

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Etna Township Trustees Regular Meeting

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

Held September 19, 20 2023

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 19, 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, and Rozland McKee-Flax, and were present. Fiscal Officer Julie Varian was excused.

Trustee McKee moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans requested a discussion on solar and update on the lawsuit to be on the agenda.

Trustee Evans moved to add those two to the agenda with an executive session for the update on the Federal lawsuit against the township and a discussion on the solar exclusionary zone. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion: Trustee McKee inquired if Mr. Bill Bogantz was the gentleman that requested Mr. Evans to stop recording a meeting. Trustee Evans stated it is Bill Bogantz with Liberty Township. The Trustees discussed solar. The roll call to amend the agenda was as follows: Evans, yes; Johnson, no; and McKee, no; failed 2-1.

The roll call to adopt the agenda as presented was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Trustee McKee moved to adopt the minutes from the September 5, 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. Nita Hanson referenced Robert’s Rules of Order regarding the minutes reflecting what was done at the meeting and not what was said. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Public Comments –

Steve Perkins of 7352 Palmer Road discussed Robert’s Rule of Order and solar.

Doug Parker of 440 Ballman Road discussed sophistry and the board appointments.

Theresa Ogershok of 484 Trail West discussed board appointments, final cost of the fireworks, water and sewer, solar exclusionary zones, and meet the candidate’s night.

Judy Cafmeyer of 29 Roma Court discussed solar and tax re-evaluation from Licking County.

Gary Burkholder of 254 Trail East discussed solar, Scannell violations, and Wagram Sewer Plant funding.

Ryan Davis of 8807 Watkins Road discussed timing and how items are decided for the agenda.

John Kennard of 10785 Palmer Road discussed building maintenance, solar farms, and candidates.

Reports – Township Administrator

Township Administrator Nita Hanson provided an oral report regarding several township items and community events. Nita Hanson provided an update on the property referred to as the icehouse. The Zoning Commission is working on Article 2 and 10 text amendments and explained the text amendment process. A plan has been determined to address the flooding in the Lake Land Hills Subdivision. Nita Hanson provided an update on the Mink Road Litigation regarding the Oliver case. From JEDZ1 and 2 for second quarter the township received just over two hundred and sixteen thousand dollars and the Southwest Licking Schools received just over one hundred and ninety-three thousand dollars. Nita Hanson provided an update from the Grow Licking County meeting. The Etna Township Park’s Committee is scheduled to meet on October 5, 2023. Mrs. Hanson provided information from the Transportation Improvement District, Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships, Southwest Licking Water and Sewer District, New Community Authority (NCA) Meeting, and the Etna Township’s All Hand’s on Meeting.

Nita Hanson discussed Public Records Requests regarding the Etna Township Zoom Account. Mrs. Hanson has requested the log in credentials from Trustee Evans and Fiscal Officer Varian several times.

Trustee McKee moved to require Trustee Evans to provide the log in credentials for the Zoom Account. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Trustee Evans has provided all the passwords that Trustee Evans has to F/O Varian. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Nita Hanson discussed the Licking County Emergency Management plan and provided how to register for weather alerts at Lickingcounty.gov/depts/ema and click on “Ready LC”. The two cruisers have been delivered and should be in the field by the end of the year.

Trustee Evans discussed West Licking CIC, Grow Licking County, and the Oliver lawsuit. The Trustees can individually contact the township’s attorney for information regarding the lawsuit.

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New Business –

Resolution 23-09-19-01: Trustee McKee moved to declare October 1st to 7th, 2023 as Stormwater Awareness Week. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Nita Hanson provided information regarding the request from Licking County Soil and Water. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Trustee McKee moved to authorize the expense not to exceed six hundred dollars for Rozland McKee, Nita Hanson, Don Copley, and John Singleton to attend the MORPC Summit on Sustainability on October 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Evans. Discussion: The cost to attend is five hundred dollars and with parking six hundred dollars should cover everything. The motion was passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

JEDZ1 Board Appointment

Trustee McKee moved to appoint John Carlisle, Necol Washington, and myself (Rozland McKee), to the JEDZ 1 Board and Jim Duffy as the alternate for the term of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The Trustees discussed the appointments, advertising, and opening this opportunity to other residents. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

JEDD1, 4, 7 Board Appointment

Resolution 23-09-19-02: Trustee McKee moved Resolution appointing members to the Joint Economic Development Board 1 Position 4, 4 Position 4, and 7 position 2 as follows to appoint myself (Rozland McKee) to JEDD1 position 4 for the term from 8-21-2023 to 8-22-2027; John Kennard to JEDD 4 position 4 for the term from 8-30-2023 to 8-29-2027; and John Kennard to JEDD 7 for the term from 8-31-2023 to 8-30-2027. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The appointments were confirmed for each position. The other members do not expire. The Trustees discussed advertising and interviewing the members. The section numbers need to be renumbered for from 5 and 6 to 4 and 5. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Trick or Treat

Trustee McKee moved to set Trick or Treat for October 31, 2023 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This is the same as the City of Pataskala. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Columbia Gas of Ohio Certified Retail Natural Gas Supplier

Trustee McKee moved to authorize myself, Rozland McKee to sign the Columbia Gas of Ohio, Certified Retail Natural Gas Supplier Customer Information Agreement. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: The Trustees discussed what this agreement is for. This form confirms the zip codes within the township. This is not for opting out or in the program. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Defer Recoupment Charge on Land Converted to Agricultural Use

The Southgate Company Limited Partnership is dedicating Right of Way, Venture Drive, to Etna Township. In order to defer the CAUV recoupment charges on the conversion of 1.262 acres of roadway the township needs to submit an application to Defer Recoupment Charge on Land Converted from Agricultural Use.

Trustee McKee moved to authorize myself, Rozland McKee, to submit the application Defer Recoupment Charge on Land Converted from Agricultural Use for 1.262 acres of roadway for Venture Drive. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This application was reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office from the Licking County Auditor's Office. The dedication of Venture Drive is approved through the Licking County Commissioner's Office. The roll call was as follows: Evans, no; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Motion to designate Counsel

Trustee McKee moved to designate the Licking County Prosecutor's Office as counsel for the three Ohio Court of Claims cases filed by Mark Evans who cannot participate in the discussion on this motion nor vote on this motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: Nita Hanson explained that Mr. Evans has filed three actions in the Ohio Court of Claims against the township related to public records requests. The roll call was as follows: Evans, abstain; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-0.

Old Business – None

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Fiscal Officer Report

Resolution 23-09-19-03: Trustee McKee moved to approve the purchase orders as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Evans and 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. The motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Motion to Designate Counsel Continued

Trustee McKee moved to authorize myself (Rozland McKee), President of the Board of Trustees to search for special outside counsel to conduct an investigation into a personnel complaint. The motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Discussion: This is for a personnel complaint that was filed against Etna Township. This is per the Etna Township Employee Handbook under the Complaint Procedure to investigate the complaint, internal to Etna Township. Trustee Evans feels this should be discussed in an Executive Session and does not know what this is about. The roll call was as follows: Evans, abstain; Johnson, yes; and McKee, yes; passed 2-1.

Announcement and Trustee Comments -

Trustee Evans discussed exclusionary zones and acreage can be combined. Trustee Evans is working on obtaining quotes for the rusty door. Trustee Evans feels the special counsel is another witch hunt from the pressure put on this leadership to do what is right and they are fitting back. Trustee Evans chose to file the records complaints with the Court of Claims so there are no damages or fees.

Trustee McKee spoke with the Chair, Sarah Wallace, of Framework and announced a training session in Newark Ohio on Thursday. The report will be reviewed. Trustee McKee discussed the Frameworks report that Etna Township residents participated in even though the township did not pay the five thousand dollars. Etna Township has invested in updating the township Comprehensive Plan.

Trustee Johnson discussed the employee "All Hands-on Luncheon". Trustee Johnson feels the employees are exceptional, they are hardworking, here every day, and it is great to work with them and he is glad they are employees and participate in our township.

Trustee Johnson moved to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKee and passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

[Signature of Rozland McKee]
Rozland McKee President

[Signature of Julie Varian]
Julie Varian, Fiscal Officer

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