



LYON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

430 COMMERCIAL
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Justin Givens
City of Emporia Planning & Zoning Administrator
Via email: jgivens@emporiaks.gov

Mr. Givens:

We are writing to express our support of the proposed zoning text changes regarding medical facilities. As a county hospital, the Board of County Commissioners has great responsibility towards Newman Regional Health and also the health and prosperity of Lyon County and its citizens.

The proposed text changes are essentially a mechanism for the city to maintain local control over decisions regarding new medical facilities. These changes allow for the city to consider the overall impact and extent of like services already being provided and whether the current services are adequate for community need, and to make a decision as to what best serves the community. We understand the serious impact that duplicating income-producing medical services could have on the community hospital and the citizens. Our community hospital is able to maintain positive income streams as a result of outpatient services, specialty care, and advanced imaging. Without these revenue streams, the impact to "essential services" such as emergency, inpatient and obstetrical services could be disastrous. We have seen this happening around the state, with continuing closures of rural hospitals and emergency facilities.

We must also consider the potential impact to taxpayers. Without the revenue producing services, the hospital would need to offset that income through taxpayer support. This could result in an increase in property taxes of nearly \$185 on a \$100,000 home. Ultimately, if the hospital were to close as a result of reduced revenues, any remaining bond obligation after sale of the property and assets would need to be satisfied by the county.

We appreciate the Emporia-Lyon County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and Emporia City Commission's thoughtful consideration of this matter and urge them to pass the proposed text changes.

Lyon County Board of County Commissioners,

Rollie Martin, Chairman

Doug Peck

Ken Duft