

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL & HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

The Oconee County Council met with the Oconee Memorial Hospital Committee, Tuesday, March 6, 1990 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers with all Council Members present.

Present from the hospital were: Mr. Ham Hudson, Mr. Archie Barron, Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Robert Edwards, Mr. Marshall Parker, Mr. Edwin Mitchell, Mr. Backmon Glymph and Dr. Larry Bowman.

Members of the press notified (by mail): Seneca Journal, Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Greenville News, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WSNW Radio, WBES Radio, WZLI/WLET Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Press

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum - WGOG Radio, Ron Barnett - Greenville News, Tom Johnson - Anderson Independent and Robin Boyle - Seneca Journal.

Mr. Archie Barron, Chairman of the Hospital Committee addressed Council regarding the development of a health care system for now and in the future.

Meeting

Mr. Barron stated the hospital does need to stay competitive, attract doctors and a modern facility.

The three major concepts of the concept the committee has developed are: (1) the construction of a new up to date, state of the art hospital; (2) the conversion of the present hospital facility into a long term care facility and (3) conversion of Lila Doyle into a residential care facility and/or combination of adult care facilities.

A replacement hospital would promote increased efficiency in all areas of the hospital with emphasis on out patient and diagnostic care. A replacement of the present hospital would contain a consolidation of services provided by the hospital which would lead to higher quality care at a lower cost.

A conversion of the present hospital into a long term care facility would provide long term care for more elderly people in the county.

Lila Doyle could be used for long term care and adult day care services or a combination of long term and residential care.

This would allow the hospital to almost double their services to the elderly.

Mr. Hudson, Hospital Administrator, informed Council of the following health needs in Oconee County: (1) Oconee Hospital is falling behind in the competitiveness for doctors and patients as 35.84% Oconee County residents went outside the county for hospitalization in 1988 and 52.6% county residents went outside the county for surgery in 1988.

Mr. Hudson also informed Council it was hard to get physicians to come to a county that did not have modern up to date facilities.

Mr. Hudson also informed Council it would take two to three years to build a new hospital and five years to renovate the present hospital.

In November, 1989 the architects submitted a plan for a new hospital with 160,000 square feet with 125 beds.

The Hospital Committee asked the architects to submit another proposal using part of the present facility, the architects then submitted a plan whereby a tower could be added to the present facility utilizing part of the existing building. There are five (5) different options how a tower can be utilized as well as adding some new services.

The three major issues are: (1) ambulatory and out patient services; (2) market share (county residents not going outside the county for health care); (3) long term care for the elderly.

The committee reached a three (3) point concept:

- (1) development and construction of new hospital
- (2) Conversion of present hospital to long term care facility
- (3) Conversion of Lila Doyle to a residential care and/or day care facility

The conversion of three (3) floors of the present hospital for long term, dual licensed care (acute and intermediate) would be between \$1,500,000 and \$3,000,000; Lila Doyle could then be used for residential care or if all the beds are not needed for residential care, then some could be used for long term care. This would be 117 beds for long term care.

The hospital presently has a certificate of need for beds at Lila Doyle and if those beds are added it would cost approximately \$2,000,000. This would be 116 beds which would be almost the same if the hospital were converted into a long term facility.

The cost of a hospital with 160,000 square feet with 125 beds would cost approximately between \$19,000,000 and \$20,000,000 excluding equipment.

Dr. Larry Bowman addressed Council regarding the need for improved facilities, the need to provide speciality care and a new operating room and well as physical therapy equipment.

There was then discussion between Council and the Hospital Committee as to the financing of the concept in which the committee stated they had no building site at this time.

Mr. Crain stated the Council would need a concrete proposal before there could be a response from Council and he would appoint a committee to study their proposal.

Mr. Barron assured Council they would discuss financing in any way.

Adjourn: 6:50 PM