

DELAWARE, Ohio (March 26, 2020) – The Orange Township Trustees have unanimously approved the creation of a 50-year Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) for the Evans Farm development.

The vote was taken at the trustees' March 16 meeting. Additional hearings are required for final passage of the JEDD. However, due to precautions being taken to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, no dates have been set.

Bob Lamb, director of the Delaware County Office of Economic Development, said the JEDD will cover about 100 acres of development and create a 1-percent income tax for the area.

“The key component of this JEDD is the fact that it is the first such partnership in Delaware County between a township, the county and the Delaware County Finance Authority,” Lamb said.

Lamb stressed that the income tax only applies to the businesses located within the district and the individuals working in the commercial development of Evans Farms. It does not apply to residents of single-family homes.

The key contract points are:

- Creation of a 10-year income tax set at 1 percent. That percentage can be adjusted after that period;
- The appointing process for the JEDD board creates a broad partnership that will serve it well in the coming years; and
- If necessary, the JEDD can be amended to include future commercial development.

After 30 days from the final hearing, the JEDD board can approve the creation and implementation of the income tax for the commercial area.

“This was put into place with a lot of dedication and teamwork between the various partners,” Lamb said. “My department and the Delaware County Finance Authority are happy to have been a part of the process and glad to see it come to fruition. Rob Platte, the economic development administrator for the office of economic development, has been instrumental in keeping the project moving.”

The Delaware County Finance Authority (DCFA) is a political subdivision created by the Delaware County Commissioners to assist in economic development and

job creation in Delaware County. The DCFA offers numerous incentive programs and has the ability to issue tax-exempt and taxable bonds for business, developer, non-profit and governmental projects. The DCFA works in partnership with traditional lending institutions and its public partners to provide the most advantageous financing for projects.