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Chambersburg Hospital's \$72 million expansion plan sent to Chambersburg Borough Council

By [MARCUS RAUHUT](#) Staff writer

CHAMBERSBURG -- Plans for Chambersburg Hospital's \$72 million expansion cleared one hurdle Tuesday evening.

The Chambersburg Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that borough council approve the plans to add two four-story patient towers to the north side of the hospital building.

Council is expected to review the plans at its next meeting, set for Monday.

The expansion will provide private inpatient rooms, a new cardiac catheterization area, a new inpatient dialysis unit, and new mechanical/energy plant services.

The hospital is issuing bonds to finance the renovation and construction project, as well as refinance previous debt, fund a debt service reserve fund, and pay various costs of issuance.

Construction costs are estimated to be \$72 million. Including the cost of equipment that needs to be installed, the total cost of the project is estimated to be closer to \$94 million.

Fitch Ratings recently gave an A+ rating to Franklin County Industrial Development Authority revenue bonds issued on behalf of Summit Health for \$130 million.

The fixed rate series 2010 bonds are expected to price via negotiated sale next week.

Borough planning and zoning administrator Phil Wolgemuth said Tuesday about \$1 million in grant money along with matching local funds will pay for improvements to the intersection of Lincoln Way and Coldbrook Avenue, including storm water improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and a new turn lane on Coldbrook Avenue.

"We are working on moving those projects forward," Wolgemuth said.

No new beds are being proposed. There are currently 240 beds at Chambersburg Hospital, Wolgemuth said.

Hospital officials said private patient rooms are becoming the standard in health care.

Hospital Building & Equipment Co. of St. Louis is the general contractor for the project.

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