To: Springdale Town Council, Town Management and Staff
Re: Construction of medical clinic

We citizens of Springdale appreciate that the Council is meeting to carefully consider its commitment to the construction of a medical clinic to be operated by a federally qualified health center. The benefits to town residents of this arrangement are limited by the 2 day a week schedule of operation.

Federal funding has fallen far behind health care inflation in recent years, and combined with Medicaid funding cuts, has pushed FQHC's net margins into the negative. The extent of the cuts in Medicaid have yet to be fully realized, but have increased demand for sliding scale care at FQHC's, without an increase in funding.

https://www.statnews.com/2026/03/17/federally-qualified-health-centers-fqhcs-crisis/

Constructing a municipal building to lease at below-market rates for a struggling FQHC poses significant financial risk to the town. With a 3-year contract at a below market rate, and the clinic already losing money, the FQHC may fail or not renew the contract, leaving the town with heavy debt and an expensive, highly specialized, and vacant medical property. While this may have been a reasonable plan 5 years ago, at this time, the risks outweigh the benefits. I hope the Council will abandon this plan and explore alternatives.

Sincerely,

Susan Rovira, MD (retired)