

Voters in Onaga Hospital District to Decide Bond Issue

(KMZA)-Community Healthcare Systems is seeking approval of a nearly \$17.6 million bond issue to help fund the construction of a new facility at the Onaga hospital and to upgrade the existing facility

Voters in Community Hospital District #1, which includes portions of Pottawatomie, Jackson and Nemaha Counties, will vote on the bond issue during the April 2nd general election.

If approved by voters, a new single-story hospital facility would be constructed. It would include a surgery department, imaging department, emergency room, inpatient service areas, obstetrics and nursery areas.

Portions of the existing facility would be razed to create space for the new hospital.

The bond issue would also be used to renovate the existing facility, constructed in 1957, to provide improved clinic space, other support areas, administration areas and enlarged food service areas.

Other improvements planned include canopied entrances, a lighted helipad, improvements to the mobile MRI bay, exterior upgrades and an expanded parking area.

The total project cost is estimated \$18.4 million.

The bond issue would increase property taxes in the hospital district one mill. For the owner of a \$100,000 home that would mean they would pay an additional \$11.50 a year.

Public meetings have been set by the committee promoting the bond issue to provide information on the proposal and answer questions. The first meeting will be Thursday evening at 6:30 at the Havensville Community Center.

Additional meetings will be held Sunday, March 10th at the Onaga Community Center at 3 p.m.; Monday, March 11th at the Onaga Community Center at 7 p.m.; Thursday, March 14th at the Onaga Senior Center at 12:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 14th at the Wheaton School lunch room at 7 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 27th at the Emmett Fire Station at 1:30 p.m.

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