

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Etna Township Trustees Special Meeting

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

Held June 27, 20 2023

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 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 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 F/O Julie Varian present.

Trustee McKee moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans discussed items on the agenda. 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 June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans does not feel the minutes accurately reflect actions of the board. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

### Public Comments -

Gary Burkholder of 254 Trail East requested the Board of Trustees pass the resolution for the exclusionary zone and feels this is the first step to deal with solar farms in Etna Township.

Litichia McIntyre of 15 Third Ave discussed the solar farms. Ms. McIntyre requested everyone work together and do what's best for the township.

Judy Cafmeyer of 29 Roma Court discussed solar farms and it is up to the Trustees to represent the residents.

John Kennard of 10785 Palmer Road discussed solar farms, farmland, and it is up to the Trustees to represent all of the residents of Etna Township.

Adam Kelley of 8990 Smoke Road discussed the solar farms and supports the township being an exclusionary zone. Mr. Kelley proposes allowing each Trustee to have at least one item on the agenda.

Richard Jarrett of 21 Sedge Court discussed solar farms and feels this topic has not been fully discussed and everyone in the township should have the opportunity to voice their opinion.

### Reports – Township Administrator Nita Hanson

Township Administrator Nita Hanson provided an oral report regarding several township items. The special election on August 8, 2023, for State Issue 1. The JEDD and JEDZ boards met in May. The New Community Authority met on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and elected their Board, and will be sending letters to the tax abated properties. The Licking County Sheriff's Office has provided Crime Statics for 2022. If there is interest in serving on the Parks Committee please reach out. The suggestion from US Field and Wildlife regarding the wetland on Smoke Road was to build up the low bank and plant trees. Native plants were available free of charge from Licking County Soil and Water and have been planted. There are no other plans for remediation and no action is required by the Board of Trustees regarding the wetland with the prior action being dependent on Licking County Soil and Water. The construction plans for the ditch relocation for Scannell are being circulated for signature. Licking County is closely monitoring Scannell. Etna Township is aware of tall grass along Tollgate Road and Scannell has been notified that violation notices will be issued if the grass is not mowed. Mrs. Hanson explained these are her notes and any action items will be provided prior to the meeting to the Board of Trustees for review.

### Old Business - Large Solar and Wind Exclusionary Zones Work Session

Trustee Evans moved to approve the resolution (tabled see motion below) requesting the Licking County Commissioners to include the unincorporated area of Etna Township as an exclusionary zone. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKee. Discussion: Trustee McKee discussed individual landowners' rights and doing a referendum to take this issue to the ballot for the residents to vote on. In the future a developer might want to put solar panels on the rooftop of a warehouse. Trustee Johnson supports excluding the wind farms but supports solar farms and the exclusionary zone blocks everything. The farmers could use their land for a solar farm, harvesting the sunlight, and easily hiding the solar panels. Trustee Evans spoke with Dale Arnold with the Farm Bureau and Trustee Evans supports the exclusionary zone for solar and wind farms. Trustee Evans discussed property rights and zoning. Trustee Evans feels this resolution is just requesting the Licking County Commissioners to start the public hearing process.

Trustee McKee moved to table the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Evans. Discussion: The Trustees discussed whether to table for more information. The letter from the Licking County Commissioners was discussed regarding them acting only when there is a project. The Trustees discussed having Dale Arnold attend a Trustees meeting. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

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### Fiscal Officer Report

F/O Varian presented a resolution to amend the 2023 appropriations to make the Taylor Road OPWC payment. F/O Varian explained she worked with the CPA and the Licking County Auditor on the resolution to move funds from a capital project account, where the Taylor Road funds were sitting in the amount of \$235,6340 to a debt service account to make the loan payment. The township received the Taylor Road money prior to 2023 and the money needs to be transferred to make the payment by July 1, 2023. The Trustees discussed the 2023 appropriations and the recommended amendment.

Trustee McKee moved to take a five-minute recess at 6:49 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Evans and passed by unanimous affirmative vote. President McKee brought the Board out of recess at 6:56 p.m.

Trustee Johnson clarified this is to amend the 4901 Capital Projects to 3901 debt service to make the Taylor Road Payment of \$225,634.62. F/O Varian discussed a needed correction under the Special Revenue Coronavirus Relief because the beginning balance going into 2023 was \$467,277.21 not \$267,277.21 so an amendment of \$200,000 is needed. F/O Varian discussed the other fund information.

Trustee McKee suggested tabling this resolution. Trustee Johnson is comfortable passing the amendment for the debt services to make the payment for the Taylor Road Project. Trustee Evans is comfortable passing the resolution as presented which was reviewed by the CPA and the Licking County Auditor. There was an error in the 2272 Special Rev. Coronavirus Relief Fund.

**Resolution 23-06-27-01:** Trustee Evans moved to amend the 2023 Appropriations as presented removing everything except in the top fund accounts the debt service \$225,634.62 and the amendment to the Fund account 3901 Debt Service \$225,634.62. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This is to amend the Debt Service Fund and 3901 Debt Service Fund both in the amount of \$225,634.62 to pay Taylor Road. The roll call was as follows: Evans, yes; Johnson, yes; and McKee, no; passed 2-1.

Trustee Evans moved to transfer funds as presented removing the \$225,634.62 from the list presented (by F/O Varian). The motion was seconded by Trustee McKee. Discussion: To transfer from 2031-330-190-000 Other Salaries to 2031-330-223-0000 Dental Insurance – Roads in the amount of \$1,259 dollars, from 2031-0330-190-0001 Other Salaries to 2031-330-224-0000 Vision Insurance – Roads in the amount of \$285 dollars, from 2031-330-190-0002 Other Salaries to 2031-330-222-0000 Life – Roads in the amount of \$44 dollars, and 2031-330-190-0000 Other Salaries to 2031-330-228-0000 Health Care Reimbursement in the amount of \$5,400 dollars for the H.S.A. accounts. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

**Resolution 23-06-27-02:** Trustee McKee moved to approve the purchase orders as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This is the list of purchase orders that were emailed to the Trustees by F/O Varian. 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 Johnson. Discussion: This is the payment listing that was provided by F/O Varian. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.


### Announcement and Trustee Comments -

Trustee Evans discussed working together, agendas, sharing information, and solar farms.

Trustee McKee suggested inviting Dale Arnold to attend the next meeting on July 18, 2023.

Trustee McKee moved to adjourn at 7:21 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.