

# More steps taken for stand-alone ER

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**CENTREVILLE** — The Queen Anne's County Commissioners took action on Feb. 24 that moves forward the stand-alone emergency department project in Grasonville.

The commissioners voted 5-0 to approve an amendment to the county master water and sewer plan that will give allow public water and sewer service to be extended sooner to the 14.7-acre property at U.S. Route 50/U.S. Route 301 and Nesbit Road, north of state Route 18. The commissioners also approve a project amendment to acknowledge the planned emergency medical facility will have water and wastewater flows greater than 5,000 gallons per day.

The commissioners voted 5-0 to approve ordinance no. 08-27, a bill that adds "medical campus" to the list of permitted uses in the Suburban Estate zoning district. The development site for the free-standing emergency facility is in the SE district.

"We took three major steps" in advancing the project, said County Commissioner President Gene Ransom.

Legislation approved by the Maryland General Assembly allows for the construction of a stand-alone emergency department one not in a hospital in Queen Anne's County if the project is operated by the University of Maryland Medical Systems. The project on Nesbit Road is a joint effort by UMMS, Shore Health System and the county. SHS is an affiliate of UMMS.

The emergency department would be housed in a 16,500 square foot building that would later be expanded by 6,775 square feet. Two 3-story medical office buildings are also planned as part of the three-phase construction project.

The Queen Anne's County Planning Commission has approved the concept plan. UMMS would like to start building the stand-alone emergency facility later this year, and construction is estimated to take about 15 months.