

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Etna Township Trustees Special Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

May 5,

2014

Held

20

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, May 5, 2014 in the Etna Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting a special meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Carlisle. Jeff Johnson led the invocation and Walter Rogers led The Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed Trustees Jeff Johnson, Randy Foor, John Carlisle, and Fiscal Officer Walter Rogers present. President Carlisle turned the meeting over to Trustee Foor.

Trustee Johnson moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Foor and passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Public Hearing**Etna-Reynoldsburg Joint Economic Development Zone**

Trustee Carlisle explained this is a public hearing for you to state your position on the JEDZ as it has been presented.

President Carlisle opened the public hearing.

Dan Evers of 50 W. Locust Street is the Director of Economic Development with the Licking County Chamber of Commerce provided a letter opposing the creation of the JEDZ. They oppose this proposal because of its impact upon existing businesses and their employees. The chamber and the business community would like the opportunity to meet with the Trustees to discuss other funding options.

Rhonda Stout of 9501 York Road has lived in the township for twenty-five years. She is opposed to the JEDZ. She is concerned that businesses will leave Etna Township and vacate buildings. She works for a company in Etna Township.

Mark Schaff of 7461 National Road supports the proposed JEDZ. One reason he supports the tax is to expand the bridge on State Route 310. Economic Development needs access to Interstate 70 which is a main artery for Economic Development. The 1.5 percent income tax is within the range of surrounding communities. The workers use the roads in Etna Township and can contribute to the maintenance of these roads.

Daniel Bell of 153 Sterling Way supports the JEDZ. He believes this will be a benefit to the township to help the property owners with the cost of infrastructure. He believes the workers in the township should help with the cost of the infrastructure.

Nick Grandominico of 3177 Leeds Road is with Ridge Corp. The tax will impact this business and he is opposed to this tax. This tax will cause a big impact on this company. Ridge Corporation has a facility in Muskingum County and would possibly move if this tax is approved.

Steve Cohen of 10685 Columbus Parkway strongly opposes the JEDZ. When they consolidated from three to two locations they chose Etna Township because they did not have an income tax and they were pro-business.

Len Fatica of 31 Trails Blvd is in favor of the JEDZ. Len Fatica stated in August of 2012 a number of business, community, and government organizations across Licking County wrote letters of support for the State Route 310 project. Some of the same businesses now do not want to help with the cost of the project by supporting the JEDZ. The Etna Township residents will have to fund the infrastructure improvements. He urges the Trustees to place this on the ballot and allow the citizens of Etna Township to vote on this issue. If the JEDZ does not pass he urges the Trustees to withdraw the multi-million dollar bridge project because the citizens of Etna Township cannot afford it.

Nino Cervi of 100 Heritage Drive is one of the owners of Progressive Flooring. He moved the company to Etna Township because of lower taxes and incentives. He spoke about the growth of their business. He is strongly opposed to any type of JEDZ.

Robert Essex of 15 Burreed Court is in favor of placing this on the ballot and letting the Etna Township Residents decide whether this is a good proposal. He is in favor of the JEDZ and supports it.

Doug Evans of 301 Laurel Drive is a thirty year resident and tax payer of Etna Township. The taxpayers of Etna Township have provided initially and ongoing water, sewer, power, police, fire protection, infrastructure, roads and then we turn around and give a tax abatement. He feels this is a fair idea to raise

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taxes for infrastructure that is being used by multi-billion dollar companies here in Etna Township. He supports the JEDZ.

Delores Trivett of 10371 Taylor Road supports the JEDZ. She worked many years and paid taxes.

Kyle Gaines of Jefferson Township feels the employees should have a say or vote. He works in Etna Township and lives in Jefferson Township. The employees at Ridge Corporation use the local services.

Rob Platte was excused from the meeting.

Mark McGuire of 350 Trail East is a resident of Etna Township and works at Screen Machine. He discussed the impact on their employees. He opposes the JEDZ.

Don Rector of Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District discussed the JEDZ contract. He provided a written statement to the board. He discussed the annexation agreement that is part of the contract. This contract will provide the district with planning for the future.

Rob O'Neil of 1499 West Main Street is the company that developed the Corporate Park. Over the past twelve years they have worked with Etna Township to develop the Corporate Park. He requested the Trustees look at ways to fund the infrastructure needs. He feels the JEDZ reaches too far. He feels the businesses will support helping with the infrastructure. He would like them to meet with the businesses and residents to fund it. The past twelve years Etna Township has attracted business.

Tom Ulrich of 10340 Palmer Road and business owner of RedHawk Energy would like the Trustees to step back and work with the business owners. He discussed possible expansion opportunities for his company.

Steve Daley of 1403 Mink Street works for Ascena Retail. Ascena opposes the JEDZ and feels this places an unfair burden on their associates. They recently expanded and were offered incentives to stay here. He has reached out to all three Trustees for alternatives for Economic Development that would not impact the employees. He discussed a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes on behalf of the corporation). The corporation is not afraid to pay the tax burden. The JEDZ will impact their ability to expand in this area in the future.

Dan Mead of 41 S. High is with the law firm Zeiger, Tigges and Little. Ascena hired this law firm to review the proposed JEDZ and has determined this is unlawful. He submitted a letter to the Trustees.

Joe Wagner owns Sunburst Pools and is a small business in Etna Township. He supports the JEDZ and the tax on his business and employees to help with the infrastructure. He trusts the Board of Trustees, we elected them to make these decisions.

Terry Casey of 249 Overbrook Drive provided a flyer from Perry Township from a Columbus Dispatch editorial. He discussed the 99 year term and stated they need a plan on where the money will be spent. The township will pay extra to place this on the August election. He urges them to work with the businesses to come up with a better plan.

Eric Stover of 6695 Taylor Road in Jefferson Township discussed their proposed JEDZ. The businesses pay property taxes. He discussed the 20% to the City of Reynoldsburg just to implement the tax. There is also the chance of businesses relocating and leaving empty buildings.

Brian Marsh of 3765 Interchange Road is with ProLogis and stated he is not for or against this JEDZ and he has not read the documents in detail. If it wasn't for the two Joint Economic Development Zones, that they implemented, ProLogis would not have come to this community. Over the last seven years numerous companies have moved into their buildings to create thousands of jobs. Everyone in there pays the income tax. It has been their experience that the JEDZ will help fund Infrastructure improvements that are viable for today. ProLogis recently completed the extension of Heritage Drive at a cost of over 1.3 million dollars. A small portion of that cost will be paid back to ProLogis thru the JEDZ. As a developer they do not feel this is unfair to their employees.

The Public Hearing was recessed from 7:16 to 7:21 p.m.

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Kathy Johnston of 254 Trail East believes business should pay their fair share. She opposes the JEDZ on existing businesses because it changes the playing field and wasn't part of their budget. She feels a JEDZ on vacant land is fair. She supports working with the businesses on a different plan.

Trustee Johnson moved to adjourn the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Foor and passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

John Albers explained if the board wishes to proceed with the JEDZ they would adopt two resolutions. The first resolution is approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a JEDZ contract by and between the City of Reynoldsburg and Etna Township. The second is to submit it to the electors of the township

The Trustees discussed the concerns with this being legal.

Resolution 14-05-05-01: Trustee Carlisle moved as presented "**Approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a Joint Economic Development Zone Contract by and between the City of Reynoldsburg and Etna Township.**" The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This tax is levied on the net profits of the business. If the City of Reynoldsburg raises the tax it will apply in the JEDZ. If this passes it will be up to the residents of the township. The Trustees discussed tabling the resolution so the township can hold a meeting with the businesses. By mutual agreement of the parties (Etna and Reynoldsburg) the JEDZ can be dissolved. To be on the August election it has to be filed on Wednesday. A decision not to implement the JEDZ can be made prior to the August election. Nine business owners present agreed to meet with the Trustees. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.


Resolution 14-05-05-02: Trustee Carlisle moved as presented to "**Submit to the electors of the township the question of approving the resolution approving a Joint Economic Development Zone by and between the City of Reynoldsburg and Etna Township.**" The motion was seconded by Jeff Johnson. Discussion: Puts the matter on the ballot. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Trustee Carlisle requested the business owners leave contact information to attend a meeting with the Trustees.

Trustee Johnson moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Foor and passed by unanimous affirmative vote.



John Carlisle, President



Walter Rogers, Fiscal Officer

All the resolutions as presented are on file with the Fiscal Officer.