



Humana deal could bring 335 jobs

By Matt Cunningham Staff Writer

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

WEST CHESTER TWP. — An incentive package that could bring 335 new jobs to West Chester Twp. was one of **two deals** approved by trustees Tuesday night.

Health care provider Humana, Inc. applied for a 65 percent, seven-year tax abatement for a 140,000 square foot mail order pharmacy operation it plans to build in one half of a 280,000 square foot building at 9841 Windisch Road, space it intends to lease for seven years.

Humana regional legislative manager Travis Garrison noted this would be the company's second such facility, following an existing one in Phoenix, Ariz.

The estimated \$23.4 million project would create 335 new jobs with average salaries of \$55,000. The agreement would require the company to compensate Princeton City Schools during the abatement period.

Trustee Lee Wong asked if Humana would fill the 335 pharmacy and customer service positions with local candidates.

"Humana will put out a local search," said Garrison. "We predict the majority of them will be local applicants."

The trustees unanimously approved the application.

The second deal involves local **HVAC component manufacturer Systecon**. The company presented a smaller application, asking for a 35 percent, five-year tax abatement in return for a 50,000 square foot expansion of its facility at 6121 Schumacher Park Drive. The \$2.5 million expansion would make room for manufacturing of new components, and would create an estimated 40 jobs with average salaries of \$38,600 and retain 57 positions. The company would compensate the Lakota Local School District during the abatement.

Trustees unanimously approved the application.

"If the board considers the abatement, it might think of (Systecon) as small but mighty," said Township Administrator Judi Boyko, who noted the company has expanded twice over the last decade.

Both abatements will now go before the county board of commissioners for final approval. If approved, the Humana development could begin construction in eight weeks, with doors opening by fall 2008.

Contact this reporter at (513) 755-5127 or mcunningham@coxohio.com.