

Old Watsonville Community Hospital building for sale

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WATSONVILLE — Since Watsonville Community Hospital moved to a brand new site last month, the old building has been put up for sale.

The asking price is \$8 million.

"There has been a variety of interest in the old building, but nothing confirmed," said hospital President and CEO John Friel.

One potential tenant that has shown early interest is the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

It is no secret that the largest

school district in Santa Cruz County could use more space.

District offices have been spread out on different campuses, explained Terry McHenry, assistant superintendent for business.

"We want to get out of the way of the kids," he said.

While the district is not in the market to buy, school officials would like to talk to whoever the buyer is to explore the possibility of leasing part of the four-story building.

The district only needs about half of the 140,000-square-foot

building.

The idea of using the old hospital stood out because no other locations have been available, according to McHenry.

The district's administrative offices are located on the Watsonville High School campus. There are also district offices at Alianza Elementary and other campuses.

Moving the offices would provide more room for the schools.

Officials stress that the interest has only been preliminary. No plans have been made.

In the meantime, the hospital is working at attracting a prospective buyer.

"The interest level has been slow and localized," said Don Reimann, senior vice president for Colliers Parrish International. "We expect it to pick up now that the property is vacant. People will not feel they are interfering with the operation of a health care facility."

The sales campaign, he said, is just beginning.

The hospital is listed on Colliers Parrish website, which states the property is also offered for lease at

a suggested rate of \$110,000 per month. ⁵⁻²⁻⁹⁸

The website allows for potential buyers from all corners of the world to find out about the building, Reimann said.

The site, he said, allows for a variety of uses.

The only business that won't go in the building is another hospital that would compete with Watsonville Community Hospital.

Information about the former Watsonville hospital building can be seen on the Colliers Parrish International website at www.colliersparrish.com/wch.