support through the use of our facilities, that our hopes are becoming a reality.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at 768-6100 or 653-6512.

Sincerely,

Peg Norgaard, NEMHS, CEO