

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Etna Township Trustees Regular Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 644-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held April 18, 20 2023

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in the Etna Township Administration Building for the purpose of conducting a regular meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Trustee McKee. Jeff Johnson led the invocation and Rozland McKee led The Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed Trustees Mark Evans, Jeff Johnson, Rozland McKee-Flax, and Fiscal Officer Julie Varian present.

Trustee McKee moved to set a limit of not more than one speech of three minutes length on the same question on the same day for each Trustee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans would like this to be a permanent rule. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Trustee McKee moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans requested the Township Administrator do the agenda, does not agree with posting the agenda on Monday, and feels there are items missing that needed to be addressed. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Trustee McKee moved to adopt the minutes from the February 14, 2023, meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans does not feel the minutes reflect the actions of the board and inquired to why the minutes are behind. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Public Hearing

Trustee McKee opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. for the application submitted by Sharon Lantz for parcel number 010-017652-00.000 located on Refugee Road west of Watkins Road to rezone from Planned Unit Development to Low Density Residential District (R-1) with the Planned Residential Conservation District.

The legal notice for the Board of Trustees public hearing was in the Pataskala Standard on April 6, 2023. The application was submitted to the Licking County Planning Commission for a non-binding recommendation on February 13, 2023. The Planning Commission Board met on February 27, 2023. The LCPC Board voted to provide a non-binding recommendation of Conditional Approval. The Zoning Commission recommended the Board of Trustees approve the application.

John Singleton, Zoning Inspector, provided a staff report. The applicant Sharon Lantz is requesting a rezoning from Planned Unit Development to Low Density Residential District (R-1) and keep the Planned Residential Conservation District (PRCD). Ms. Lantz does not want to be subject to the Homeowners' Association of Watkins Grove. The Comprehensive Plan calls for residential in this area and the rezoning will be in compliance. The original plan showed sixty-four lots dated November 15, 1999; the most recent plan submitted shows sixty-eight lots dated June 22nd, 2016. Phase three has never gotten past the initial stages of planning because of the issues with the AEP easements. Ms. Lantz plans to build her home there and keep the wooded areas and possibly add a walking path for everyone to use. If the property would be developed under the PRCD it would allow for approximately ten homes or less in addition to Ms. Lantz home. The Licking County Planning Commission made recommendations which did not take into consideration the easements that are on the property and the amount of land that is required for R-1 zoning. The Planning Commission was concerned with R-1 you could potentially have nineteen or twenty homes accessing Refugee Road, which is not Ms. Lantz's intent. The Licking County Planning commission recommends conditional approval to consider SER or Agricultural instead of R-1 zoning. John Singleton feels the SER zoning would be spot zoning and Agricultural Zoning would create larger lots. Ms. Lantz requested the R-1 zoning district. The recommendation from the Zoning Commission and Etna Staff is to approve the rezoning as requested. This will reduce the number of possible lots currently approved for this property.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Johnson confirmed this is currently Phase Three of what is Watkins Grove, feels that people are looking for larger lots, and this would be excellent for the township.

Trustee Evans discussed concerns with curb cuts and traffic. Trustee Evans discussed the recommendation from the Licking County Planning Commission regarding a different zoning district instead of R1 with the Applicant Sharon Lantz.

Sharon Lantz explained her intent is building a home for herself and then possibly homes for people in the same situation as she is in being widowed. Ms. Lantz is planning on keeping at least twenty acres for herself to have an apple orchard at the back of the property and along the wooded areas where there are already drainage issues where one would not be building homes.

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Ms. Lantz plans on building her home to the back of the property on the highest area. Later, if there seems to be a need, she will have a few homes for age fifty and above. This would keep from adding to the burden of the schools. She is proposing one main entry way on the western side of the property and then one other road near the eastern boundaries should more homes be built. Ms. Lantz also discussed shared garden areas within the community.

The Trustees and Ms. Lantz discussed the option of agricultural with PRCD overlay and whether one can change districts if agricultural was not advertised. The applicant requested the Trustees proceed with the request to rezone to R-1 District. Trustee Johnson prefers the R-1 District and does not support rezoning to the Agricultural District.

Public Comments

Theresa Ogershok of 484 Trail West agrees with the R-1 zoning request.

Rachel Zelazny of 10141 Tollgate Road supports the R-1 zoning request.

Trustee Evans wanted to table the decision, but the majority of the board was ready to close the hearing. The board discussed what would fall under approval with modifications. This would be going from one district to another without advertising for agricultural because this was advertised for R-1.

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

Resolution 23-04-18-01: Trustee Johnson moved Resolution to approve the request to amend the Zoning Map submitted by Sharon Lantz for Parcel Number 010-017652-00.000 located on Refugee Road West of Watkins Road from Planned Unit Development to Low Density Residential District (R-1) with the Planned Residential Conservation District remaining and under Section 1 approves. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKee. Discussion: Trustee Evans stated he will be voting no but does support what Ms. Lantz wants to do but does not feel this is the proper way to do it. The roll call on the motion was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Reports – Township Administrator Nita Hanson

Township Administrator Nita Hanson provided an oral report regarding several township items. Mrs. Hanson explained that items she brings to the Board under her report may or may not require action from the board. It is totally up to the Trustees to decide how to proceed. This is the first meeting that is officially being livestreamed by Etna Township. Regarding the Refugee Road Project the TID has begun the right-of-way acquisitions. The Pike Street Grant Project should reconvene in the next few weeks. The Schuster Way road dedication is scheduled for mid-May. Etna Township was not selected for the Safe Routes to School funding from ODOT but there may be opportunity in the future for different funds for same project. Sheetz has received a second violation from Licking County regarding Soil and Water erosion and storm water regulations, the violation is mostly because of the silt fencing and control of sediment and remediation is required not later than April the 19th, 2023. The township is considering purchasing two speed monitoring signs for placement initially on Pike Street and Columbia Road and will provide more information. The Bragg memorial has been placed in the park near the gazebo and the family is planning a dedication ceremony. There is more information regarding Lt. Bragg in a newsletter prepared by President McKee that will be mailed to the residents. There is a pond on the park property owned by the township off of Smoke Road. The township has been working with Licking County Soil and Water regarding the issues and concerns regarding this pond. The township employees can drain the pond, fill it with dirt available at the garage, and plant the grass seed which would cost the township labor and fuel. The Trustees discussed the different options regarding the park. Mrs. Hanson recommended that the Trustees move to allow township employees to drain the pond, allow the area to dry, then fill the pond with dirt which is already available at the garage and plant grass. This would be pending written approval by the Licking County Soil and Water. Mrs. Hanson received a verbal opinion but has not received the written approval. Also, to approve the expenditure of up to four thousand dollars toward the project to rent a bulldozer or similar equipment.

Trustee McKee moved to allow our employees, Mr. Copley being the superintendent of the project, for no more than four thousand dollars toward the project to rent any kind of equipment he may need to take care of the pond to drain it for our community. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Discussion: The Trustees discussed the issues with this pond and whether a swale can be created to help in this area. It was also discussed whether this is a spring fed pond. Trustee Evans discussed this being an entrance area to the park.

Trustee Evans moved for this to be tabled and recommended input from the public. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson.

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Discussion: Trustee Evans had Blueview Ponds provide an estimate of twenty-two thousand dollars. The Trustees discussed liabilities with ponds. The roll call to table; Evans, yes; Johnson, no; and McKee, no; Dies 2-1.

The roll call on the original motion: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Nita Hanson provided information from the Framework meeting she attended. Licking County has ordered Scannell Properties where FedEx is located to remediate the storm water issues by June 30, 2023. The wall has been constructed pursuant to the building plans. The township will be meeting with Scannell Properties next week. The Rhino Storage has reduced the glare from the lighting and will be required to install the tree buffer with the construction of the final building and expected by the end of the summer or early fall. If the public has suggestions for some community events reach out to Nita Hanson.

Trustee Evans reported the Bragg Family requested the dedication for May 29, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Trustee Evans does not feel the speed signs will be effective and suggested ticketing and wanted the deputies to be directed to issue more citations. Mrs. Hanson assumes that the Deputies that will be patrolling will enforce the law. The meeting will be to obtain more information regarding the speed limit signage where some communities have had good experience with the signs. Trustee Evans feels the Board of Trustees should move forward with more enforcement. Mrs. Hanson will communicate with the deputies to enforce the law.

Public Comments -

Teresa Ogershok of 484 Trail West discussed the pond being spring fed, welcomed Nita Hanson to the township and requested Mrs. Hanson work with all three Trustees.

Gary Burkholder of 254 Trail East stated that Etna Township was not included in the planning with Framework, discussed Public Records Request regarding draft minutes and the Tax Incentive Review Council is having a second meeting because a few of the businesses who have to report their employment data did not have it submitted to Licking County in time and Scannell is one of those, Solar and Wind Exclusionary Zones, Scannell Violations in regards to the buffering and the trees.

Steve Slyh of 1372 Londonale Parkway inquired on installing the security cameras, discussed the hiring of a full-time administrator, and thanked Julie Varian for filling public records request.

John Kennard of 10785 Palmer Road supports eliminating the pond, discussed maintenance around the pond, and safety hazards with ponds.

Connie Heim of 10293 Smoke Road was approached by a solar company which she refused to sell to them and issues with drainage and a culvert in a field.

Judy Cafmeyer of 29 Roma Court discussed exclusionary zones for Solar and the sample resolution from northwestern Ohio, Auglaize County, that she previously provided the Trustees. Ms. Cafmeyer requested the Trustees work together.

Trustee McKee addressed the solar situation. In August, during a Trustee meeting Trustee Evans volunteered to work with Ms. Cafmeyer on the Solar Resolution. Trustee Evans stated that Trustee McKee does not place anything on the agenda and requested solar be on the May 2nd agenda.

Rachel Zelazny of 10141 Tollgate Road discussed the drainage issues on her property and the hole on her property. The Road Department has been notified to investigate the hole.

New Business –

Trustee McKee moved that Nita Hanson will be the supervisor over the Road Department. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Johnson verified that Mrs. Hanson will be over the day-to-day activities. Trustee Evans does not feel a motion is needed because her job description puts her over all the departments. Trustee Johnson feels this is being done properly. The roll call on the motion was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Trustee McKee moved to appoint Rozland McKee as liaison to the Office. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans feels this is improper and stated the Township Administrator reports to the board. Nita Hanson confirmed that Trustee Evans is receiving her report and she does report to the full board. The roll call on the motion was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

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Trustee McKee moved to appoint Jeff Johnson as liaison to the Road Department. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans feels this is not necessary. The roll call on the motion was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Trustee McKee moved to approve the New Jan II quote to clean carpets, tile, and windows (for One thousand, two hundred and sixty dollars and seventy-five cents). The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This is the company that has been used in the past and has not been done since the building was closed for Covid. This is for a one-time cleaning. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Old Business -

Trustee McKee moved to authorize the expenditure of \$140,214.34 for two sheriff cruisers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans requested the quotes. Trustee McKee explained this is the total from Lt. Carson and there was a delay because of the availability of ordering the cruisers. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Fiscal Officer Report -

Resolution 23-04-18-02: Trustee McKee moved to approve the purchase orders as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The approval is for the list without Day Funeral Services because the township is not ready to approve that cost. The request for payment for the indigent funeral was discussed and Nita Hanson is investigating this issue. The roll call on the motion was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Trustee McKee moved to ratify the payment for the bills as shown on the payment listing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This is for the list without the Day Funeral Services. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

F/O Varian explained the need to transfer funds to cover the expenses.

Trustee Evans moved to transfer funds as listed. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKee. Discussion: From 1000-110-599-0000 Other Expenses to 1000-110-228-0000 Health Care Reimbursement for \$2,700, 1000-110-599-0000 Other Expenses to 1000-110-223-0000 Dental Insurance for \$3,000, 1000-110-599-0000 Other Expenses to 1000-210-360-3000 Contracted Serv. Sheriff for \$6,000, 1000-110-599-0000 Other Expenses to 1000-110-221-0000 Medical Expenses – Admin for \$25,000.00, and 1000-130-599-0001 Other Expenses to 1000-130-221-0000 Medical Expenses – Zoning for \$5,000. This is to get through the rest of the year on some categories. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

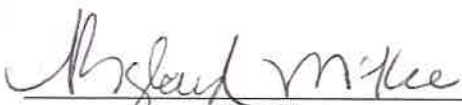
F/O Varian stated “Effective immediately, I will no longer be responsible for receiving or fulfilling public records request. The request will need to be the responsibility of the Board now.” The public records request will not be F/O Varian’s responsibility anymore and she will comply with what she needs to, but she will not maintain the database or respond to all the emails which come in. F/O Varian spoke with the Licking County Prosecutor’s Office regarding this responsibility. Township Administrator, Nita Hanson, will follow up on this issue.

Announcement and Trustee Comments -

Trustee Evans discussed aggregation regarding the opt out letter, Trebel Energy, and the company Licking County uses.

Trustee McKee supports the Ohio Township Association and they work with Trebel Energy.

Trustee McKee moved to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson and passed by unanimous affirmative vote.


Rozland McKee President


Julie Varian, Fiscal Officer

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