



Final Hurdle for Healthcare Campus Construction

Ron Osladil, Chairman of the North Pine Area Hospital District

The old saying that ‘nothing good comes easy’ is certainly true for the construction of the Pine Healthcare Campus in Sandstone. The construction crews are contracted and ready to begin building the facility as soon as the City of Sandstone can sell the property to the North Pine Area Hospital District. However, there is one last hurdle to overcome – getting the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) approvals.

The City of Sandstone applied to the Federal EDA for a \$2.3 million grant to build the bridge, roads and utility infrastructure for the new medical and business park. It is very difficult to get these grants, but after extensive review, the EDA awarded the grant. The City is now in the final review process with the EDA, which they say can last several months.

The Hospital District, however, hopes to get the construction underway as soon as possible and not have to wait for spring. A delay at this time of year can add substantial cost to the construction. Therefore, the City is working to persuade the EDA to complete at least the title work review yet this month. Then the City should be able to sell the land to the Hospital District, and we can begin construction.

Everyone involved including the Hospital District, the City and our provider partners have worked hard and are looking forward to building this truly innovative rural health care facility. The design will allow, under one roof, moving through the hospital, pharmacy, therapy, clinic and even senior care areas without going outside. This provides patients and visitors added convenience and safety especially during our harsh winter weather.

Let’s hope that our federal government will deliver good news, thereby providing a very Happy Thanksgiving for all of us.

Visit our website for more information and updates on the progress of the Hospital District planning and construction. Go to www.PineHospitalDistrict.com.