**Paulding County** 

## VISION BOARD

EST. 2017

### What are the Benefits of Joining?

- Have your communities voice heard
- Secure funding for your village or township for community development
- Improve the quality of life to draw business and industry to Paulding County

### What will the Vision Board's Focus Be?

The focus is to coordinate collaboration, plan strategically for each town/village in Paulding County, secure funding, and exist to create a livable community.

## Who will serve on the Vision Board?

The board plans to recruit representatives from the Village Councils and Township Trustee Council to serve on this committee. All appointments will be approved by the Paulding County Commissioners. The group will meet once a month.

### How will the Vision Board be funded?

The Paulding County Commissioners have committed \$25,000 toward the putting together a comprehensive plan for the entire county.

Our initial goal is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for Paulding County. We will then be able use this plan to apply for grants.

How with the Vision Board be Structured?

After much research, we discovered our county will have more grant opportunities if we are structured the Vision Board under the Paulding County Commissioner's.

# Who will be putting together the comprehensive plan?

Maumee Valley Planning will put together the comprehensive plan. While the Vision Board will assist in gathering county-wide data, surveying residents, and assisting in all collaborative efforts, along side Maumee Valley Planning.

### "DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD PAULDING COUNTY COMMUNITY"

**How was the group formed?** A group of passionate Paulding County residents began meeting to exchange ideas and network. After a year of meeting several times, it was determined by the group that if the different villages collaborated, we could have more impact on the lives of Paulding County residents. It was also determined if we worked together, we could access more grant funding to assist the entire county.

What will be this organization's role in the county? This organization's purpose is to leverage collaboration between all the villages, in order to access grant funding. An example of a project would be the following: Let's say all the villages are in dire need of downtown building maintenance. This organization, once our comprehensive plan is complete, could use that plan to apply for grants, which could assist all the communities that applied.

Side note: Many counties are utilizing this method across the country to obtain more grants. When one small community submits a grant for a project, the likelihood of receiving the grant is lower than if 10 small communities with same project were to submit a grant collectively. There is power in numbers!

**How will this organization be formed?** After much research it was determined the best way to structure this group was to have it under the Paulding County Commissioners. We structured it under the Paulding County Commissioners, so we could access more statewide and federal grants. The board was officially formed on April 24, 2017. We are now in the process of recruiting our full board.

**How is this organization funded?** Putting together a comprehensive plan for a county can have a hefty tag. The Paulding Vision Board interviewed multiple independent planning consultants. The price of those consultants ranged between \$55,000 to \$100,000. The Paulding County Commissioners committed \$25,000 toward the comprehensive plan, but the group would have to come up with the rest of the funds. Luckily, Maumee Valley Planning, came to the table and offered to put together the plan for the \$25,000 price tag. Maumee Valley Planning now attends all the regular meetings and is in the beginning stages of putting together our plan. Once this board has proven themselves in assisting the different villages, a membership fee may be asked for; however, we have no plans in the near future to ask for any monetary funds.

### **"DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD** PAULDING COUNTY COMMUNITY"

Who will be on this board? The group plans to recruit representatives from the Village Councils and Township Trustee Council to serve on this committee. All appointments will be approved by the Paulding County Commissioners. The group will meet once a month. What is the Mission Statement? The group's mission states is as follows: "Develop Opportunities to Build Paulding County Community."

What is the board's focus? The focus is to coordinate collaboration, plan strategically for each town/village in Paulding County, secure funding, and exist to create a livable community. The group strives to serve by securing funding, inspiring collaboration and creating accountability and credibility throughout the county.

#### What are the benefits for being a part of the Paulding Vision Board?

- Have your Communities voice heard
- Have the ability to secure funding for your village or township community development
- Shift from an existing community to a quality of life community that will draw business and industry to Paulding County

### How is this group different from the Paulding County Chambers and the Paulding County **Economic Development Office?**

This organization will complement the Paulding County Chambers and the Paulding County Economic Development Office. The goal of the group is to plan strategically for each town/village and create a plan that will help us access more funding.

The Paulding Chamber and the Paulding County Economic Development Director have a seat on the board. All other chamber directors are also invited to attend the regular meetings too. The goal is to have this organization be a resource for both the chambers and the economic development office.

Who should I contact, if I would like more information on this organization? Erika Willitzer: 419-399-1868 or ewillitzer@ppec.coop

