

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Etna Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

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

Held September 3, 20 2024

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, in the Etna Township Hall, 81 Liberty Street, Etna, Ohio 43018 for the purpose of conducting a regular meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Gary Burkholder.

Trustees Present

Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Trustees Absent

Others in Attendance

Holly Palumbo, Jackie Cotugno, Don Copley, and Drishya Dhital

1. Opening

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented

Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Seconded by: Gary Burkholder

- Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
- No Mark Evans

Carried 2-1

Trustee Evans moved to amend the agenda to include the mosquito contract under New Business and also under Minutes, the July 24th, July 25th, and August 12th for discussion. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Discussion: Trustee Evans questioned why simple items are not being added to the agenda. Trustee Evans stated the minutes continue to have errors. Also, with the mosquito contract, there are some streets that are being treated while others are not. Trustee Burkholder advised if there are complaints, those complaints need to be forwarded to the office. Trustee Burkholder stated he has not received any complaints. Trustee Evans has checked with the Health Department database and complaints have been refused and request for spraying have been forwarded to the office.

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes - Special June 12, 2024, Regular June 18, 2024, and Special July 22, 2024.

[T-2024-06-12 Special Draft Corrected.docx](#)

[T-2024-06-18 Minutes Draft Corrected.docx](#)

[T-2024-07-22 Special Draft Corrected.docx](#)

Motion to approve the minutes from the Special June 12, 2024.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Mark Evans

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Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular June 18, 2024, meeting.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Mark Evans

Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
No Mark Evans

Carried 2-1

Trustee Evans stated there were still errors in the minutes. After the vote, Trustee Burkholder moved to resend the original motion to approve the minutes.

Motion to resend the approval of the June 18, 2024, regular meeting.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Motion to table the minutes of the Special July 22, 2024, meeting.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

4. **Public Comments**

Judy Cafneyer - 29 Roma Court - Ms. Cafneyer attended the Licking County Commissioners' meeting where more townships were approved for their exclusionary status prohibiting large solar farms. She also mentioned the roundabout at Mink and Refugee, it looks much better.

Joe Wagner - 12981 National Road - Mr. Wagner read a report on chemicals and how they are being stored improperly. Mr. Wagner is concerned with zoning violations such as excessive signage that are not being enforced.

Litichia McIntyre - 15 3rd Avenue - Ms. McIntyre came to the board as the president of the zoning commission. Ms. McIntyre addressed the Facebook post by certain trustees alleging the zoning commission is delaying processes. Ms. McIntyre stated the zoning commission strives to handle all issues in a timely manner. Ms. McIntyre stated losing tenured staff has caused a hardship on the board and the township as a whole. Ms. McIntyre gave an update of the process for the text amendment changes. To state that the zoning commission is needlessly delaying these changes is a false

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statement. Ms. McIntyre encouraged everyone to come to one of the zoning commission meetings.

Ryan Davis - 8807 Watkins Road - Mr. Davis was able to watch the last two meetings prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Davis found it very unprofessional of the editing job by Trustee Evans to put comments within the video finally posted meeting videos from the last two meetings.

Aubrey Hanson - 160 Rolan Road - Mr. Hanson expressed strong criticism of Trustee Evans. He prefaced his comments by referencing his mother, Nita Hanson, the former township administrator. He accused Evans of creating ongoing turmoil within the township, describing him as combative and disruptive, particularly in his online and public interactions. He also criticized Evans's habit of adding personal commentary to meeting recordings, which he viewed as inappropriate and indicative of a broader pattern of blame, complaint, and deflection.

Jon Hanson 51 Ridgewood Drive - He offered his perspective on Trustee Evans's behavior and leadership, drawing parallel to his own past experiences. Jon shared how self-examination led him to recognize that many of his challenges stemmed from his own actions or mindset. He described this realization as a "harsh red pill" to swallow but one that ultimately transformed his life. Jon concluded by stating his intention to continue sharing research on this topic, mentioning plans to post academic findings online and launch a website dedicated to exploring these issues.

Steve Slyh - Mr. Slyh began by commending Trustee Burkholder for maintaining the responsible and growth-oriented leadership he had demonstrated in the past. Mr. Slyh then shifted his focus to Trustee Evans, criticizing his tenure as divisive and marked by alienation. Mr. Slyh asserted that Evans's pattern of turning on supporters when they do not align with him has fostered a toxic environment. Mr. Slyh expressed his disappointment with Evans's focus on personal attacks and divisive behavior rather than constructive leadership. He commended Trustees Burkholder and McKee for standing up to what he described as bullying and prioritizing the best interests of Etna Township. Mr. Slyh emphasized the importance of respectful governance and thanked the board for their efforts to maintain it.

Shelly Marie Ipacs - 114 Royalty Drive - Mrs. Ipacs began by addressing recent discussions and criticisms on Facebook. Mrs. Ipacs acknowledged Trustee Evans for his responsiveness, highlighting his hard work despite the challenges he faces. Mrs. Ipacs also commended Trustee Burkholder for his consistent presence and dedication. Mrs. Ipacs extended her appreciation to other township officials. Mrs. Ipacs recognized the difficulties that arose from the lack of resources but praised the progress made. Mrs. Ipacs encouraged a focus on the progress being made and the collective efforts to achieve great outcomes for Etna Township.

Paige Hobbs - 160 Rolan Road - Mrs. Hobbs expressed gratitude to Mr. Copley and his team for addressing concerns about a new road sign on Roland Road. After the concerns were raised, Mr. Copley assessed the situation and adjusted the sign's height to improve visibility and ensure safety. Mrs. Hobbs thanked Mr. Copley, the trustees involved, and the team for their responsiveness and dedication to keeping the community safe.

Jon Kennard - 10785 Palmer Road - Mr. Kennard commended Trustee Burkholder for

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his resilience in handling the negativity directed at him, adding that Evans often targets residents who do not align with his agenda. Mr. Kennard expressed frustration over Evans’s repeated use of his image on Facebook without consent. Mr. Kennard voiced disappointment in the apparent leniency afforded to politicians, suggesting that similar actions in other professional settings would lead to termination or other consequences.

5. Reports

a.

Road Department

The first proposal concerned repairs on Palmer Road, west of North Acres. The scope of work included digging out damaged asphalt, replacing it with eight inches of concrete reinforced with rebar, and smoothing the surface to match the top of the pavement. Two estimates were presented: \$4,700 for a complete job including haul-out services and \$4,800 requiring the township to provide a haul-out truck. Mr. Copley recommended the \$4,700 bid. He requested a blanket certificate of up to \$5,000 to accommodate any unforeseen costs, such as additional culvert repairs. The cost of asphalt was noted at \$89.50 per ton, and Mr. Copley requested approval of up to \$10,000 to cover material.

OPWC - Trustee Burkholder reminded the board about the upcoming Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding application window. He noted that past submissions had not been approved, prompting a review of new possibilities. Trustee Evans responded by stating that he is in the process of reviewing potential projects and compiling considerations but has not yet finalized any recommendations. Trustee Evans suggested addressing the matter at the next meeting to allow time for preparation and collaboration with the township engineer. Trustee Burkholder provided an update on the Pike Street Phase One, Stage Two project. A recent meeting with stakeholders, including the county engineer, the Transportation Improvement District (TID) director, and Verandas engineers, with plans shared with MKSK and a public input meeting tentatively planned for late October, to be coordinated by ODOT. Trustee Evans proposed combining this meeting with the comprehensive plan open house to maximize community engagement.

Trustee Burkholder also updated the board on the Refugee Road roundabout, thanking the contractors and TID for their work while noting outstanding punch list items, including fiber optic cable repairs and addressing tire damage incurred during construction.

Trustee Evans announced that STR is tentatively scheduled to begin resurfacing work during the first week of October. The planned resurfacing includes Cape Seal and Micro surfacing treatments on several streets, including Sterling Way and Whittington Place in Watkins Grove, as well as Palmer Road, Lynns Road, Smoke Road, and sections of Refugee Road.

Motion to approve up to \$5,000 for the Palmer Road repair and up to \$10,000 for the paving in anticipation for the Strawser work next month

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

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Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

- b. **Zoning Department**
Map & Text Amendment Status

Zoning Map & Text Amendment Status.pdf 

Work on map and text amendments is underway. The department is comparing maps from the Licking County Planning Commission and those updated by the land use consultant to resolve discrepancies before the zoning and future land use maps are finalized for a public open house.

Zoning Complaints

Zoning Complaints 1-1-24 to 8-29-24.pdf 

Trustees received a list of complaints in their meeting packets, with plans to improve the process for handling and recording these concerns, including coordinating with emergency management services regarding chemical storage complaints.

Trustee Evans raised concerns about inaccuracies and missing entries in the zoning complaint report, noting duplicate entries and absent complaint numbers. Trustee Burkholder acknowledged these errors, attributing them to incomplete data entry and underutilization of the iWork software. Trustee Burkholder encouraged Trustee Evans to forward any additional complaints for inclusion in the updated records.

Motion to accept the resignation of Freddie Latella

Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Seconded by: Mark Evans

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Storm Water

There was no discussion regarding Storm Water

- d. **Parks**

Trustee Burkholder provided an update on High Point Park, noting that the township had received documents from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to verify and process the \$150,000 grant for the park. He addressed concerns regarding the lack of recent park committee meetings, explaining that the primary contact at the consulting firm had been on personal leave, delaying progress. Burkholder assured the board that once the consultant is available, the committee will reconvene.

Trustee Evans raised a concern about communication with committee members. He emphasized the importance of updating committee members about delays. Burkholder agreed and committed to improving

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communication.

The discussion concluded with Burkholder addressing recent negative comments about the lack of meetings made on Facebook, which he described as unprofessional and counterproductive. Evans responded by reiterating that effective communication is essential for maintaining professionalism.

6. Old Business

a. Resolution 2024-026 ODOT Grant Reimbursement to AHS, LLC Group (Tabled 6/4/24)

Etna Twp -- AHS Etna Grant Agreement(19370438.1) - Signed.pdf 
Resolution 2024-026 - AHS Grant Reimbursement.docx 

Motion to remove resolution from table 2024-026

Moved by: Mark Evans
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax **Carried 3-0**

Etna Twp -- AHS Etna Grant Agreement(19370438.1) - Signed.pdf 
Resolution 2024-026 - AHS Grant Reimbursement.docx 

Motion to adopt resolution 2024-026

Moved by: Mark Evans
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Mark Evans
No Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax **Fails 1-2**

Etna Twp -- AHS Etna Grant Agreement(19370438.1) - Signed.pdf 
Resolution 2024-026 - AHS Grant Reimbursement.docx 

Trustee Evans questioned whether Trustee Burkholder had obtained the information he previously cited as necessary for a decision, expressing frustration over the repeated delays. Trustee Burkholder acknowledged that he had not received all the requested information, specifically regarding original paperwork and reimbursement details. Trustee Evans asserted that the information had been provided multiple times, including communications from ODOT representative Fred Vogel, and noted that past emails and documentation should contain the required details.

Discussion continued on the financial aspects of the resolution, with references to a \$960,000 payment, a \$100,000 reimbursement request, and the need for clarity on an existing loan tied to the project. Evans clarified that the \$100,000 was part of a reimbursement under a 629 grant, separate from the \$960,000 payment, which was covered by another grant. Burkholder maintained that missing loan documents

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hindered his ability to make an informed decision. Rozland McKee indicated she had no additional input.

- b. **Ice Miller Legal Invoice (Tabled 8/06/2024)**
Motion to remove Ice Miller Legal invoice from the table.

Moved by: Mark Evans
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Trustee Burkholder raised concerns about the process required to obtain legal opinions from the prosecutor's office, noting that the procedure now involves submitting either a resolution or meeting minutes, which has caused delays due to a backlog of minutes. He described the process as rigorous and expressed frustration over the resulting logjam in obtaining timely legal guidance.

Trustee Evans disagreed, stating that the process is straightforward and involves simply passing a resolution authorizing the request and providing all relevant information, a step he noted had been overlooked in some past cases. He emphasized that compliance with these requirements would streamline the process. Burkholder acknowledged that the resolution had not been presented at the August 6 meeting and stated he had no further updates on the matter.

- c. **Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District**

Trustee Burkholder opened discussion on the Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District, inviting Trustee Evans to address his concerns. Evans reiterated that the board had previously authorized Burkholder to contact the prosecutor regarding the district's actions to expand its territory, potentially at the expense of existing members. He also expressed frustration with the refusal of the township's board appointee to provide requested reports or updates, citing concerns over the appointee's conduct.

Evans proposed that the appointee be removed from the position and suggested that the board address the matter through a simple resolution rather than delay further by awaiting a prosecutor's opinion. The discussion concluded without a resolution being presented, and the board moved on to the next agenda item.

- d. **Etna Township Web Hosting Proposal (Tabled 8/20)**

[etna-twp-hosting-proposal-8-6-2024.pdf](#)

Motion to remove the Etna Township Web Hosting Proposal from the table

Moved by: Mark Evans
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

[etna-twp-hosting-proposal-8-6-2024.pdf](#)

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Trustee Evans explained that the township's current web hosting service had experienced vulnerabilities and service interruptions, including the website going offline due to unpaid bills. Evans proposed transitioning to a new web hosting vendor, which would improve security, ensure continuity, and allow for minor updates and maintenance. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the current website until a full revamp can be implemented, citing limitations in staff resources to undertake a comprehensive redesign at this time.

Trustee Burkholder acknowledged the prior discussion of web providers, referencing a Civic Plus proposal that was not pursued due to cost and resource constraints. He agreed with Evans about the immediate need to address website vulnerabilities but insisted that the primary contact for the website be the township administrator once hired, rather than a trustee.

Trustee Burkholder made a motion to approve the new web hosting proposal, with an amendment specifying that Trustee Evans could initially set up the service but would transfer administrative responsibilities, passwords, and account access to the township administrator upon their hiring.

Motion to approve the Etna Township Web Hosting Proposal

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Gary Burkholder

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Motion to amend the approval of the new web hosting proposal specifying that Trustee Evans could initially set up the service, but would transfer administrative responsibilities, passwords, and account access to the township administrator upon their hiring.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

e. Comp Plan Update

There is no update on the comprehensive plan.

f. Resolution 2024-041

Resolution Requesting Prosecutor's Opinion

Nicholas Weigel damage claim

[Resolution 2024-041 Prosecutor Opinion Request.pdf](#)

[RESOLUTION 2024-041 Exhibit A.pdf](#)

Requesting a prosecutor's opinion regarding a damage claim by Nicholas Weigel. Mark Evans moved to adopt the resolution to formally request the prosecutor's opinion, enabling the board to determine the next steps, including potential payment to the resident and pursuing accountability with the construction company involved. He noted that

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the resolution includes all required information and exhibits, formatted per the prosecutor's specifications.

Trustee Burkholder clarified that the motion is specifically to obtain the prosecutor's opinion and not to make a final decision on the matter at this time. Trustee McKee expressed her support for seeking the prosecutor's input to guide the board's decision-making process.

Motion to get an opinion from prosecutor regarding pay back

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Gary Burkholder

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

g. Resolution 2024-043

A resolution hiring and establishing the terms and conditions of employment for the Etna Township Administrator.

Resolution 2024-043.docx

Motion to hire township administrator. Susan E Bedsole \$155K plus benefits.

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder and Mark Evans
No Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 2-1

Resolution 2024-043.docx

Trustee Burkholder explained that the resolution proposes the hiring of Susan E. Bedsole as the township administrator at an annual salary of \$155,000 plus benefits. Dana McDaniel, representing Management Advisory Group LLC, provided an overview of the executive search process, highlighting Mrs. Bedsole extensive qualifications and career background, including over 35 years of public sector experience in positions such as assistant city manager, director of community services, and deputy court administrator. Management Advisory Group recommended Mrs. Bedsole as the most qualified candidate for the position.

Trustee Evans expressed his appreciation for the thoroughness of the search process and endorsed Mrs. Bedsole as an excellent choice for the township. Trustee McKee acknowledged Mrs. Bedsole's qualifications but voiced concerns over the proposed salary, noting it exceeded the original posting range of \$130,000-\$145,000 and pointing out that Mrs. Bedsole applied knowing this threshold. Evans refuted claims that Mrs. Bedsole was initially overlooked, emphasizing that she was always among the top candidates.

Trustee Burkholder expressed gratitude to Management Advisory Group for their professionalism throughout the process and voiced strong support for the hiring of Mrs. Bedsole, emphasizing the importance of securing experienced leadership for Etna Township. The board praised the thorough selection process and acknowledged Mrs. Bedsole

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potential to address the township's challenges and opportunities effectively.

Mrs. Bedsole spoke briefly, expressing her enthusiasm for returning to local government and her commitment to engaging with the community and making decisions transparently. She thanked the board and emphasized her passion for serving at the local level, which she believes has the most direct impact on residents' day-to-day lives.


Trustee Evans reiterated his support for Mrs. Bedsole, highlighting her qualifications and the need for strong leadership as the township rebuilds. He acknowledged concerns over the proposed salary but stressed that the experience and expertise Mrs. Bedsole brings justify the compensation. Trustee McKee voiced her approval of Mrs. Bedsole's qualifications but raised concerns about specific terms, including the \$300 monthly vehicle stipend, suggesting instead that mileage be reimbursed per trip. Burkholder and Evans countered that the flat rate was more cost-effective compared to providing a township vehicle and commensurate with similar roles in other organizations.

The resolution outlined Mrs. Bedsole's annual salary of \$155,000 with an increase to \$160,000 after six months, plus benefits.

7. New Business

a. Resolution to initiate a (GB) text amendment

2024-042 Resolution Requesting Change to GB Zoning (1).pdf 

Exhibit A ARTICLE-9-District-Regulations-907-GB (1).pdf 

Motion to adopt resolution 2024-042 initiate GB text amendment.


Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Gary Burkholder

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

2024-042 Resolution Requesting Change to GB Zoning (1).pdf 

Exhibit A ARTICLE-9-District-Regulations-907-GB (1).pdf 

Resolution to initiate a general business text amendment. Trustee Burkholder explained that a broader text amendment is already under review by the zoning commission, with input from the consultant and Mr. Olson. However, the timeline for completing that process remains uncertain due to the complexity and scope of the amendment. Burkholder expressed support for this singular amendment as a precautionary measure to provide immediate protection in case the broader amendment encounters delays.

Trustee Evans elaborated on the urgency of the proposed amendment, citing growing interest in truck stops and semi-fueling stations along US 40, particularly at Columbia and 40. He emphasized that such developments could negatively impact transportation and residential quality of life in the township. The resolution would initiate a zoning text change, requiring the zoning commission to submit the amendment to the Licking County Planning Commission within five days to meet

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the September 23rd meeting deadline. The amendment specifically targets the removal of NAICS code 447190 (Other Gasoline Stations), which includes truck stops, from permissible uses.

Evans noted that the amendment does not alter current zoning regulations but directs the zoning commission to begin the amendment process, following the Ohio Revised Code's procedural timeline. Trustee McKee had no additional comments on the matter.

8. Fiscal Officer Report

Jackie Cotugno provided an update on the township's financials, reporting that the bank balance at the end of July was \$8.5 million, with \$270,000 in payments and \$250,000 in received revenue. By the end of August, the balance increased to approximately \$9.2 million, with \$203,000 in payments and \$883,000 in revenue, including the first half of real estate tax receipts.

Cotugno addressed invoices from ACE American Insurance Company regarding director and officers' liability insurance for JEDs (Joint Economic Development Districts). She confirmed that while these payments are reimbursable, they are currently being processed through the township due to insufficient JEDD funds. Trustee Evans questioned why the JEDDs are not directly paying these bills and suggested reviewing meeting minutes to clarify this process. The board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Cotugno highlighted requests from long-term township residents, including Mr. Brandon, who wished to reserve a burial plot next to his wife, and Mr. Thrash, seeking similar accommodations. Evans recounted previous emotional appeals from Mr. Brandon and suggested honoring such requests for spouses when possible. Burkholder noted the need to verify the township policy and seek a prosecutor's opinion on holding cemetery plots.

The board discussed streamlining bill payments, including adding automatic ACH options for routine expenses, contingent on prosecutor approval.

Cotugno confirmed receipt of a \$258 overpayment reimbursement from Win Waste, previously identified in July.

Motion to proceed with automatic payments, contingent on verification from the prosecutor.

Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Seconded by: Mark Evans

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax **Carried 3-0**

a. Resolution 2024-040 to approve purchase orders

Resolution to Approve Purchase Orders 09.3.2024.docx 📎

Trustee Evans raised the question about whether a purchase order (PO) was required for the newly approved web vendor, Robintex or if the existing PO for the current vendor would suffice. Jackie Cotugno confirmed that a new PO was necessary. Evans outlined the costs associated with the new vendor: \$120 monthly for services, \$70 for a

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security certificate, and \$560 for migration, with additional hourly fees for minor changes.

Evans calculated an estimated annual total of \$2,070 and proposed amending the purchase order list to include \$3,500 for Robintex services to ensure sufficient funds through the end of the year.

Motion to approve purchase orders

Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Seconded by: Mark Evans

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Motion to amend purchase order list to add web hosting for a purchase order of \$3500

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Gary Burkholder


Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

b. Covid Money

Cotugno raised the need to allocate remaining COVID-19 relief funds, totaling approximately \$169,000. Discussion included potential uses, such as purchasing a township vehicle or funding deputy salaries. Evans noted that using funds for deputy salaries would preserve general funds, while Burkholder emphasized the importance of tracking contract renewal dates for deputies. The board has decided to prepare a draft resolution for discussion at the next meeting.

c. Motion to ratify the payment of the bills as shown on payment listing

Payment Listing 20240902 1359 SEPT 3RD CHECK RUN.pdf 

Motion to ratify the payment of the bills as shown on payment listing

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

d. Transfers

There were no transfers.

Motion to transfer the funds as presented

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Abstain Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

No vote 0-0

9. Public Comments

Ryan Davis - 8807 Watkins Road - He stated that he would remain after the executive session for trustee comments and expressed concerns over potential negative responses to his statements. He emphasized the importance of fact-based replies rather than vague generalities. Davis highlighted the need for transparency and determination in addressing township issues and called for efforts to be documented and made public. He urged that streaming capabilities be included in future discussions and requested this topic be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Phylliss Bundy 10254 Tollgate Road - Thanked Mr. Copley from the road department on always reaching out and returning calls and his services.

Steve Slyh - 1372 London Dale Parkway - He noted that he had submitted a public records request on August 13th for emails from Trustee Evans but had not yet received a response. Slyh also proposed a project to install entrance signs into the township, highlighting championship years and achievements of Watkins High School's academic, athletic, and music programs. He shared that he had sent the proposal to Evans over a month ago but had not received a response. Slyh offered to financially contribute to the project and expressed interest in discussing it further with Trustee Burkholder or the board. Additionally, Slyh welcomed the hiring of the new township administrator and stressed the importance of giving her a fair opportunity to succeed.

Paige Hobbs - 160 Roland Road - Hobbs clarified that all committee members had received an email from Mr. Dziatkowicz explaining his situation, which included personal and medical issues. Hobbs expressed disappointment with the narrative circulating on social media, which suggested that delays were due to negligence. He emphasized Mr. Jow's professionalism, friendliness, and expertise, noting his positive contributions to the park committee. Hobbs assured attendees that the committee is fully informed about the situation and expressed support for Mr. Jow's dedication to his role despite his current challenges.

Nick Weigel - 12045 Refugee Road SW - He expressed gratitude to the board for their efforts in advancing the resolution related to his concerns. He also urged the company responsible for the work to expedite the filling of the unresolved hole on his property, emphasizing the need for timely action. Additionally, he thanked the board members who visited his house to check on the situation, expressing appreciation for their responsiveness and attention to the matter.

10. Executive Session - ORC 121.22(G)

ORC 121.22(G)(1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing.

To consider the employment of a public employee.

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To consider the disciplinary action for a public employee.

Motion to hire a part-time, temporary zoning and office assistant.

Drishya Resume 2.pdf 

Trustee Cover letter.pdf 

ORC 121.22(G)(3) Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

Motion to enter executive session at 8:05 p.m. per Ohio revised code 1210.22 G-1 to consider the employment of a public employee. Also to consider the disciplinary action for a public employee and to consider resignation of a public employee.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Motion to exit executive session at 8:30 p.m.

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Motion to hire Drishya Dhital on a temporary basis until Dec 15th

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Trustee McKee explained that Drishya Dhital was being brought on to fill a gap left by a recent resignation and emphasized her qualifications as a resource to assist during this transition period. Trustee Evans noted that the hiring is temporary, lasting only a few months, and will provide support to the incoming township administrator. He clarified that if it had been a permanent position, the decision would have been deferred to the new administrator. Burkholder praised Drishya's previous contributions and her willingness to assist the township during this interim period.

Motion to amend the pay rate to \$18/hour

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Motion to accept the resignation of Jon Foster from the roads department

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Motion to enter executive session at 8:33 p.m per ORC 1210.22 G-3 conferences

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Etna Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

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

Held _____ September 3, _____ 20 _____ 2024

with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are subject to pending or imminent court action.

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes

Gary Burkholder, Mark Evans, and Rozland McKee-Flax

Carried 3-0

Motion to exit executive session at 8:50 p.m.

Moved by: Mark Evans

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

11. Announcement and Trustee Comments

- a. Next Trustee Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Evans addressed several issues and criticisms raised during public comments. Evans stated that he had advocated for streaming but encountered resistance. He expressed confidence in the incoming township administrator's ability to address this issue and implement a more effective system. Evans also responded to concerns about communication delays. He acknowledged ongoing challenges in these areas and emphasized his commitment to improving communication and addressing residents' concerns. Evans further addressed zoning issues, expressing frustration over delays in forwarding resolutions and adhering to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requirements. He criticized the handling of previous zoning text amendments and stressed the importance of timely action to avoid future complications. Evans concluded by emphasizing that the township's focus should be on policies and progress rather than personal attacks. He urged the community to support the new leadership and prioritize the township's future.

Trustee McKee extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed township administrator, Susan Bedsole, expressing confidence in her ability to manage the township's day-to-day operations effectively. McKee highlighted Bedsole's qualifications and stated that she looked forward to her handling administrative responsibilities, including the management of passwords and IT access. McKee expressed gratitude to Bedsole for accepting the position and conveyed optimism about her contributions to the township's progress.

Trustee Burkholder also welcomed the new administrator and expressed optimism about the township's future under her leadership. He shifted focus to address ongoing criticism, particularly from Trustee Evans, regarding administrative inefficiencies and past delays in zoning amendments. Burkholder acknowledged that some processes, such as zoning text amendments, had taken time but emphasized the collaborative effort and thorough work conducted with the zoning commission, consultants, and the county prosecutor to ensure alignment and clarity. Burkholder expressed disappointment over negative and unconstructive criticism on social media, particularly over a holiday weekend, which he felt undermined the township's progress and community morale. He noted the positive developments in Etna

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Enna Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

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

Held September 3, 20 2024

Township, including the potential to secure over \$680,000 in grants this year. Burkholder urged trustees to focus on constructive collaboration and emphasized the importance of addressing challenges professionally and positively to benefit the township and its residents.

Holly Palumbo, the administrative assistant, addressed concerns regarding the accuracy of meeting minutes, specifically corrections from the August 20th meeting. She clarified that she had sent the corrected minutes to trustees on August 27th with a request for any additional corrections, but she did not receive feedback until the day of this meeting at 5:51 PM. Mrs. Palumbo expressed frustration over the late submission of corrections and emphasized her commitment to accurately documenting meetings.

Trustee Evans responded, explaining that his review of multiple sets of minutes was delayed until the current day. He pointed out that some corrections introduced new errors, including the omission of motions. Evans criticized the board for failing to address these issues earlier and stressed the need for a more efficient process to ensure accurate minutes.

Trustee Burkholder proposed that Evans work directly with Mrs. Palumbo to resolve any remaining issues with the minutes. Evans agreed but reiterated the importance of using the township's digital system more effectively to input motions and other key details directly, reducing the need to re-listen to entire meetings. He expressed hope that the new township administrator would improve oversight and streamline the process. During Trustee Evans' comments, a call to adjourn was made, cutting Trustee Evans off.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 9:07 p.m.

Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Seconded by: Gary Burkholder


Gary Burkholder, President


Jacqueline Cotugno, Fiscal Officer

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