

(LE MARS)--A BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN LE MARS IS READY FOR CONSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE A NEW HEALTH CARE SERVICE. THE LE MARS CITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN GIVEN AN UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO OPEN A DIALYSIS CENTER IN DOWNTOWN LE MARS.

KIRK KLOHS, WHO CHAIRS THE LE MARS AREA DIALYSIS SERVICES BOARD, SAID THE EFFORT BEGAN IN JUNE OF 2006 WITH A GOAL OF RAISING \$800,000. HE INDICATED THAT COST WENT UP, BUT THE FUND RAISING EFFORT IS NEARING COMPLETION AND CONSTRUCTION WORK IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. .

HE SAID, "SINCE THE EFFORT BEGAN, THE COST WENT UP TO \$1.2-MILLION DUE TO RISING PRICES." "SINCE THAT TIME, WE'VE BEEN OFFERED THE FORMER WELLS' (DAIRY) BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE THEATER. A GROUP BROUGHT IN TO EVALUATE THE BUILDING SAID ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, IT WAS A TEN FOR EVERYTHING THAT WAS REQUIRED OF THE BUILDING."

"NOW, WE'VE GOT IN EXCESS OF \$900,000, WE'VE GOT A BUILDING FREE AND CLEAR AND THE BOARD IS READY TO PROCEED WITH A GOAL OF HAVING EVERYTHING WRAPPED UP BY THE END OF 2009."

KLOHS SAID HIS BOARD WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF TO TAKE A WALK-THROUGH OF THE BUILDING AT THE END OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING. HE SAID THE BUILDING HAS BEEN GUTTED AND IS READY FOR CONSTRUCTION. KLOHS SAID THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT CENTER WILL BE A FIRST-CLASS OPERATION AND WILL BE A BIG ADDITION FOR LE MARS AND SURROUNDING AREA. AFTER THE MEETING TUESDAY, CITY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE JUNE 23.

www.lemarsdialysis.org

(NEWS REPORT BY LARRY SCHMITZ)