

"\$10.5 Million Funding Urged for 7 Hospitals"

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\$10.5 Million Funding Urged For 7 Hospitals

7/9/65-B
Planning Board
Trustees Ask Bond
Issue For Expansion

A \$10.5 million bond issue to finance expansion programs of seven of the city's private, nonprofit hospitals was recommended yesterday by the Hospital Planning Association board of trustees.

Excluded from the bond issue request is St. Luke's Hospital, which the trustees recommended be combined into the proposed Toledo State Medical College complex.

St. Luke's earlier this year was slated to receive \$3.5 million for construction of a new 200-bed hospital at Byrne Road and Glendale Avenue in South Toledo.

The trustees' action was in the form of a recommendation to the County Hospital Commission which meets Monday to determine the size of the hospital bond issue that is to be submitted to voters in November. Final authority rests with the county commissioners who must vote by next Wednesday to place the bond issue on the ballot.

Special Meeting

Urban Bowes, planning association president, said the \$10.5 million figure was agreed on Wednesday in a special meeting of the board presidents of seven of the eight private hospitals in the city. Parkview Hospital was invited but did not send a representative, he said.

The HPA sought a \$14 million bond issue last spring, but the county commissioners decided in favor of a fall election and took the issue off the May ballot.

Mr. Bowes said the commissioners have limited a hospital bond issue to \$18 million, including the new medical college teaching hospital which is estimated to need \$7.5 million.

Faced with this limitation and the rapidly approaching deadline for placing the issue on the ballot, it was decided to limit the HPA request to \$10.5 million, Mr. Bowes said.

Sites Involved

Involved in the decision, he continued, is the possibility that the new 500-bed medical college teaching hospital will be located in South Toledo resulting in "two hospitals facing each other across the street."

Franklin Schroeder, St. Luke's board president, said it would be a "fool's mission" to try to survive in South Toledo with a 500-bed teaching hospital. He noted that in addition to the \$3.5 million hospital bond issue allocation, St. Luke's planned to apply for a \$2.5 million federal grant and borrow another \$1.5 million.

Incorporation of St. Luke's into the medical college complex is only an idea and no details have been discussed with the medical school trustees, Mr. Schroeder said. He added, however, that he was hopeful St. Luke's could somehow survive in the medical school organization.

Reservation Noted

The recommendation was approved by all 25 trustees attending the meeting, but Thomas Dolan, a St. Vincent Hospital board member, said he felt the HPA should go ahead with its bond issue and let the medical school go on the ballot later "when it has its facts and figures ready."

Medical school participation in the bond issue, it was noted, is dependent on the General Assembly amending the Hoffman Act to permit a facility of this type to share in the proceeds of a county bond issue.

The new HPA request provides for the same distribution of funds as proposed in the original \$14 million request with the exception of St. Luke's.

Flower Hospital is to receive \$1,401,400; Mercy Hospital, \$1,682,100; Parkview, \$476,000; Riverside, \$2,215,500; St. Charles \$2,132,900; St. Vincent, \$1,181,600, and Toledo, \$1,354,500.