



City Commission approves memorandum for new hospital location

by [Jennifer Perez](#)

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MARQUETTE — The city commission is moving a head with MGH's plan to build their new hospital at the old roundhouse property.

In a special meeting Monday afternoon the commission heard from officials with Duke LifePoint, and residents in support of the project.

"Our first priority is to our patients. Our second is making sure we continue to maintain the role of Marquette General Hospital has played in this community," said Jeff Saraphine, president of the Eastern Division of Duke LifePoint.

It's a pivotal point for Marquette General Hospital with the city's approval of the roundhouse property serving as the site for the new hospital.

MGH plans to use 37 acres including vacant land between Baraga Avenue and Washington Street, as well as the property where the current municipal complex is located.

Duke LifePoint chose the site because of its proximity to the downtown.

It's also a brownfield site so Duke LifePoint will purchase it for four million.

They will also receive a 50 percent tax abatement for twelve years.

"We have to look as a city at what we're going to do now to replace the municipal service center. We've thought about it we've given it some study, but we haven't plans yet," said Don Ryan, city commissioner.

Plans for the new hospital stems from the need to provide efficient healthcare services from one location.

Currently, they operate out of a number of buildings which were added on and expanded to the original St. Luke's hospital before it became MGH in 1973.

The new hospital will serve as what many are calling a medical campus providing the latest in technology, a cancer center, in patient out patient services, 256 private rooms, and room for growth.

"We've already started design work. We're going to hopefully very soon get some design options down and be able to incorporate community feedback in finalizing the design for the hospital," Saraphine said.

The project would also include construction of a roundabout on U.S. 41, a new bridge, and re-alignment of Baraga avenue.

Officials with Duke LifePoint say it will create hundreds of local jobs as they will be using local construction firms for the project.

"Once the hospital opens we're going to be able to provide a lot of specialized services. So, we're looking at hiring physicians and along with the physicians we usually hire two or three office staff," said Ed Banos, CEO, MGH.

MGH hopes to break ground on the \$280 million dollar medical campus in early 2015 and completed in 2017.

In a unanimous vote, the Marquette City Commission approved the memorandum of understanding to build the new hospital at the old Roundhouse property.

This agreement is just the first step in the process of building the new hospital. At the meeting several residents from the area and commissioners spoke on their support and need for keeping the hospital within the city. Duke LifePoint plans to purchase the property for \$4 million.

They're hoping to break ground on the project in 2015, and have services started in 2017. The project would also include construction of a round about on US



41, a new flyover for bridge, and re-alignment of Baraga Avenue.

"We're excited about this site because of it's close proximity to downtown and the many community ammenities," says Jeff Saraphine, president of the Eastern Division of LifePoint. "The new hospital campus will reinforce renew a positive momentum in the downtown creating economic benefits for the community.'

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