

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Etna Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORNIS & SUPPLIES 944-224-3388 FORM NO. 10148

Held December 3, 20 2024

The Etna Township Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, December 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 and Jackie Cotugno

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Invocation
Trustee McKee lead the 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

Motion to amend the agenda to add the following items discussion on the 2025 budget and 2024 progress, discussion on insurance renewals, Prosecutor opinion approval, the spousal carve-out for insurance, solicitation regulation, BZA and Zoning Commission seats, garage access, and the zoning department position.

Moved by: Mark Evans

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

No vote 0-0

Motion failed due to a lack of second.

Motion to amend the agenda to add the approval of a new furnace and air conditioner for the main hall here at the cost of \$9,824 and an accompanying purchase order.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Mark Evans

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

Carried 3-0

Trustee Burkholder stated the furnace for the main hall went out. Trustee Evans remarked that Trustee Burkholder is still unwilling to include relevant items on the agenda. Trustee Burkholder has spoken with Susan Bedsole and many of the requested items will be on the next agenda. Trustee Burkholder questioned what the health and dental insurance pertains to. Trustee Evans stated the insurance plans renew in January. The board will need to have a discussion on how to move forward.

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Trustee McKee mentioned that certain matters should be referred to the Prosecutor's office due to their sensitive nature.

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Motion to table all four sets of minutes


Moved by: Mark Evans

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

No vote 0-0

Trustee Evans moved to table all four sets of minutes. Trustee Evans believes the minutes should be sent for review one set at a time. Minute drafts are being released all at the same. The motion failed due to a lack of second.

a. October 29, 2024, Special Meeting minutes

T-2024-10-29 Special Draft Minutes.doc 

Motion to adopt the October 29, 2024, Special Meeting minutes


Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax
Seconded by: Gary Burkholder

Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
No Mark Evans

Carried 2-1

Trustee Evans asked for the minutes to be tabled previously as he felt there was not adequate time to review the minutes. Trustee Burkholder has reviewed all minutes and have submitted corrections that were made.

b. November 5, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes

T-2024-11-05 Regular Draft Minutes.doc 

Motion to adopt the November 5, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes


Moved by: Gary Burkholder
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
No Mark Evans

Carried 2-1

Trustee Evans feels the minutes are not being properly reviewed.

c. November 6, 2024, Special Meeting minutes

T-2024-11-06 Special Draft Minutes.doc 

Motion to adopt the November 6, 2024, Special Meeting minutes

Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax
Seconded by: Gary Burkholder

Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
No Mark Evans

Carried 2-1

Trustee Evans believes the minutes are not being properly reviewed.

d. November 12, 2024, Special Meeting minutes

T-2024-11-12 Special Draft Minutes.doc 

Motion to adopt the November 12, 2024, Special Meeting minutes

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Moved by: Gary Burkholder
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes	Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
No	Mark Evans

Carried 2-1

Trustee Evans believes the minutes are not being properly reviewed.

4. **Public Comments**

Jeff Hall - 79 Roma Court - Mr. Hall was hoping to see on the agenda a discussion on the solicitation problem occurring in Etna. The police have been called; however, their hands are tied. Mr. Hall would like for the township to step in and put something on the books. There are sketchy individuals asking sketchy questions. The solicitation issues have become a major concern. Trustee Evans stated he introduced legislation while on the previous board. Trustee Burkholder requested a copy of the legislative action from Trustee Evans be forwarded to the township administrator.

Michelle Hall - 757 South Street - Ms. Hall stated her concerns with the solicitation as well. She has spoken with the sheriff's office and was told the township would have to do something.

Ryan Davis - 8807 Watkins Road - Mr. Davis stated Trustee Evans is about a month behind on posting the videos of the meetings. Mr. Davis would like for the board to find a way to live stream the meetings.

Jon Hanson - 51 Ridgewood Drive - Mr. Hanson wished everyone a Merry Christmas as he may not be able to attend the next meeting. Mr. Hanson urged for more grace to be extended to Susan Bedsole; she has been gracious and helpful. Mr. Hanson believes Trustee Evans could step up and lead. He also could provide his public records that Mr. Hanson has requested. Mr. Hanson stated Trustee Evans has cost the township around \$150,000 just by attacking his family.

Steve Wood - 6968 Palmer Road - Mr. Wood commended Trustee Burkholder on his professionalism and background information for items he would like to add to the agenda. Trustee Evans would like multiple items added to the agenda with no information about the items. Mr. Wood thanks the board for not allowing those to be added. Mr. Wood feels everything Trustee Evans would like on the agenda must be added right now or handled right now.

Shelly Marie Ipacs - 114 Royalty Drive - Mrs. Ipacs shared the definition of defamed. On November 19th the Zoning Commission was defamed. For an entire year Trustee Evans has been roasting the zoning commission on Facebook and in meetings. Mrs. Ipacs stated this is a dark and filthy reflection of Trustee Evans.

5. **Township Administrator's Report**

Administrator Report 12-3-24.pdf 

Trustee Burkholder read over the township administrators report. The Zoning Office has about 15-16 open complaints. The township has received \$32,000 from the H2O grant that has snow blades for the snowplows, monitors for the bridges, and for truck cleaning equipment. Susan Bedsole put together a list of roads for reimbursement to present to the JEDZ1 board. Normally this will need to be approved ahead of time, but the township was able to get that waived. The township was awarded \$39,000 in

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reimbursement.

Trustee Evans has requested a report on both open and closed cases for the zoning department. Trustee Evans only has a report on the open cases. Trustees Evans mentioned there are multiple addresses that are not listed on the report that are under investigation. Trustee Burkholder stated there is a property on Palmer Road that is being followed up on and a certified letter has gone out to the property owner.

Trustee Burkholder publicly recognized the New Community Authority President Ryan Davis. The NCA approved \$125,000 to go towards the improvement of High Point Park. The NCA approved the funds on a reimbursement basis. Trustee Evans has been requesting for the last three years the documents that state that all new warehouses must participate in the New Community Authority. Trustee Burkholder has requested from Ryan Davis to get copies of those documents to the board.

6. Old Business

- a. Motion to put the town hall space study out to bid.

(Table 11/5/2024)

Resolution 2024-57 Proposal for Space Planning Conceptual Design

Cost Budgeting.pdf 

Motion to remove the town hall space study from the table.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

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

No vote 0-0

Trustee Burkholder moved to remove the town hall space study from the table, however the motion lacked a second and failed.

7. New Business

- a. Election of OTARMA Board of Directors

Motion to select Ronald Lumbrezer from Royalton Township in Fulton County and Amy Richards at a Grafton Township in Lorain County.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax

Abstain Mark Evans

Carried 2-0

Trustee Evans believes there are more pressing matters that need to be dealt with.

Motion to amend to select Scott Haws at Plain Township in Stark County and Amy Richards at a Grafton Township in Lorain County.

Moved by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Seconded by: Gary Burkholder

Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax

Abstain Mark Evans

Carried 2-0

- b. Purchase chairs for the town hall.

Chair Options (4).pdf 

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Motion to purchase 6-8 town hall office chairs for the town hall from Staples.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

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

Carried 3-0

Discussion - The town hall chairs are in need of replacement. The board voted to order six to eight chairs from Staples for an amount of \$179.99. The chairs have been purchased in the past and they are of good quality.

c. Motion to replace the furnace in town hall
Motion to approve including a purchase order for \$9,824 for the replacement of the furnace and air conditioner.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax


Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
No Mark Evans

Carried 2-1

Discussion - The breakdown in cost is \$4,518 for the furnace and \$5,306 for the new air conditioning unit. Trustee Evans questioned why the board did not receive bids for the replacement and why the board is not working with the contractor across the street. Trustee Burkholder stated it was an emergency, and the township has worked with Westin Air previously. Trustee Burkholder stated there is nothing against the contractor across the street. Trustee Evans believes estimates still should have been received. Also, the unit that was placed originally, Mr. Evans believes was undersized. Trustee McKee stated that usually there should be bids that are received, this is an emergency situation.

8. Fiscal Officer Report

Jackie Cotugno has been working with the traveling fiscal officer from Zanesville. She is attending a class on Thursday to work on year-end items. Ms. Cotugno will also be meeting with Chris the traveling fiscal officer on Friday December 6th. Trustee Burkholder stated the permanent budget needs to be finalized March 31st. There will be a public meeting on December 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to go over the budget.

a. Resolution 2024-063 to approve purchase orders
[Resolution 2024-063 Approve Purchase Orders.docx](#) 
Motion to approve purchase orders to include the \$9,824 for the furnace and air conditioning.

Moved by: Gary Burkholder
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

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

Carried 3-0

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

Moved by: Gary Burkholder
Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

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

Carried 3-0

Trustee Evans would like to know if there are any more anticipated expenses from Bricker Graydon. Trustee Burkholder will get with Bricker Graydon regarding outstanding invoices.

Trustee Evans stated the resolution to appropriate the ARPA funds has already passed and resolutions do not expire. The funds have already been allocated to the sheriff's expenses. Trustee Burkholder has met with the traveling fiscal officer who stated you must appropriate the funds in 2024.

c. Transfers

Motion to transfer the funds as presented

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

No Vote 0-0

There were no transfers.

9. Public Comments

Ryan Davis - 8807 Watkins Road - Mr. Davis stated that Trustee Evans is requesting additional access to review zoning complaints, however, does not have time to review the minutes. Also, Mr. Evans wanted a discussion regarding insurance, but no information was provided. Mr. Davis would like to know why the meetings are being recorded 30 minutes in advance.

Jon Hanson - 51 Ridgewood Drive - Once all the public records have been released Mr. Hanson believes that Trustee Evans has cost the township roughly a quarter of a million dollars.

Adam Kelley - 8890 Smoke Road - Mr. Kelley would like to have an update on the Comprehensive Plan and the Park Committee. There was a mix up on Mr. Kelley's email address. The administrative assistant will get them information over to Mr. Kelley and get his email address corrected.

Aubrey Hanson - 160 Rolan Road - Mr. Hanson would like to know if Trustee Evans has ever tried to work with anyone and feels Trustee Evans is just a professional victim.

Doris Schumick - 9163 Mink Street - Mrs. Schumick suggested to the board to look into getting new chairs for the audience. Mrs. Schumick stated after about an hour of sitting, they become uncomfortable. The board stated they would look into what options are available.

10. Announcement and Trustee Comments

- a. Next Trustee Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
- b. Vacancies in Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission
There is one vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals and for the Zoning Commission.

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c. Budget Work Session

There will be a budget work session on Tuesday December 10, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. There will also be a Zoning Commission meeting starting at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Evans apologized for not being able to get items added to the agenda. Trustee Evans addressed the issue of live streaming and would like to know why Trustee McKee is not being asked about the live streaming. Trustee Evans stated there are nothing but lies being told and he has proof.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:22 pm.

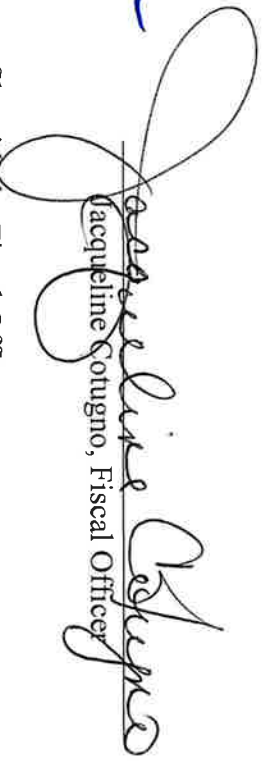
Moved by: Gary Burkholder

Seconded by: Rozland McKee-Flax

Yes Gary Burkholder and Rozland McKee-Flax
Abstain Mark Evans

Carried 2-0


Gary Burkholder, President


Jacqueline Cotugno, Fiscal Officer

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