

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting/Public Hearing
March 15, 2021

Rogers - Due to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services requirements, this meeting will be held virtually. The public may participate in the meeting/public hearing through Zoom access by computer and smart phone. A link will be posted at genoa.org. Please email info@genoa.org or call (810) 227-5225 if you have questions.

MINUTES

Supervisor Rogers called the virtual Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Genoa Charter Township Board to order at 6:30 p.m. from the Township Hall with others remotely in the Township. The Pledge of Allegiance was then said. The following members were present for the roll call meeting, either at home or the township office, constituting a quorum for the transaction of business: Bill Rogers, Paulette Skolarus, Robin Hunt, Jean Ledford, Terry Croft, Jim Mortensen and Diana Lowe. Also present were Township Manager Michael Archinal and no persons in the audience.

A Call to the Public was made with no response and will be open for the continuation of the meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Hunt and supported by Lowe to approve all items listed under the Consent Agenda, moving approval of the Feb. 15, 2021 minutes to the regular agenda for further discussion, as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Payment of Bills.

2. Request to Approve Minutes: February 15, 2021 and March 1, 2021

3. Request to approve a proposal from Dell for the purchase of four new workstations and one new laptop for \$2,507.34.

Regular Agenda:

Moved by Mortensen and supported by Ledford to approve for action all items listed under the Regular Agenda with the addition of the Minutes from February 15, 2021, as requested. The motion carried unanimously

Note: The following comments were received from residents opposed to the site plan for Catholic Healthcare International along Chilson Road that was approved by the Planning Commission and recommended to the Board for approval. Calls from the public began to come into the Board as follows:

- Robert and Debra Jones – 3553 Westphal – We oppose the Padre Pio Chapel that was approved by the Planning Commission. Please listen to your residents.
- Jim McArdle – 2581 Fishbeck – I oppose the project. It is not consistent with surrounding land uses.
- Jacob Bogan - 5790 Pinckney – I oppose the project. School traffic is already an issue. We are a zoned residential community with enough traffic problems. The Church promised a prayer Center, however their website includes three phases. They also began construction prior to receiving approval. They have already violated Township Rules and they have a flyer on site that represents Phase 2.
- Lynn and Robert Lagana – 3710 Westphal – We oppose the project and would like to be present when a meeting can be called in person. The location is inappropriate. Please cancel the zoom meeting that is scheduled.
- Linda Holland – 3023 Pardee – The applicant is providing conflicting information and it is proposed for the wrong location. We are in a rural area and oppose the project.
- Debra Jones – 3553 Westphal – All the neighbors are opposed and zoom is not a good format for public input. Please pause this project.
- Mike Williams – 3654 Westphal – This is a wrong location – an area of private homes and zoom is an ineffective format. I oppose the project.
- Debra Beattie – 3809 Chilson - The project should be tabled until in-person meetings are allowed. There was opposition at the Planning Commission with a 4 to 3 vote.
- Linda Wolney – 3591 Westphal – I oppose the project. We are up in arms. Listen to your constituents. This is only Phase I and the property is zoned Country Estates. They are breaking ground on May 25th and they do not have approval as yet.
- Dawn Williams – 3564 Westphal – Do any of the board members live in this area. The next meeting should be in person. We sat through a four-hour meeting with the Planning Commission. We are opposed. Please hold off on the April meeting until we can meet in person.
- Melanie Johnson – 3990 Chilson – Everyone is turning in my driveway. There are 275,000 visitors a year and Indian River Cross in the Woods. Questions at the Planning Commission have not been answered. Jill Rickard asked for a site plan of the entire property.

- Eric Rauch asked about decibel levels especially before 9:00 a.m. and an estimate of the potential number of visitors to the Shrine. This project is not a “nice” tiny chapel. Lives will be disruptive and will not keep this place of prayer and peacefulness that it is today. The hourly bell ringing is a problem. Respect our zoning. I oppose.
- Kim Park – 2935 Westphal – I oppose this project.
- John Walbank - 2899 Pardee – I oppose
- Duane Johnson – Asked that his name be added to those opposed.
- Daena Nicholas – 4569 Oak Pointe – Raised concerns about traffic and the number of children in the area. Please table this meeting until we can meet in person.
- Melanie Johnson – The relics of Padre Pio were on display in Saginaw, MI and more than 5,000 people visited the site.
- Karen McCardle – 3125 Fishbeck – Her family moved here for the country feel and dark skies. The area is not appropriate for a church and this project is intended to grow.
- Jim Brancheau – 3611 Westphal – I am opposed to project and have been circulating petitions and only one person has expressed support for the proposal.
- Michael Archinal – This petition is on the Agenda this evening. It will be discussed sometime in the future. Residents should send correspondence and emails concerning this issue when it is discussed at another board meeting.
- Debra Jones – 3553 Westphal - is opposed to the 2% pay increase.
- Linda Wolney – 3591 Westphal – When we moved here, the sky was dark. Now we can see the night glow from 3 Fires School. This church will light up the sky too. We are against this project. We need to be heard. Listen to your constituents.

2. Request to Approve Minutes: February 15, 2021

Moved by Hunt and supported by Lowe to approve the Minutes of the Feb. 15, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board adding – “Also, to approve a \$12.00 increase for refuse collection and disposal to the 2021-2022 December Tax Bill to cover a portion of the cost of recycling.” The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request for approval of an amendment to Township budgets 101, 212, 261, 264, 270, and 271 for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2021.

Moved by Hunt and supported by Lowe to approve the amended budgets with minor changes as requested by Skolarus as well as correction to the Clerk and Treasurer Salaries to \$57,505.00 as approved by the Township Board on 03/16/2020. The motion

carried unanimously. *Note: Corrected copies will be provided at the next regular meeting of the board.*

Moved by Hunt and supported by Lowe to approve the corrected and amended Township budgets as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Public hearing related to budgets 101, 212, 261, 264, 270, and 271 for Fiscal Year beginning April 1, 2021 and commencing March 31, 2022 as requested by Skolarus.

Moved by Hunt and supported by Lowe to correct the Agenda related to Township budgets for fiscal year 2021/2022: Adding Trustees to item C; adding Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals members to Item D and removing Item E from the . The amended Agenda was voted and carried unanimously.

A. A Call to the Public was made with no response.

B. Board discussion

Minor changes were made to the line items on the budgets. Corrected copies will be provided at the next regular meeting of the board with those changes.

C. Disposition of salaries for elected officials with 2% increase for the Supervisor, the Treasurer, Clerk and Trustees.

Moved by Ledford and supported by Hunt for discussion (Hunt - We as a Township expect our employees to do their jobs well and put their time in to receive a pay increase and we need to absolutely expect the same of our elected officials, myself included.) to withhold a pay increase for the Clerk Polly Skolarus in the 2021 budget on the grounds of her irresponsible behavior, abuse of her office, malfeasance, and putting the integrity of the township at risk and further, that all pay increases be denied for the remainder of her term or until the date of her resignation, whichever occurs first. The motion carried as follows: Ayes – Ledford, Croft, Hunt, Rogers. Nay – Mortensen and Lowe. Skolarus – Abstain. I would like to make a comment please. I worked hard for this Township for many years. I pride myself on the elections that have been run in my office with honesty and integrity and I am surprised by Jean Ledford's comments and I am saddened by it. Thank you.

D. Disposition of a 2% salary increase for all staff, Planning Commission Members, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Moved by Lowe and supported by Mortensen to approve the pay increase as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Deleted - Disposition of a \$12.00 increase in refuse collection and disposal with the cost levied on the December 2021 Winter Tax Bill.

F. Disposition of budgets 101, 212, 261, 264, 270, and 271 as requested.

Moved by Ledford and supported by Mortensen approve budgets 101, 212, 261, 264, 270, 271 as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request for approval of the following Debt Service Fund Budgets for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2022: Fund 852, 859, 872, and 873 as provided by Treasurer Hunt.

Moved by Lowe and supported by Ledford to approve the Debt Service Fund Budgets as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Hunt and supported by Lowe to adjourn the public hearing and regular meeting of the board at 8:10 p.m.

**Paulette A. Skolarus, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township**

**Bill Rogers, Supervisor
Genoa Charter Township**