

PATASKALA

Etna Township ordered to pay attorney fees to former administrator over dismissed lawsuit



Maria DeVito

Newark Advocate

Updated Dec. 3, 2024, 8:28 a.m. ET



A Licking County judge has order Etna Township to pay more than \$27,000 in attorney fees over a [dismissed lawsuit](#) after the court determined the case was only brought to further harass the township's former administrator.

In July, Licking County Common Pleas Judge David Branstool [dismissed a lawsuit](#) the Etna Township Board of Trustees filed in April against its own Board of Zoning Appeals and 8900 National Road Co. LLC over a zoning

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Etna Township Trustees opt to hire interim administrator over permanent employee



Maria DeVito

Newark Advocate

March 7, 2025, 6:05 a.m. ET



Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

- Etna Township Trustees decided to hire an interim administrator instead of a permanent replacement.
- The interim administrator will be paid \$14,000 a month for a period of 90 to 120 days.
- The decision comes after the township's second administrator in 14 months resigned.
- The trustees interviewed a finalist candidate from a previous search but ultimately decided against hiring him.

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Etna Township hires Newark HR director as second new administrator in 7 months



Maria DeVito

Newark Advocate

April 9, 2025, 6:01 a.m. ET



Etna Township hired a familiar face as its new administrator Monday night — the third in 16 months for the western Licking County community.

Trustees hired Bill Spurgeon, Newark's human resources director, as the township's administrator in a 2-1 vote. Mark Evans voted against the hire. Spurgeon's first day will be April 28.

Spurgeon has more than 20 years of local government experience, most

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Etna Township administrator says he will quit if township does not address 'toxic' culture



Maria DeVito

Newark Advocate

May 22, 2025, 6:05 a.m. ET



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Etna Township trustees don't vote on cultural assessment to address toxic culture



Maria DeVito
Newark Advocate

June 5, 2025, 6:07 a.m. ET



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Etna Township administrator, 3rd in 18 months, quits; no immediate plans to fill position



Maria DeVito
Newark Advocate

June 19, 2025, 6:03 a.m. ET



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Investigation: Former Etna fiscal officer accessed bank account during call with trustee



Maria DeVito

Newark Advocate

Aug. 7, 2025, 10:20 a.m. ET



Key Points AI-assisted summary ⓘ

- A former Etna Township fiscal officer accessed the township's bank account after her term ended.
- The unauthorized access occurred while she was on the phone with Trustee Mark Evans, though he stated he was unaware she had logged in.

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8 candidates are running for Etna Township Trustee. What we know about the candidates



Maria DeVito

Newark Advocate

Aug. 20, 2025, 6:00 a.m. ET



After years of infighting among the Etna Township trustees, voters will have their pick among eight candidates — including familiar faces and fresh candidates — this November.

The Licking County Board of Elections on Aug. 18 certified eight of the 10

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Etna Town Hall down to one employee after secretary quits, citing toxic work environment



Maria DeVito
Newark Advocate

Aug. 26, 2025, 1:49 p.m. ET



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Anti-Etna Township trustee Mark Evans billboard goes up on U.S. Route 40 in Licking County



Nathaniel Shuda
Newark Advocate

Updated Sept. 12, 2025, 6:33 a.m. ET



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