Hospital board signs contract for $2.9 million project.

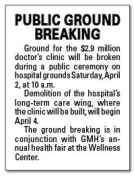
Spending $2.9 million for a new doctor's clinic was under what Gothenburg Memorial Hospital board and officials expected.

The expectation was that about $3.1 million would be spent on the 18,000-square foot building.

"Our goal was to keep it under $3 million," said GMH administrator John Johnson.

Following approval of a $2.5 million federal loan, the board signed a contract with Sampson Construction Company last week.

Sampson, a Lincoln-based construction company, was actually hired last April after presenting a conceptual design and projected cost per square foot.



PUBLIC GROUND BREAKING

Ground for the $2.9 million doctor's clinic will be broken during a public ceremony on hospital grounds Saturday, April 2, at 10 a.m.

Demolition of the hospital's long-term care wing, where the clinic will be built, will begin April 4.

The ground breaking is in conjunction with GMH's annual health fair at the Wellness Center.

Other bidders were Paulsen Inc. of Cozad and Lacy Construction Company of Grand Island.

Sampson submitted the lowest bid at $163 per square foot. Paulsen's submitted $180 per foot as did Lacy Construction Company.

Johnson said bids for subcontractors were put out by Sampson in January and reviewed and selected during a construction meeting three weeks ago.

“We chose the ones we wanted and, in most cases, took the low bid,” he explained, noting that local bidders were chosen when possible.

Once ground is broken for the project on Saturday, April 2, Johnson said construction is expected to last about 10 months, depending on the weather.

Johnson said he hopes officials have better control over the building of the clinic than they did during a two-year renovation of and addition to the hospital that was completed in 2004.

“That was like trying to remodel a home while living in it,” he said. “We had to do it in phases.”

At this time, he said the hospital board hasn’t decided what to do with the building that houses Gothenburg Family Practice.

“We’ll need to consider the value of gutting and remodeling that building,” Johnson said, noting that the clinic will remain open until the new clinic is built.

Hospital officials received word in February that GMH received the $2.5 million loan from the United States Department of Agriculture.

That loan, coupled with a $500,000 loan from Gothenburg State Bank, will give the hospital what it needs to build the clinic.

The GMH board moved ahead with the project because of cramped conditions at Gothenburg Family Practice and the desire to recruit younger practitioners.

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