

County Wants St. Luke's Bond Fund Reinstated

Skeldon Told Ohio Will Give More Aid To Medical School

7/29/65-B
County commissioners prepared today to ask the Hospital Planning Association to reinstate a \$3.5 million allocation for St. Luke's Hospital which had been deleted from the \$18 million hospital bond issue proposed for the Nov. 2 ballot.

Ned Skeldon, president of the board of county commissioners, was to appear before a special meeting of the HPA to make the request.

The meeting was arranged after Mr. Skeldon was told yesterday by state legislators and officials that additional state financial aid was assured for the new Toledo State College of Medicine teaching hospital. He declined to reveal the exact amount of the new state commitment.

St. Luke's Listed

Commissioners will not need to take further action on the issue, if the reinstatement is approved, since the ballot form sent to the county auditor July 15 mentions St. Luke's Hospital as one of the participating institutions.

The proposed \$18 million bond issue originally included \$10.5 million for capital improvements at seven hospitals. It included \$4 million for the teaching hospital, but this total was later increased by the HPA to \$7.5 million by allocating the St. Luke's share to the teaching facility.

The HPA recommended against construction of a new St. Luke's facility at Byrne Road and Glendale Avenue on the grounds that it would face competition from the teaching hospital.

Objections Removed

The shift in plans favoring St. Luke's yesterday removed objections by commissioner Guy Neeper, who said earlier that he would oppose placing the issue on the November ballot. He preferred instead to delay the issue for a special election next year.

Mr. Neeper objected to the exclusion of St. Luke's from the bond issue, maintaining that the hospital was the only one affected by the issue which had submitted comprehensive plans as to how the tax funds would be spent.

Commissioners must vote again by Aug. 5 on whether to certify the bond issue to the board of elections.

St. Luke's Trustees Seek \$3.5 Million

The St. Luke's Hospital Board of Trustees in a resolution prepared for presentation at today's meeting of the Hospital Planning Association asked that the hospital be included in the bond issue for a minimum of \$3.5 million.

The resolution states that the board finds no major duplication in services between a general hospital and a teaching hospital in the same area.

The resolution said that the teaching hospital might not come into existence in less than six years and more likely may be 10 years away.

St. Luke's, on the other hand, intends to begin construction on its new facility at Glendale Avenue and Bryne Road in 1966 if it is included in the bond issue. Studies show, the resolution continued, that there is a need for additional hospital facilities and beds almost immediately, and these studies did not include a provision for an increase of patients through Medicare.

St. Luke's has submitted its plans to the offices administering Hill-Burton funds and has received approval of the plans from the Chicago regional office, the resolution reported. Also, it continued, Hill-Burton has placed hospital facilities in Lucas County on a high priority basis.