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We do deserve a new hospital

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Dec. 30, 2010

When I attended the Quincy Valley Medical Center board meeting on Monday, Dec. 27, I heard a statement that got me thinking.

Board member Anthony Gonzalez was making the case for why the hospital board should spend \$121,000 on a feasibility study that will determine how the hospital can increase its profitability and also how it should go about building a new facility.

Gonzalez said the community deserves a new hospital. I have thought about that statement for a few days since and I agree with him, we do deserve it.

ADVERTISEMENT Our hospital facility is more than 50 years old. It was built by a generation of people who wanted the best for their growing community, so they decided to rise up to the challenge and make it happen.

Well, the facility has served Quincy well over five decades, but anyone who has visited the hospital recently can see that it is coming to the end of its usefulness. It's too small. The waiting room is essentially a cubbyhole. There are access and security concerns throughout the facility. Hospital technology and construction standards have changed considerably in the past 50 years, and while the hospital staff has made do with what they have, it hasn't been easy. Plus, to be honest, it isn't a comfortable building to be in. I know, because I have had almost every member of my family in the hospital for one reason or another and while they have always received wonderful care, the surroundings do little to give a person peace of mind.

I know what a new hospital can do for a community. I have seen it. I lived in Othello shortly after that community built a brand new hospital to replace their aging building. It was amazing to see the different attitude people had about their hospital and the care they received in that building. The new building helped to inspire confidence and enthusiasm for receiving healthcare in Othello. We deserve the same thing here.

I believe the same thing will happen in Quincy. There is a long way to go between talking about a new hospital and opening the doors to a new one, but I'm glad the hospital board is taking the important first step.

They are doing their part, now it's up to us to do ours. We must support the hospital's services and efforts. If we all do, a new facility will have to be built just to handle the increased demand.

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