OF DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018 7:00 PM

1 2	This meeting was held at the Berlin Township Hall, 3271 Cheshire Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015.		
3 4	CALL TO ORDER		
5 6	The meeting was called to order by Toni Korleski at 7:00 PM.		
7 8	Martin Johnson led meeting attendees in the pledge of allegiance.		
9 10 11	BZC members present: Toni Korleski, Jerry Valentine, Darcy Kaplan, Mike Bardash, BZC 1 st alternate member Martin Johnson (seated).		
12 13	Not present: BZC member Steve Spangler.		
14 15 16	<u>Also present:</u> Zoning Secretary Cathy Rippel; Zoning Clerk Lisa Knapp; BZC 2 nd alternate member Steve Flaherty.		
17 18 19	Ms. Korleski read the adopted BZC policy statement for the meeting, as printed in the agenda.		
20	AGENDA ITEM: LEGAL NOTICE		
21 22	Ms. Knapp said this meeting was advertised at the beginning of the year along with the other regular BZC meetings.		
23	AGENDA ITEM: APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
24 25 26 27 28	Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/10/18 BZC meeting, as presented. Ms. Kaplan seconded the motion. Vote: Johnson, yes; Kaplan, yes; Bardash, yes; Valentine, yes; Korleski, yes. Motion carried, minutes approved.		
29 30	Ms. Korleski noted that the minutes could not be signed this evening because Ms. Rippel could not print them out due to internet issues.		
31	AGENDA ITEM: INTRODUCTION OF MEETING ATTENDEES		
32 33 34 35 36	 ◆ Cindy Bardash, 3455 W. Bay Circle ◆ Bill Bishop, 2541 Bay Harbor Drive, Vice-Chair of Delaware Economic Finance Authority and the Port Authority. He is a Berlin Township resident. He said he is helping Delaware County do some planning including long-term vision. ◆ Joe Korleski, 3584 Greenville Drive 		
37 38	AGENDA ITEM: REVIEWING QUESTIONS/SURVEY COMMENTS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN UPDATE		
39 40 41 42	Ms. Korleski said the purpose of this meeting is to review the community survey questions and revisions that Mr. Johnson sent out. She turned the meeting over to Mr. Johnson and said this meeting would be in an open forum format.		
43 44 45	Mr. Johnson said as part of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) update, the BZC agreed that a priority item would be to elicit feedback from the community to help guide decisions and directions for the CLUP.		
46 47 48 49 50 51	Mr. Johnson said this included reviewing the last survey that was done in 2009 prior to the 2010 CLUP. He extracted the questions from the PDF document and sent them to the BZC. The purpose tonight is to review those items, and the overall process would be to obtain a consensus regarding what the BZC feels the survey should contain, and then forward that onto the township trustees for approval. Then a link to the survey would be		

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52 posted on the Berlin Township website and feedback from the community would be elicited.

Mr. Johnson said the process was put on hold due to the resignation of the zoning inspector, but in the interest of time, the BZC will use this evening to go through the survey questions and have an open dialogue in order to obtain direction so that the content can be finalized. He distributed information on the prior survey. He said that survey had been broken into three sections, each one eliciting the community to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed.

Mr. Johnson said the focus was to determine what the strengths of the township were as well as the weaknesses/areas of improvement. The last one was to verify the high-level roles and objectives that the township has in regards to the CLUP. He would like the BZC to review the items and determine whether the listed concepts are still valid, whether any of them are redundant/repetitive with other sections, whether anything significant is missing, and last, the BZC would decide overall whether a similar format/concept/structure would be followed.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the strength section. He said he felt that the current format of the survey is too long and too many questions were asked. His personal experience is that when surveys are too long, the survey takers lose interest and start checking boxes without thinking. The overall objective of this survey is to elicit exhaustive/complete/honest feedback from the community regarding those areas.

Mr. Johnson said Mr. Valentine had raised points that he strongly agreed with, which included asking the respondents to help set priorities on some of the items. That would provide good insight into areas where there needs to be a balancing act and decisions need to be made.

Mr. Valentine said there are 26 strengths on the survey. He did not know what the current level of importance of those items are at this point but he agreed there were too many. Ms. Korleski asked whether the strengths are what the residents want to see in the future or current condition. Mr. Valentine said he thought they were people's current perceptions at that time and the reasons why they moved to Berlin Township.

Mr. Flaherty said the purpose is to determine the strengths. However, this is set up in a "leading" manner because items are already indicated as being strengths or weaknesses. He said the better way would be to list everything and have the residents indicate which are strengths and weaknesses, using various degrees of importance. That will help ensure the questions are not "leading" questions.

Mr. Flaherty suggested including some demographic information as well including familial status, location in the township, how long they have lived in the township etc. and what amenities they expect. They could also be asked whether they would be willing to pay more taxes to achieve these amenities. There is a chance to engage with the residents on an overall basis. Mr. Johnson said he would like to know whether the respondents are actually residents. He agreed with collecting demographic information.

Mr. Bardash agreed there should be fewer questions.

Mr. Johnson said perhaps the items could be listed and ranked as strength, weakness or neutral.

Ms. Korleski asked whether this would be for ongoing developments or from the past. She said perhaps email addresses could be requested as well. Mr. Flaherty said they would automatically be subscribed unless they opt out.

Ms. Kaplan said the last page shows the goals and that seems to be the most pertinent and it needs to be determined which of those goals people agree or disagree with. She said

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she would put the other characteristics after. Residents could also be asked for their top 5 or bottom 5 rather than ask individually for rankings on all items.

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- 114 Ms. Korleski said the goals are the most important as they are looking towards the future.
- The strengths and weaknesses are not as important. Ms. Kaplan said it should also be
- explained what the purpose of the CLUP (Comprehensive Land Use Plan) is as well as
- 117 why it is being updated; it is a guide that will determine what will happen over the next
- 118 10 years.

119

- 120 Mr. Johnson said one benefit is that it does give some insight into whether or not as a
- whole the community has particular feelings towards one thing or against other things.
- 122 That can help explain why certain decisions are made. The downside is that the
- expectation needs to be set that just because the community does not like something, does
- 124 not mean it can be prevented.

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- Ms. Kaplan said the strengths and weaknesses cannot always be changed, such as
- hunting. However, they can find out what characteristics drew the residents to that area
- such as this being a rural area.

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- 130 Mr. Johnson said there could still be some benefit to include moving the goals forward
- and to determine what the community values. 50 items are too much however, and some
- of those items could be included together in a single item.

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- 134 Ms. Korleski said the strengths could have changed over the past 10 years and may no
- longer be applicable. Some things such as traffic cannot be controlled by the township.

136

- 137 Mr. Flaherty said many of these characteristics that come with the zoning have been
- brought up here. For example, there are currently empty fields but they will not remain
- fields. The residents can be asked what they would like to see in some of those areas
- such as big box stores, etc. in each area.

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- Ms. Korleski said perhaps the BZC should just look at goals rather than strengths and
- weaknesses; it is the goals the township wants to achieve in the future. These questions
- are 10 years old and they do not apply today. Mr. Valentine noted that those items were
- all provided freeform via resident input. He likes the idea of goals and rating their
- importance.

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- 148 Ms. Kaplan said perhaps a freeform concept may work, such as listing the top 5 likes and
- the bottom 5.

150

- 151 Mr. Valentine said one question from the prior was whether residents felt the current
- goals of the township are within the residents wishes. 44 of the answers did not know,
- because they did not know what the goals were. The goals should be included. He noted
- that sometimes there may be issues that are beyond the township's control.

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Mr. Korleski opined that if he receives something in the mail that is more than ten questions, it is in the wastebasket before he even reads it.

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- 159 Mr. Flaherty said the biggest thing is, what questions does the BZC want answers to? He
- wanted to limit the questions to only those items, perhaps a list of the top 10 goals the
- BZC has. He did not suggest open-ended questions.

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- 163 Mr. Johnson said there is validity to allow some free comment to allow some feedback,
- but the core survey should be structured.

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- Mr. Flaherty said most residents will indicate they do not want housing. He suggested
- using wording such as, knowing development is coming, would the respondent want a
- 168 commercial corridor that contributes to the tax base, and what kind of commercial
- development would they like. Many residents do now realize that housing is a tax burden.

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For each dollar taken in, it costs the township \$1.50 to \$2.25 to maintain it. Commercial is the opposite because they take care of their roads and do not use the same services as residents. Are parks and playgrounds important to residents?

Mr. Johnson said there are several zoning categories that define densities and they are always playing that balancing act. One specific question could be, for a subdivision that is going to be built on 100 acres, which would the residents rather have? Smaller lots that are set back, more secluded, and have greater green space, or larger lots that reduce overall green space or larger lots that reduce overall green space but increase lot size.

Mr. Johnson said he assumed that people coming from more urban areas may be fine with smaller lots but they would like to see walking trails, baseball fields, parks, etc. The more established residents may have an opposite opinion. Ms. Korleski suggested staying away from density as it is already set via the zoning resolution, other than requested divergences. The BZC is not able to do much about density. However, questions could be asked regarding the type of housing residents want such as smaller homes, patio homes, cottage-style homes, age restricted housing, etc.

Mr. Flaherty said the age range, length of residence, and family size should be qualifiers asked to get a better idea of the demographics of the people answering the survey. More questions could be asked such as, does commercial development have a place in the township? Knowing that commercial development is coming, what kind of development would a person want to see along the 36/37 corridor?

Mr. Valentine asked whether this could be an opportunity to tell the community what the BZC is doing for the community. Mr. Flaherty said there is an opportunity to educate the public in the introductory paragraph.

Ms. Kaplan asked whether the survey would be placed on only the website or also mailed? Ms. Korleski said it would be placed on the website but also provide hard copies in the office. However, she did not know how the survey would be conveyed to everybody. Ms. Kaplan had the same concern regarding how residents would be made aware of the survey.

Mr. Johnson said using the website is the most logical. This will be presented to the trustees, so if the trustees wanted to mail something out that would be their decision. He wants to insure all demographics are able to provide input including those who do not use the internet. Ms. Korleski suggested placing it in the township newsletter. Mr. Flaherty said that is issued in spring and fall.

Mr. Flaherty said all answers should be answered online via Survey Monkey. Hard copies would need to be entered on Survey Monkey, because what is really powerful about Survey Monkey is the analytics provided, such as, the most important item for the age group 25-32 year olds, or people who have lived here more than 10 years, etc.

Mr. Flaherty noted that the Berlin Township Facebook page was shut down by the

Ms. Korleski said she would like to know what kind of commercial and industrial development the residents would like to see on US 36/SR 37 and also whether there could be commercial somewhere in the township other than there, although she was not sure where. Mr. Flaherty said there would be some in Evans Farm.

Ms. Kaplan said there may be room in the historic Cheshire area for a small grocery store or gas station.

- Mr. Johnson said priority items may include commercial items such as retail, restaurants, office, white collar space, gas stations, convenience stores, big box, etc. Mr. Flaherty
- 227 added items such as distribution centers, data centers, etc. Ms. Kaplan asked about
- having a dentist.

trustees.

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- Mr. Bishop asked what the township was trying to accomplish with the survey. Mr. Johnson said they want to state an overall objective. Ms. Korleski said the BZC is
- 231 updating the CLUP and they started with the survey because they are at a standstill with

the CLUP.

Mr. Bishop asked whether the township can prevent certain kinds of developments from going in. He asked if 5 property owners got together and sold 200 acres of land, can the township prevent what they do with that land? Mr. Valentine said they could, based on the zoning resolution, but they can always take it to a higher level.

Mr. Bishop said the property could also be annexed and there are many annexations coming into his area off of 3 B's and K Road; Sunbury and Delaware are coming over, and Columbus is coming up. He got involved at the county level and he is concerned as a resident that development is coming and he would like to see managed and controlled development. For example, Westerville has done a very good job of that as they are very strict regarding their building guidelines. They required that Meijer change their façade from big box appearance to make it appear to look like a village. For the CVS in uptown Westerville, Westerville was able to control the aesthetics as well, in order to ensure the community lifestyle was maintained.

Mr. Bishop said the township will not be able to stop development and he was concerned the township will receive many responses telling the township to prevent uses they cannot correct. That is what happened in the City of Powell, which was sued for doing so. However, the growth can be managed. If they do not manage it, development will find a way around such as annexation. He does not want Sunbury to make decisions for this area.

Mr. Johnson said his perspective is that the BZC is attempting to elicit feedback to establish that the township understands growth is coming and this is their vision of how the township sees the growth being managed in the township. This survey is part of a way to elicit from the community regarding whether the township is doing this in alignment with the community's wishes. Part of that is determining where certain uses should be located within the township.

Mr. Bishop said he was asked to participate in economic development board with the county because he has history in the area and relationships. The current board is very active and they are trying to find the right opportunities for Delaware to bring that income in so they do not end up like Pickerington where an income tax was required to pay for the schools. He would like to see nice commercial developments come in to pay for some of the improvements and things the residents can benefit from. He does not want to see hotspot projects that need to be fixed in the future that resulted from previous lack of planning.

Mr. Johnson said one topic that should be woven into this is the impacts of the infrastructure as this growth happens. Roads, electric, water, sewer, internet, cable etc. are needed for growth.

Ms. Kaplan said perhaps as a starting point, the survey could state that for the last 10 years, these have been our CLUP goals. Moving forward, with development coming, which goals are still options and should be pursued?

Mr. Flaherty said that Sunbury is being handled via a JEDD that was put over Evans Farm. An agreement was reached that Delaware and Sunbury will not annex any further and there are annexation agreements in place. There will also be a JEDD along the US 36/SR 37 corridor.

Mr. Bishop asked how the property would be prevented from annexing. Mr. Flaherty said contiguous borders would be required. Sewer is what drives that entire corridor. The county has purchased the plot on Big Run Road for the future sewer plant and that will

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- keep the annexation from occurring. Delaware cannot take on the capacity past the railroad tracks at this point. They still have the entire area in the Ohio Health Boulevard and Glenn Parkway to develop and it is unlikely they will attempt to take additional projects on.
- Mr. Flaherty said he believed there are people playing better together as opposed to 10 years ago when it was an island and it was the townships versus the cities. The situation is more unified now and the entities are trying better to co-exist.

Ms. Korleski asked whether Evans Farm is under a JEDD. Mr. Flaherty said it is not currently but they are working towards the JEDD. Ms. Korleski asked whether they are under a community authority. Mr. Flaherty said they are and there is a master agreement

in place.

Mr. Bishop said he recommends doing bigger districts where the townships can get together and have a voice in their districts regarding what the JEDD or TIF would look like. Then when a developer comes in, Bob Lamb can say it is all laid out, this is what is available, everybody is on the same page, this is what the county is looking to provide, etc. so the right kind of development is attracted.

Ms. Korleski asked who the partner would be for the Evans Farm JEDD. Mr. Flaherty said the municipal partner has not been selected yet.

- Mr. Johnson said the CLUP actually does not change zoning. Mr. Valentine said he thought that Delaware County Regional Planning director Scott Sanders and his department were going to help redo the map because of it, so it does change zoning. Mr. Flaherty said it is a framework but nothing is set in stone. Mr. Valentine said nothing changes other than the vision, and the 36/37 corridor is the most important to deal with
- now, as quickly as everything is changing around it. Ms. Korleski said she has not heard

316 from Mr. Sanders lately.

Ms. Korleski said the BZC has not looked at its zoning yet. Mr. Flaherty said that goes hand in hand with this. Ultimately the market will decide what goes where. Ms. Korleski said certain areas can be designated on the CLUP as being different zonings.

Mr. Johnson said that as part of the CLUP, the BZC can determine what their preferences are for zoning in those areas. He said it does not obligate that the development must be done that way, but it is a way to communicate to the market-driven industry what the township is trying to do. If applicants want to come in with something that is significantly different than this, they better do their homework and pack a lunch because the township will resist because it is against the CLUP. Mr. Flaherty said that is the vision plan.

Mr. Johnson asked how the BZC would like to attack this. It seems that the BZC would like to move away from just ranking strengths, weaknesses and attributes, but instead informing the community that development is coming, this is how the township plans to manage it, and do they agree. It is difficult to capture that, however. The different sides include commercial/industrial and residential. Information designed to educate can be included ahead of the questions then questions can be asked about the topic and the survey can ask whether they agree.

Mr. Johnson suggested rather than asking whether they agree or disagree, using numbers to rank. Mr. Flaherty said the amount of each use may want to be determined, such as how much commercial, industrial, office park, retail, etc. is desired. Ms. Korleski said that would adjust the amount of land in the other uses. Mr. Flaherty said buffers could also be discussed to ensure the correct amount of transition between the uses.

- Ms. Korleski suggested a question like, knowing that commercial and industrial development is coming, what kind of businesses would they like to see in there? Ms.
- Kaplan said nothing can be done about that.

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- Mr. Flaherty said the question is, does the CLUP still apply today as it was updated 10 years ago, or have the needs of the township changed enough that additional restrictions are needed, or restrictions are made less stringent.
- Mr. Valentine said the township is always questioned by the developers regarding the CLUP not always matching the zoning resolution. He asked whether it could be indicated that the CLUP is guide while the zoning resolution is the law. Mr. Flaherty said it could be written, knowing that the developer has the right to take variances, which of these are

355 the deal breakers? Which are the most important?

Ms. Korleski said information from OTA (Ohio Township Association) cited that the ORC indicates that if there are any questions between the CLUP and the zoning resolution, the zoning resolution rules. Mr. Valentine said he would like to rewrite it so the language matches. Mr. Flaherty agreed. He said there have been two successful referendums over the past 4 years and that is the residents telling the township they do not agree with what the township is doing.

Mr. Johnson said it seems that the zoning resolution indicates what a developer can do, and the CLUP indicates where it can be done. It seems that the BZC is extending the original purpose of the survey and is trying to validate the location of the uses and whether they agree. Now the BZC seems to want to open up the questions regarding setbacks, etc. which would be changes to the zoning resolution, not the CLUP. Mr. Bishop said it may be a two part question; do the residents agree, and do they think the current requirements should be protected.

Ms. Kaplan said it comes back to maintaining the rural feel and, do the residents agree that is what the township should be charged with, and when areas are developed as industrial, commercial, residential, etc. how should they be developed?

Mr. Flaherty said the items that are required are listed, and then it can be determined what the most important aspects are to the residents. That way when zoning exceptions are requested, the township can point to the survey if those are areas the residents felt should not be compromised.

Ms. Kaplan said she felt that Savko made many concessions and included additions such as vegetation, mounding, the back road, etc. Mr. Flaherty said Savko requested no variances. There was additional discussion.

Ms. Kaplan was concerned about educating the residents prior to taking the survey. Mr. Flaherty suggested 3 qualifying questions at the top and then 10 questions of substance. For example, knowing that the township needs commercial and industrial in this township for a tax base, is 36/37 the proper place for large commercial development? The current setbacks could be listed and the residents could respond as to whether they feel that is sufficient. Mr. Johnson said it could be asked whether they should be increased, decreased, or remain the same.

Mr. Flaherty said the fields could be ranked. With a 1-10 scale there will be some polar opposites and also the middle ground. Knowing that development is coming, what are the most important aspects? The residents could then be asked to rank exceptions to the zoning resolution which may be requested. That will help the township when making their decisions, such as if the residents indicate they really like setbacks, green space, rural charm, mounding, etc. A ranking of importance will help ensure the township is making the correct decisions on behalf of the residents.

Mr. Johnson suggested demographic qualifiers with 10 questions divided between commercial versus residential, then 1-2 for general feedback.

Mr. Valentine asked about putting the access road for 36/37 in the survey. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Flaherty said ODOT is mandating that so the township has no control over it.

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•	that there will not more than 2 lots along that	
because they will not have access to turn	ning across that development.	
	vill be regarding the commercial corridor. It could	
be explained and then residents asked whether that is the right place for it. Residential		
locations are already known.		
Mr. Flaherty asked whether the townshi	p would like to separate it down to anything	
below just residential such as R-1, R-2, etc. Mr. Bardash suggested asking questions		
regarding lot sizes, etc. Ms. Korleski sa	d questions could be asked regarding the type of	
development they want to see, such as r	anches, smaller houses, cottage houses, etc.	
Mr. Flaherty said it would be similar to	the commercial questions. For example, these are	
the requirements for a PRD for an R-3/R-4 neighborhood, and ask what the most		
the requirements for a PRD for an R-3/R-4 neighborhood, and ask what the most important features would be. Ms. Kaplan suggested asking, as residential development		
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Trainerty suggested amemices such as on	trains, praygrounds, etc. of rainted.	
Mr. Johnson said he could create a draft	survey for the BZC The BZC agreed	
ivii. Joinison said ne could create a drait	survey for the BZC. The BZC agreed.	
There was no further business to come h	pefore the Commission, Motion to adjourn	
	before the Commission. Wotton to adjourn.	
weeting adjourned.		
	Toni Vouleski Chairmanaan	
	Toni Korleski, Chairperson	
	Jerry Valentine, Vice-Chairperson	
	Darcy Kaplan, member	
	Steve Spangler, member	
	Mike Bardash, member	
	Martin Johnson, 1 st alternate member	
	Steve Flaherty, 2 nd alternate member	
Attest:		
Lisa F. Knapp, Berlin Township	Zoning Clerk	
	corridor, possibly 3. The backing roads because they will not have access to turn Mr. Flaherty said one of the questions we explained and then residents asked wellocations are already known. Mr. Flaherty asked whether the township below just residential such as R-1, R-2, regarding lot sizes, etc. Ms. Korleski said development they want to see, such as reference in the requirements for a PRD for an R-3/I important features would be. Ms. Kapla occurs, what characteristics would the recharacteristics such as lot size, green sp. Flaherty suggested amenities such as bild Mr. Johnson said he could create a draft. There was no further business to come be Meeting adjourned.	