

Airport partnership proposals have pros, cons

Officials are considering a cost efficient way to bring water and sewer services to area.

By Christopher Magan
Staff Writer

Thursday, September 04, 2008

BEAVERCREEK TWP., Greene County — Both proposals from Beavercreek and Xenia to help the township develop land near the Lewis A. Jackson Airport have different merits.

In order for any business to locate near the airport two things are needed — water and sewer access.

Beavercreek and Xenia officials both have ways of getting water and sewer services to the area.

Xenia has supply lines to the east nearby at the recently annexed Gerdes farm. The closest county water and sewer is at the Country Club of the North and would cost up to \$2 million to extend service to the airport, county officials said.

The other part of any partnership is sharing of assets created by any development. If the trustees enter into a Joint Economic Development District with Xenia an income tax could be levied.

A governing board for the district also would be created and the township would have to give up some control over the area.

Michael Cornell, Beavercreek city manager, proposed a Cooperative Economic Development Agreement, which is similar, but without the oversight board.

But Beavercreek is one of a handful of Ohio cities without an income tax so the two municipalities would only share property tax revenue.

Unless Beavercreek voters chose to levy an income tax, something city officials have signaled they are working toward putting to electors soon.

Howard Poston, county administrator, has said county officials would like to see the area developed, but they recognize the hurdles to getting services to the area. An

airport authority, appointed by county commissioners, owns and oversees the airport.

Ralph Harper, commissioner, said the "natural progression" of development toward the area was always considered the most cost effective way of getting water and sewer services out near the airport.

"It would be an asset, no two ways about it," Harper said.

Beavercreek trustees have called a special meeting Sept. 12 to weigh the two proposals before them. They have hired an attorney to help.

Contact the reporter at (937) 225-2342 or cmagan@DaytonDaily

News.com.