

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

## Etna Township Trustees Regular Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held \_\_\_\_\_ May 16, \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 2023

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 16, 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 adopt for meetings in 2023 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 does not support this and would like the agenda and materials earlier. 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 stated he did not have any input on this agenda, discussed items he wanted addressed, and requested an Executive Session. 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 April 4<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans does not feel the minutes reflect the actions of the board. The roll call 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. The two community events in May are The Bragg Family dedication ceremony on May 29, 2023 and for law enforcement appreciation week there will be a caravan on May 17, 2023. The Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District new waste treatment plant in Wagram is scheduled to be functioning by fall of 2025 or spring of 2026, the Summit Road force main extension is estimated for completion in June, the Refugee Road pump station is projected for completion in December, and the Refugee Road lift station is started. The JEDD and JEDZ boards meet later in May and the radar speed signs will be presented for reimbursement. Scannell has reported to Licking County that the regrading and seed across the site, in addition to addressing the erosion, is expected to be complete by May 19<sup>th</sup>, drawings for the tie in to the Campbell ditch are being signed with anticipated work beginning May 31<sup>st</sup>, the installation of the ditch section for the sound wall will be completed thereafter. The Licking County Transportation Improvement District has a meeting with ODOT scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> regarding Pike Street and the TID will be accepting bids for the Refugee Road Widening Project. The JEDZ Board will meet before the next Trustee meeting. To seek reimbursement from the JEDZ Board the township must first have approval from the Trustees for the expenditure. Mrs. Hanson is requesting the Trustees authorize the expenditure of not more than twenty thousand dollars for the purchase of a hot water pressure washer, the attendant electrical services, and the installation of the necessary ventilation in the garage bay and to permit Trustee Rozland McKee to sign any necessary contracts or invoices and to submit the proposed expenditure of funds for reimbursement to the JEDZ Board.

Trustee McKee moved to spend no more than twenty thousand dollars toward the power washer for the road crew garage. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The power washer is a natural gas with an electric pump. This will help maintain the equipment and the safety of the employees in the wash bay. The power washer quote has been confirmed and the twenty thousand dollars requested will cover if the other bids are higher. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

### Public Comments -

Liz Eschenbrenner of 22 Spikerush Court feels Mark Evans is a broken record, feels Nita Hanson is doing an awesome job trying to move forward, asked Mark Evans to name one thing that he has accomplished, discussed his negative comments on Facebook, and his half-truths and lies.

Teresa Ogershok of 484 Trail West recognized the graduates from Watkins, appreciated the update on Scannell, feels hiring needs should be discussed in Executive Session, the pressure washer should have been on the agenda, and discussed other items the road crew needs.

Judy Cafmeyer of 29 Roma Court discussed the agenda item regarding solar farms and holding a work session for discussion. Ms. Cafmeyer cares about Etna Township and the residents who live here.

Judy Haddox of 46 Imperial Drive discussed the closing of Mink Street and inquired on when it would be opened back up. Mrs. Haddox discussed Etna Township not getting along and would like them to work together.

Adam Kelley of 8990 Smoke Road discussed the pond/wetland next to his house and the proposed park for that property and recommends community involvement in planning the park.

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Gary Burkholder of 254 Trail East discussed transparency, the minutes, items on the agenda, reimbursement for road department equipment, Scannell updates along with the Zoning violations, and the Master Park Plan.

John Kennard of 10785 Palmer Road suggested people purchase the eighty acres near his home to keep Etna Rural, feels the farmers have been pushed out of Etna Township by housing developments, and discussed what happens with the property from solar farms.

Sabrina Warner is an elected official living in Licking County. Mrs. Warner does not feel Etna Township is the laughingstock and each township has their own issues with the government trying to divide the citizens, recommends the citizens go out to vote, and asked that Mr. Johnson and Mrs. McKee not grow weary in doing good.

**New Business –****Farm Rent Agreement**

Trustee McKee moved to enter into a Land Rent Contract for Crop Year 2023 with Keller Enterprises I LLC for \$125 dollars per tillable acre for a total of 61.64 acres and to authorize Rozland McKee to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The Trustees discussed the contract which was reviewed by legal counsel. The going rate for land rental was discussed along with whether this property was farmed in 2022. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

**Old Business -**

**Solar Farms** - President McKee opened the floor up to public discussion regarding Solar Farms.

Tom Haddox of 46 Imperial Drive discussed Etna Township remaining rural, all the growth, and feels this is a bad idea.

Judy Cafmeyer of 29 Roma Court believes in property owner rights, is looking at the total picture, is concerned about Etna Township regarding solar farms, and feels they are ugly. Ms. Cafmeyer thought this was going to be a Special Meeting work session and not just public comments.

Jake Warner from Granville Township does not feel they should be titled farms because it is not farming it is harvesting energy from the sun. Mr. Warner suggested if the township supports solar energy having them on the roofs of the warehouses.

Gary Burkholder of 254 Trail East discussed this taking over a year and the resolution prepared for the Board of Trustees. A resolution must be passed to request the Licking County Commissioners take action regarding solar farms. Mr. Burkholder would like to see a detailed work session and revisions to the Zoning Resolution.

John Kennard of 10785 Palmer Road is not for or against the solar panels; he is against people telling the farmers what to do with their land. Mr. Kennard presented a picture of a solar farm and read from a pamphlet regarding solar farms.

Connie Heim of 10293 Smoke Road has been approached by a solar company and they will not sell their property to a solar farm and is definitely against solar farms.

Shelly Marie Ipacs of 114 Royalty Drive recommended more discussion regarding solar farms and spoke about how to properly dispose of the solar panels and the effect on the birds.

Trustee Evans discussed holding a work session and has a resolution ready for discussion. Trustee McKee agreed to schedule a work session during the next Trustee meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with Trustee Evans leading the discussion regarding solar farms. The Trustees discussed where to place the work session on the agenda. Trustee Johnson feels that Trustee Evans controls how long the Trustee meetings last by his comments. Trustee Johnson has not made up his mind on solar farms at this time and recommended a meeting showing the pros and cons regarding solar farms. The Trustees discussed having presentations by experts.

Trustee Evans moved to hold a work session at 6:30 p.m. during the regular meeting on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to address the solar farms. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The Trustees discussed a work session during the next regular meeting. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

**Hire Road Crew**

President McKee turned over the meeting over to Nita Hanson regarding the open positions on the Road Crew.

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Nita Hanson and Road Superintendent Don Copley interviewed three candidates for the road crew positions and the following candidates were recommended by Mr. Copley: Darrin Norman, John Foster, and Carl Keller. The recommendation was to hire all three of them but at a minimum to hire at least two of them. The Trustees discussed the applicants, how many employees are needed at this time, and whether to interview them in Executive Session. Prior to Etna Township hiring a Township Administrator the Trustees had to conduct the interviews and this time the Township Administrator conducted them because Mrs. Hanson is over the Road Department. Mrs. Hanson supports the recommendations made by Road Superintendent Don Copley.

Trustee Johnson moved to hire Darrin Norman as per Union Contract, contingent on passing the drug test, driver's abstract, and background check with the target start date by May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKee. Discussion: Trustee Evans would have liked to have interviewed them in Executive Session. This is an approximate start date and he can start earlier. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Trustee Evans wanted to hire Carl Keller but did not have the support of the other Trustees.

Trustee Johnson moved to hire John Foster contingent on passing the drug test, background check, and the driver's abstract according to the union contract with the estimated start date by May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKee. Discussion: This is an approximate start date and he can start earlier. Trustee Evans would have preferred an Executive Session to interview. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

**Fiscal Officer Report**

**Resolution 23-05-16-01:** Trustee McKee moved to approve the purchase orders as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The Trustees discussed State Security for the purchase of key cards. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Trustee McKee moved to ratify the payment for the bills as shown on the payment listing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Evans. Discussion: The Trustees discussed the Jess Howard bill for the streetlights damaged in the accident two years ago. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

**Announcement and Trustee Comments -**

Trustee Evans discussed the video recorder, the records commission, the video at the garage over riding, the parks committee, honoring fallen officers, Bragg dedication ceremony, and solar panels on the roofs of the warehouses.

Nita Hanson wanted to explain that this is Mr. Bragg's ceremony and not a township ceremony.

Trustee McKee is the Trustee over the park, discussed the planning for the new park, and setting up a parks committee.

Trustee McKee moved to adjourn at 7:43 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.