

Yet another hospital vies for suburban trade

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Another bid is in the hopper to build a full-care hospital in West Bloomfield Township — and more may be coming. William Beaumont Hospital has requested consideration to operate a 200-bed hospital, costing approximately \$36 million, from the state Department of Public Health.

"Our position is that the Department of Public Health is investigating, and if there is a need for hospital beds in West

Bloomfield then Beaumont believes we should provide that need," said Mike Killian, Beaumont's director of public affairs.

The proposed hospital would be patterned after the five-story, full-service, acute-care Beaumont facility presently operating in Troy, Killian said. There isn't a specific site planned for the West Bloomfield project.

"Obviously, we wouldn't want to invest in buying a site without having a certificate-of-need approval," Killian said.

Even though Beaumont filed its request with the health department on Feb. 26, an initial intent was presented to the local governing agency more than 11 years ago, Killian said.

The health department soon will consider full-care hospital proposals in the Pontiac sub-area, which includes West Bloomfield.

Tuesday is the health department's deadline to receive requests. Officials then will determine if there is a need for additional hospital beds, and, if so,

how the need will be met.

Henry Ford and Sinai Hospitals have requested to co-sponsor a 200-bed acute-care hospital on the present Ford outpatient site, at Maple West of Drake.

BUT, ALL THESE requests to add hospital beds in West Bloomfield may be futile.

"The state is saying there is no need for additional beds, and there are 24 extra beds in the area," according to Donald Lamb, director of project re-

view at Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan. "But, I've heard rumors that others will file."

CHPC-SEM serves in an advisory capacity to the health department. Sinai is expected to open an outpatient facility on Farmington Road, north of Maple, by April 1.

"The reason these two hospitals (Ford and Sinai) got together is because there are specific hospital needs," according to Arnold Kimmel, director of the Ford/Sinai hospital project.

The Ford/Sinai proposal would offer general medical and surgical procedures. The facility won't be equipped to provide obstetric and pediatric care, Kimmel said.

The hospital wouldn't duplicate health care that already is offered at the separate Ford and Sinai ambulatory centers, Kimmel said.

"The land would be donated by Henry Ford," Kimmel said. "That area is

the only area in West Bloomfield that is zoned for hospital use."

IN ADDITION, Beaumont recently petitioned for a certificate of need that would allow the hospital to open an outpatient facility in the Maple-Orchard Lake Road area, Killian said.

Beaumont proposes a \$5.9 million ambulatory medical center that would house 20-25 physicians.

One of the sites Beaumont has identified as a possible location is the same area on which Woodward Medical Center of Detroit has acquired an option to purchase.

A public hearing on the rezoning request is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, before the West Bloomfield Planning Commission. The commission will make a recommendation to the Township Board following the hearing.

Council split on study usefulness

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Citizens for More Responsible Government, also referred to as the 1979 ballot.

The people overwhelmingly and emphatically stated no to the question concerning mid-rise senior citizen apartment buildings in Farmington Hills," Hovanessian said.

"THEY DO not want tall buildings in Farmington Hills, not for the purpose of apartments, not for offices, not for industrial, not for otherwise," she said. In 1979, Hovanessian said, the Citizens for More Responsible Government became aware of "an insensitive council, who at that time, were actually planning a mid-rise senior citizen housing project in our city, despite the impending ballot question."

"November '79 should be evidence enough to realize that it would be a mistake for you to proceed with any kind of study for raising height limita-

tions in IRO (Industrial-Research-Office district) or other office-zoned properties," Hovanessian continued.

"To do so would be going in a direction opposite to what your constituents want. And you who represent these homeowners have, of course, not the right to believe you know what is better for them than what they want for themselves as a majority."

But Councilwoman Joan Dudley blasted the results of the 1979 ballot, claiming two issues, senior housing with rent subsidies and increasing heights for housing and industrial research office zones, were combined into one issue.

"There is no way to know which question is being defeated . . .," Dudley said.

"To rely on this ballot is a rather shaky business," Dudley said.

Calling Farmington Hills residents transient, Dudley said people who were in the city in 1979 are no longer here.

Others have since moved here. She maintained that the ballot questions are no longer a representation of how residents actually feel about increasing building heights.

Dudley also noted that the issue of federally subsidized senior citizen housing is no longer part of the issue.

"To know the facts upon which we make our decision is worth \$1,000-\$2,000," Dudley said, favoring the

building heights study.

Referring to Alkatieb's premise that increased heights will not increase tax revenue and Councilman Donn Wolf's decision to vote against increased heights, Dudley asked, "What if it shows great (additional) tax revenue?"

"I have seen money spent by councils for studies ad nauseum," she said, arguing in favor of spending money for a study.

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