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### Elk River may still get the VA clinic

Thursday, 04 February 2010

by **Elizabeth Nelson**  
Staff writer

Two sites in Elk River and two sites in Ramsey are now under consideration by the VA to be the future home of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

Elk River City Administrator Lori Johnson said so far the city's heard of two developers who were asked to make presentation to sites.

One site up for consideration is in the development near the Aldi and Goodwill just off Highway 169, and the other is property near The Home Depot, also near Highway 169.

Heidi Nelson, the assistant city administrator for Ramsey, confirmed that two sites, both near the Ramsey Town Center, are still in the running.

One is owned by developer Jim Deal and is next to the Ramsey police station.

The other location is owned by the city and is near the parking ramp area of the Ramsey Town Center.

Nelson said they've heard they'll hear a decision soon, but have not been given any definitive date.

Ralph Heussner, a public affairs officer for the VA said the VA has nothing to report in terms of when a decision will be made.

The Zane Street Common Group put in a bid request for a location across from the Walmart and The Home Depot.

Ron Touchette, who owns Rock Solid Companies, is a part of the group.

So far, Touchette said he's made numerous presentations before the VA, but does not know when a decision will be made or who else is in the running.

Touchette said he believes Elk River is the greatest fit for the clinic and the guidelines the VA has, which includes proximity to the veteran population.

It's also the intangibles that Touchette said makes Elk River the best choice.

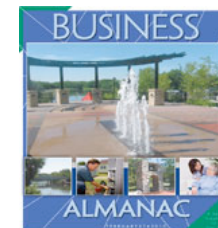
"The support the community gives to the residents and visitors is tremendous," he said. "We have a long service of supporting veterans ... Elk River is known for its community spirit."

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