

LOCAL

EDC moving to a new home

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The Genesee County Economic Development Center is hoping to become a tenant in its own Upstate New York Medical and Technology Park in the town of Batavia.

Christopher Suozzi, GCEDC vice president of business development, said the center's move from the city to the town is not a done deal.

"This isn't closed yet," he said. The EDC's offices are in the old Doehler-Jarvis factory building, 1 Mill Street, on the city's south side. Millwork Solutions, a long-time tenant at the site, has agreed to purchase the 110,000-square-foot structure from the GCEDC for \$675,000.

The EDC plans to lease its offices back from Millwork until the center finds a new home, Suozzi said.

The Med Tech Park is on 32.5 acres off R. Stephen Hawley Drive, across the street from Genesee Community College. The Med Tech site has infrastructure on it but there are no buildings.

The GCEDC has proposed construction of a 41,000-square-foot multiple-use building to house the first tenants in the Med Tech Park.

The first floor of the two-story structure would be used as office space. The upper floor would be

Med Tech park site plans approved

A subdivision and site plans for the first building at the Genesee County Economic Development Center's Upstate Medical and Technical Park were approved by the Batavia Town Planning Board Tuesday night.

Approvals are subject to drainage plans being acceptable a park neighbor who spoke during a public hearing on the proposals.

Jeff Thompson, who lives on nearby Batavia-Stafford Townline Road, said he was concerned about drainage from the park property and what the facility is going to look like from his side of the site.

Steve Tanner, project engineer from Clark Patterson Lee Associates in Rochester, said plans call for a drainage ditch that would run straight across the

property and flow into a tributary of Bigelow Creek. Town Engineer Steve Mountain said he would show the plans to Thompson to see if it agrees before the project proceeds.

Officials also gave Thompson a copy of an architect's rendering of the proposed building that would be on the eastern half of the property off Assemblyman R. Stephen Hawley Drive.

Plans call for a two-story, 41,000-square-foot structure that would house educational and medical office space for nearby Genesee Community College and United Memorial Medical Center, and new headquarters for the GCEDC.

The park is being developed through the agency's Genesee Gateway Local Development Corp.

for classrooms for GCC's life sciences program.

The EDC and the college are collaborating on the biotechnology initiative.

In other matters at its Feb. 12 meeting, GCEDC:

- Approved a \$643,000 incentive package for the planned Genesee Valley Agri-Business Park in the town of Batavia.

The incentive plan includes a 100 percent abatement of \$405,344 in property taxes over a 20-year period; \$181,000 in sales tax exemption for Phase 1 of the project, which includes building all of the infrastructure and a \$56,300 exemption on mortgage taxes.

Phase 1 will cost an estimated \$6.9 million.

The GCEDC board declared the project a "public benefit," meaning it will promote business in the area.

The Ag Park will be built on a 200-acre parcel on East Main Street, adjacent to the Genesee County Fairgrounds.

Suozzi said once the land is subdivided and tenants occupy them, the individual properties will go back on the tax rolls — unless the new businesses negotiate incentive packages with the EDC.

Whitecrest Mushrooms of Ontario, Canada, is in negotiations with the EDC to become the first tenant in the Ag Park. The

project is slated to break ground in April.

- Approved a \$27,500 fiscal incentive package for Genesee Dental.

The dental practice of Dr. Patrick Krough, in the City Centre, has purchased a merchant parcel adjacent to its offices and plans to expand the practice.

About half of the incentives are for sales tax exemption and half for property tax abatement. The project is contingent upon Genesee County being declared a medically underserved area by the federal government, Suozzi said.

The new dental facility will create eight new jobs and will occupy about 4,800-square-feet of office space.