

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS &amp; SUPPLIES 644-224-3035 FORM NO. 10148

Held

September 8

2025

**Etna Township, Licking County  
Etna Township Board of Trustees  
Special Meeting**

**September 8, 2025, At 6:00 P.M.**

Etna Township Hall, 81 Liberty Street, Etna, Ohio, 43018, Telephone (740-927-7717)

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met in the Etna Township Hall, 81 Liberty Street, Etna, Ohio 43018 for the purpose of conducting a special meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Gary Burkholder.

**Trustees Present:** Gary Burkholder, Rozland McKee-Flax **Trustees Absent:** Mark Evans  
**Also in Attendance:** Jackie Cotugno, Fiscal Officer

**I. Opening**

- a. Call to Order    b. Roll call    c. Invocation    d. Pledge of allegiance

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by:** Gary Burkholder to adopt the agenda as presented

**Second by:** Rozland McKee-Flax

**Yes:** Gary Burkholder, Rozland McKee-Flax

**Carried 2-0**

**III. Public Comments:** (limit 2 minutes per person)

**Steven Paul 76 Nantucket Avenue SW** – Mr. Paul questioned the legality of today's meeting as he had received 4 emails, one of which he could not open because of a security issue. He further stated that he believes that today's meeting should be adjourned because the board did not follow the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) policy and if this meeting is continued the township is opening a bag of worms and a lawsuit. Mr. Paul commented that small details matter and the township failed to follow the small details. By continuing tonight's meeting, it will allow everyone in the township a legal standing for a class action lawsuit. Mr. Paul asked if the board thought the Licking County Prosecutor office was incompetent and unable to manage the townships issues, why would the township bring in another law firm for an open-ended contract, what the cost was to the township for the additional law firm, and will the board be voting tonight, yes or no? Mr. Paul reported that on 1/4/24 he submitted a request for specific records as well. Vice President McKee noted that this was a special meeting, and public records requests would not be addressed today by the board at today's meeting. Mr. Paul asked the board if he had to remain at the meeting for a response or if he should take his questions to the Ohio Attorney General's office or council for special investigation. President Burkholder shared with Mr. Paul that contacting the Ohio Attorney General's office or counsel for special investigations was his choice and that the board would address questions as the meeting agenda moved forward.

**IV. New Business**

- a. Resolution 2025-060 for Etna Township to commit \$200,000 in construction costs to improve the intersection of Refugee Road and State Route 310.

**Moved by:** Gary Burkholder to approve Resolution 2025-060 as presented

**Second by:** Rozland McKee-Flax

Trustee Burkholder reported that the township was approached by the city of Pataskala after they passed a Resolution for \$200,00 for the reconstruction of State Route 310 and Refugee Road. Being that the township shares this intersection with the city of Pataskala, we were asked to contribute \$200,00 to the project as well. It's hopeful that the township's contribution will be favorable to ODOT district 5 when an application is submitted in the future. The first step in the reconstruction process will require a safety study of the intersection and no funds are expected to be expended until 2026. Vice President McKee also shared that this intersection is currently busy, and the traffic will only increase with the new housing and apartment projects.

**Yes:** Gary Burkholder, Rozland McKee-Flax

**Carried 2-0**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

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GOVERNMENT FORMS &amp; SUPPLIES 944-224-3338 FORM NO. 10146

Held \_\_\_\_\_

20 \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Fiscal Officer Report**a. Resolution 2025-061 to approve purchase order

Trustee Burkholder noted that this purchase order is for \$20,000 from account 110-311-0000 for the Taft Law Firm. A motion for a letter of engagement was passed at the last meeting to retain the Taft Law Firm to represent the township regarding the Aristotle Pipeline project that is proposed to go through the large park off State Route 310. Trustee McKee shared that the Taft Law Firm brings real estate expertise that will be helpful to the township regarding the detailed easement agreement that flows through the park. Trustee McKee noted that she is comfortable with the board's decision and Trustee Burkholder added that the board followed up with the Licking County prosecutor and the board was cleared to move forward with today's meeting.

**Motion by:** Gary Burkholder to approve the purchase order

**Second by:** Rozland McKee-Flax

**Yes:** Gary Burkholder, Rozland McKee-Flax

**Carried 2-0**

**VI. Public Comments** (limit of 2 minutes per person)

**Steven Paul 76 Nantucket Avenue SW** – Questioned how Vice President McKee was familiar with the Taft Law firm and if she was affiliated with them. Vice President McKee shared, it's a law firm like any other law firm that she is familiar with, such as the Bricker and Graydon law firm, Peters-Briggs law firm, and that she was not personally affiliated with them. Mr. Paul further asked if she had any legal connection or involvement with the Taft law firm to which Trustee McKee responded no.

**VII. Announcements and Trustee Comments** - None**Adjournment**

**Moved by:** Gary Burkholder to adjourn

**Second by:** Rozland McKee-Flax

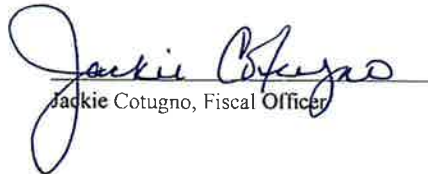
**Yes:** Gary Burkholder, Rozland McKee-Flax

**Carried 2-0**

**Adjourned** at 6:13 p.m.



Gary Burkholder, President



Jackie Cotugno, Fiscal Officer

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