



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kris Sundberg: 952-239-6394 or kris@linksresults.com

New Dosey Township Passes Resolution to Join North Pine Area Hospital District

Township representatives cite desire to be a part of decision-making for the new, much needed medical facilities

Sandstone, MN – October 20, 2014 – The North Pine Area Hospital District (Hospital District) announces that New Dosey Township passed a resolution on Saturday, October 18, to join the Hospital District. The Township previously passed a resolution at their March 11, 2014 annual meeting to explore joining the Hospital District.

“The residents of New Dosey are pleased to become a responsible partner of the Hospital District,” stated Dave Fornengo, Township Chair. “After learning that it is possible to join the Hospital District and several months of consideration, we concluded that joining the Hospital District was in the best interest of our citizens.” New Dosey Township will be the first to join the Hospital District since its formation in 1988.

“We are a rural, sparsely populated area of mostly senior citizens who want a place at the table so we can influence decisions about our health care,” Fran Levings, Township Clerk stated at the meeting.

Ron Osladil, Chair of the North Pine Area Hospital District and Michael Hedrix, Pine Medical Administrator, met with the Township Board and other interested residents to discuss the Hospital District and answer questions. They noted the critically important role of Hospital Districts in funding and providing quality health care facilities and services in rural communities. Without the Hospital District, the area would not be able to fund adequate local health care that is adaptable to meet current and future health care needs. They pointed out that a minimal tax investment would return tremendous value from a new medical facility, which will include:

- Retaining the hospital’s critical access designation in a facility that is right-sized with expanded surgical services and increased outpatient space.
- Building a new primary care clinic with increased provider presence, additional specialty services, greater economies of scale from shared space and equipment, and significantly improved patient convenience from co-location of the health care services.
- Continuing the ambulance service, which is in high-demand making over 2,900 calls per year.

In Phase II of the project, new senior living facilities are being planned. They will include skilled nursing services, assisted living, long-term care and memory care. Also, an independent living facility may also be considered.

“We are delighted to have New Dosey join the Hospital District and appreciate their recognition that the Hospital District has a significant role in ensuring that our citizens have excellent health care,” states Ron Osladil, Chairman of the North Pine Area Hospital District. “The time couldn’t be better to have their voice heard as the planning for the new medical campus proceeds.”

Additionally, new jobs will be created for Pine County residents during construction and the ongoing operation of the new medical campus. Studies demonstrate that investments in new institutions such as hospitals, schools, libraries, etc. serve to stimulate other local economic development opportunities.

About North Pine Area Hospital District

The North Pine Area Hospital District was created in 1988 by 17 cities and townships in Pine County. It is a political subdivision of Minnesota with taxing authority to acquire, improve and run hospital and nursing home facilities, ensuring that area residents have access to high quality health care. The Hospital District has chosen to own the Sandstone hospital building and to contract for health care services with a professional provider, Essentia Health, which leases the facility from the Hospital District and manages and staffs the hospital. The North Pine Area Hospital District is governed by a Board composed of 18 individuals appointed/elected by their respective cities or townships and one at-large member.

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