

Debra Thompson

From: Sharon - Brad Hunter <akhunters85@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 2, 2023 11:32 AM
To: Assembly
Subject: RE: support for rezoning of area for hospital construction

Thank you for your time and diligence in bringing full discussions to the topic of medical care for our community. As I can discern it seems that engaging everyone to access the plans and decision making process regarding options for the ongoing process is perceived to be inadequate. It seems that further ideas regarding that would be great and I would like to hear that added to the ongoing assemble discussion. In addition to community cafes, radio interviews and more open houses with a variety of sites and times I would sincerely support more approaches to get voices heard. My second request to please add to public discussion would be the historical context of what the cost of the hospital has been to our community through the years. What, exactly, has been the burden of taxation to our community for the medical center? And in comparison what is the tax burden for other essential services? I agree we need to have information in order to make decisions about where our limited resources should be spent.

I have lived in Petersburg for 38 years now and the majority of my professional career has been served at this hospital, one refrain that keeps repeating is the assertion that the medical center is a "bandaid station". Let me remind you of two things, one is that patient privacy is paramount for medical professionals and they cannot tell stories about care given. So when the beds are full and care is technical and demanding, lives and limbs are saved, staff is stretched to the breaking point and patients and families are supported through the worst of times, you won't hear about it. Second if a poor outcome occurs and that patient was not referred to a higher level of care the criticism of the providers and facility would be swift and unforgiving.

Is there room for debate about how the facility should be fashioned and what services are optimal? Absolutely, holding in mind our community needs and deserves good health care and that includes a facility where that care can be delivered.

Thank you again for the time and dedication you give to serving on the assembly.
Sharon Hunter