

QUARTERLY

SPECIAL EDITION

BATH TOWNSHIP

JULY 1997

An official newsletter published by the Bath Township Board of Trustees
as a service to Bath Township residents under the authority of the Ohio Revised Code, Section 505.07.

Should Bath Support a JEDD?

By *Jacqueline Jacobus*

Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD) are fairly new in Ohio. The Bath Community was first introduced to a JEDD in 1994 when voters rejected a Bath-Akron JEDD proposal. The community will now decide if a Bath-Akron-Fairlawn JEDD agreement is the best way to deal with an ongoing threat of annexation that challenges Bath's unique residential lifestyle.

Those in favor of the proposal believe that the loss of property tax revenue through annexation and the need for Bath residents to control the community's future development are important issues. When Township property is annexed, Bath loses the tax revenue and its property tax base erodes. The loss is significant

because the Township does not have the legislative ability to impose an income tax and depends on property taxes to generate 86% of its operating revenue. More importantly, Bath cannot enforce zoning regulations on annexed property. One hundred fifty acres of commercially and residentially zoned properties have been annexed since 1994.

Those opposed see it as a way for Akron and Fairlawn to increase their income tax revenues while gaining control over Bath's economic development. **Residents who do not live or work in the JEDD will not pay a 2% District tax on earned income.** The JEDD includes only commercially zoned properties

and comprises less than 4% of Bath's 16,000 acres. Still, opponents feel that this is a big price to pay.

Following the defeat of the Bath-Richfield Village Merger, the Blue Ribbon Commission was created to study the Township's options to limit future annexation attempts and to control township zoning. After months of study they concluded that **A JEDD is the only realistic and available means of deterring future annexation by Akron and Fairlawn.** Want to learn more about the proposed JEDD agreement? **A public hearing to discuss the proposal is scheduled for Monday, July 14, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the Revere High School auditorium.**

Bath-Akron-Fairlawn-JEDD Agreement

It is the intent of the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) Agreement to . . .

★ Assure the continuation of Bath Township as a rural-like residential community by carefully controlling the commercial development in the Township. (Section 3)

★ Prevent attempts to annex Township lands without the consent of Bath Township. (Section 14)

★ Assure that Township zoning provisions will prevail for all of Bath Township. (Section 14)

★ Impose a 2% income tax payable to Akron and Fairlawn only on individuals working or living in the JEDD. (Section 13)

★ Divide any tax increase above 2% equally

between Akron, Bath and Fairlawn. (Section 13)

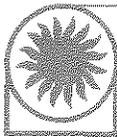
★ Pay property taxes to Bath for the duration of the contract on certain lands annexed from the Township since 1994. (Section 14)

★ Require the JEDD Board of Directors to consist of nine members, three each from Akron, Bath and Fairlawn and that a Board resolution must receive an affirmative vote of at least eight members. (Section 11)

★ Prohibit Akron and Fairlawn from extending water and sewer services outside the JEDD without the permission of the Township (Section 9)

★ Provide central water and sewer services to

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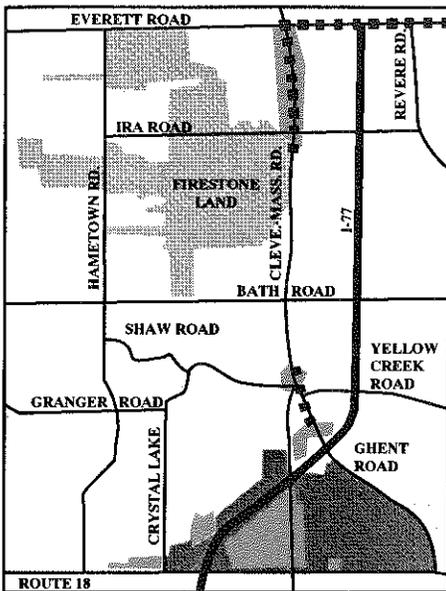
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Dotted line indicates proposed location of water/sewer lines.

JEDD Agreement

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customers in the JEDD at Akron rates plus 10% and in residential areas in the Township at Akron rates plus 22.5% instead of the current 60%. (Section 9)

★ Provide water and sewer services to the Revere Local School District central campus facility without imposing the 2% income tax even though this facility is outside of the JEDD. (Section 9)

★ Pay Bath Township \$2,000,000 from JEDD

Township residents who do not work or live in the JEDD shall not be subject to the 2% income tax.

A SPECIAL EDITION TO ANNOUNCE A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED JEDD AGREEMENT July 14, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. Revere High School Auditorium

JEDD area shown in blue and includes only commercially zoned properties.
(map courtesy of *West Side Leader*)

revenues to use for the acquisition, development, and preservation of open spaces. (Section 15)

★ Set the term of the JEDD contract for 99 years with the right for two successive 50 year extensions. (Section 6)

★ Provide provisions for contract termination at any time by mutual consent of Akron, Bath and Fairlawn. (Section 7)

★ Provide the addition of any property to the JEDD only with approval of the Township. (Section 5)

NOTE: Section numbers refer to the specific sections in the Proposed JEDD Contract that address the intentions outlined above. Draft copies of the contract are available for review at the Bath Township Administrative Office.