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## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

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### **Attitude Survey**

When creating a community-wide planning document in today's society, many local officials have come to the realization that the planning document is for the benefit of the residents and, that it would be a "good idea" to give those residents an opportunity to provide input during the development of the plan.

With this in mind, the Township Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission created a survey for distribution to every home owner throughout the Township in an attempt to gain some insight as to the resident's concerns and comments towards a variety of issues either before the Board or "being discussed" by the Board. An 18-question survey was developed and distributed 2,700 homes, with a response being received from 1,150 of those homes.

The results of the survey, and a brief analysis can be found in **Appendix A** of this document. The interest in the survey by the residents through their excellent response rate, has assisted the Board and Planning Commission greatly in the development of this document's goals and objectives, and will be used as a guide for future actions which may be considered by the Board and/or Planning Commission.

### **Public Meetings**

In addition to the survey which was distributed to all households, the Township officials believed that it was also necessary to provide an opportunity to speak "face to face" pertaining to their concerns and goals. Therefore, two (2) public meetings were held at the Center Township Elementary School to provide an opportunity for additional input and discussion.

A series of exercises were used to involve the residents in discussion pertaining to the "strengths and weaknesses" of the Township, and their feelings as to what should be accomplished within the Township in the future.

From these public meetings, a Township "vision statement" was created using the expressed comments and the completed exercises, which addressed the future of the

Township. This vision statement was then used in the development of the goals and objectives and the action plan for Center Township.

### **Vision Statement**

From the input generated during the public meetings, the “vision statement” for Center Township was created. The residents of Center Township believe that:

*“IN THE YEAR 2010, CENTER TOWNSHIP SHOULD BE:*

- *a rural, residential community,*
- *with active farmlands,*
- *providing a variety of land uses within specified districts,*
- *with limited governmental intervention, and*
- *providing quality municipal services and enforcement of existing ordinances.”*