

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting
September 15, 2025

MINUTES

Call to Order

Supervisor Spicher called the regular meeting of the Genoa Charter Township Board to order at 6:30 pm at the Township Hall.

Invocation

Supervisor Spicher led the invocation for the Board and the members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

The following members were present constituting a quorum for the transaction of business: Kevin Spicher, Janene Deaton, Candie Hovarter, Robin Hunt, Bill Reiber, Rick Soucy, and Todd Walker.

Also present was Township Manager Kelly VanMarter and eight people in the audience.

Call to the Public

The call to the public was opened at 6:32 pm.

Ms. Deb Beattie of 3109 Pineview Trail spoke about the Chilson and Brighton Road property item. This property should be kept as undisturbed as possibly, but the packet talks about a playground, disc golf, etc. That changes the whole concept of keeping it natural.

Ms. Janine Iyer of 2396 Brighton Road spoke about the purchase of cameras and speed signs items. She is in favor of speed signs, but not cameras. The residents have privacy rights. She asked the board to strive for fiscal responsibility. She lives near the Chilson and Brighton property and she would like this to remain rural.

The call to the public was closed at 6:36 pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Moved by Reiber, supported by Soucy, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

1. Payment of Bills: September 15, 2025

2. Request to approve the September 2, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

Approval of Regular Agenda:

Mr. Reiber requested to move Agenda Item #5 to the discussion section. Ms. Hunt agrees that discussion on this item is needed, but she suggested leaving it on the Regular Agenda and a discussion can still be had.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to approve the Regular Agenda as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consideration of a request for approval to purchase cameras and radar speed signs for dedicated use in Genoa Township to be operated and maintained by the Livingston County Sheriff's Office.

Lieutenant Chad Sell of the Livingston County Sheriff's Office provided a review of the proposal for cameras and radar signs. The Sheriff's Office has radar signs that they lend out to neighborhoods throughout the county. If the township purchases their own, the Sheriff's Office can maintain them. He recommends purchasing portable signs as opposed to permanent ones. The board discussed the pros and cons of using one from the sheriff's office or purchasing ones for the township's sole use, if they are effective in reducing vehicle crashes, what data is collected, how the data is used, and the Sheriff office's responsibility in monitoring speeding.

Lieutenant Sell provided a review of the LPR cameras, noting that they are mainly used to help solve crimes. They scan license plates and automatically compare them to vehicles that have been listed as stolen, involved in a crime, belong to a missing person, etc. They have reached out to townships to determine if they would like to purchase cameras to assist with this. The Sheriff's office pays for the annual data and licensing fees. The board discussed the number of signs to purchase, where they would be placed, etc.

Ms. Deaton prefers to spend the funds to have a dedicated patrol officer in the township instead of purchasing the cameras. Ms. Hovarter agrees with a dedicated officer for the township. Lieutenant Sell stated Genoa Township is very busy for the Sheriff's Office so one dedicated officer would not be enough; he is recommending two.

Lieutenant Sell stated that these five additional cameras will not only benefit Genoa Township, but they would also benefit all of Livingston County and the State of Michigan. Detectives work together and share information.

Moved by Soucy, supported by Hunt, to approve the purchase of one small and one large radar speed sign for dedicated use in Genoa Township to be operated and maintained by the

Livingston County Sheriff's Office for an amount not to exceed \$6,400 from fund 101-900-975-000. **The motion carried with a roll call vote (Walker - yes; Hovarter - no; Soucy - yes; Deaton - no; Spicher - yes; Hunt - yes; Reiber - no).**

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to approve the purchase of five cameras, including the data storage and installation for a cost of \$29,000 from fund 101-900-970-000. **The motion carried with a roll call vote (Hovarter - no; Soucy - yes; Deaton - no; Hunt - yes; Rieber - no; Walker - yes; Spicher - yes).**

4. Presentation and request to receive and place on file the Fiscal Year April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 Township Audit as presented by Maner Costerisan.

Mr. Tyler Baker from Maner Costerisan provided a review of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Audit Report documents, which included the Statement of Net Position, Pension Plan Schedule, General Fund Comparison, General Fund Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance. He presented graphs of the data from the report.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to receive and place on file the Fiscal Year April 1, 2024– March 31, 2025 Township Audit as presented by Maner Costerisan. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Consideration of a request for approval of a park development plan and grant support proposal not to exceed \$10,000 from K2 Environmental Consulting for the 77-acre Township owned property on Brighton Road east of Chilson Road from Parks and Recreation Fund, Planning/Engineering line item 208-751-934-006.

Mr. Spencer Kellum of K2 Environmental Consulting and the board discussed the park development plan proposal and his assistance with writing and submitting a grant proposal. Mr. Kellum stated he included assets such as a playground, bike park, disc golf, etc. because many times grant applications require these types of elements be included. Ms. Deaton asked Mr. Kellum how often he is successful in receiving grants. He stated 50 percent.

Mr. Reiber would like to see a proposal to bring this property back to its natural state.

Ms. Deaton stated that \$10,000 is a large amount when the results of receiving a grant are only 50 percent, so she recommends tabling this item tonight and revisiting it at a future meeting. She would like to see additional proposals. Ms. Hovarter agrees.

There was further discussion regarding what information Mr. Kellum would provide it to the township and how it would be used. It can be used to hire a company to perform the work on the property to make it usable and it can be used to apply for grants.

Supervisor Spicher stated he has done a lot of research on this item, and he is recommending K2 Environmental Consulting.

It was stated that the grant application needs to be submitted by February 2026 and delaying it could cause the township to wait until 2027 to apply for the grant.

Ms. Hunt requested to have the recreational assets removed from the proposal and plan.

Ms. VanMarter stated this fiscal year's budget includes \$50,000 for Brighton Road property clean up. This is a very complicated site, and it needs a lot of attention to restore it and possibly make it usable.

Moved by Deaton, supported by Hovarter, to postpone the consideration of a request for approval of park development plan and grant support for the 77 acre parcel off of Chilson Road. **The motion failed with a roll call vote (Hunt - no; Reiber - yes; Walker - no; Hovarter - yes; Soucy - no; Deaton - yes; Spicher - no).**

Moved by Soucy, supported by Walker, to approve a park development plan and grant support proposal not to exceed \$10,000 from K2 Environmental Consulting for the 77-acre Township owned property on Brighton Road east of Chilson Road, deleting the recreational asset plan from Parks and Recreation Fund, Planning/Engineering line item 208-751-934-006. **The motion carried with a roll call vote (Walker - yes; Reiber - no; Hunt - yes; Deaton - no; Spicher - yes; Soucy - yes; Hovarter - no)**

6. Request for approval of the Form of Escrow Deposit Agreement and Resolution #5E - Fifth Amendment to the Pine Creek Ridge Road Improvement Project Resolution Confirming the Special Assessment Roll and Resolution Authorizing Partial Defeasance of Special Assessment Bonds, Series 2024 (Limited Tax General Obligation) Reduction of Special Assessments, and Related Actions. (Roll Call)

Ms. VanMarter stated the Pine Creek road project came in under budget. There were bonds sold for this project and this resolution is how the township will proceed with returning the prepayments, reduce the assessment amounts, and set up an escrow for the bond payments.

Moved by Hovarter, supported by Soucy, to approve Resolution #5E - Fifth Amendment to the Pine Creek Ridge Road Improvement Project Resolution Confirming the Special Assessment Roll and Resolution Authorizing Partial Defeasance of Special Assessment Bonds, Series 2024 (Limited Tax General Obligation) Reduction of Special Assessments, and Related Actions. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Soucy - yes; Hovarter - yes; Walker - yes; Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Spicher - yes; Deaton - yes).**

- 7. Request for the introduction of proposed Ordinance Number Z-25-06 and to set the meeting date for considering the proposed ordinance for adoption before the Township Board on Monday, October 6, 2025. The request involves consideration of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments to Article 21 entitled “Administration and Enforcement”.**

Ms. VanMarter stated this approval has been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Walker temporarily left the meeting at 9:09 pm.

Moved by Soucy, supported by Hovarter, to introduce proposed Ordinance Number Z-25-06 and to set the meeting date to consider adoption before the Township Board on Monday, October 6th, 2025 for the purpose of considering the proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment to Article 21 Administration and Enforcement. **The motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Walker not present).**

- 8. Consideration of a request for approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for Cooperative Paid Assessment Intern, Mentoring and Training Program between Livingston County, Genoa Charter Township, Hartland Township and the City of Brighton.**

Mr. Walker returned at 9:11 pm.

Ms. VanMarter stated this program has been used in the past and it is very successful. The funds are in this fiscal year's budget.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Cooperative Paid Assessment Intern. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- 9. Consideration of a request for approval of budget amendments to Fund 202 “SAD Roads and Lakes” for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget as presented.**

Ms. VanMarter stated some of these amendments are clean up items and others are the result of projects approved by the township board. She reviewed the details of the amendments.

Moved by Soucy, supported by Walker, to approve the budget amendments to Fund 202 “SAD Roads and Lakes” for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Items for Discussion:

10. Discussion of ordinance amendments.

Mr. Spicher stated a resident presented ordinance amendments to the township.

The board reviewed the proposed changes. The noise ordinance would be difficult to enforce, and some of the other changes appear to be targeted for specific areas or items and not the township as a whole. She is also suggesting an ethics ordinance, and the township has a section in the Rules and Regulations policy regarding ethics.

Ms. VanMarter stated she submitted them to the township attorney, and he has some concerns. She is asking the board if they would like the attorney and staff to continue reviewing and offering amendments. She recommends these changes be presented to the board when other ordinance amendments are needed and present them at the same time.

The board agreed to have the attorney and staff proceed with reviewing and offer amendments to the resident's ordinance.

Supervisor Spicher stated all board members received an email from a resident who is not in favor of the cameras proposed this evening.

Correspondence

Ms. Deaton presented an example of the certificate residents receive for their free membership to the Brighton Senior Center. They have issued two memberships.

Member Updates

Mr. Soucy stated there is only one item on tomorrow night's ZBA meeting agenda.

Mr. Reiber stated the Planning Commission is reviewing ordinance updates regarding woodlands and wetlands. He sent out a proposed calendar for the citizen training classes and asked how the public will be notified. Ms. VanMarter stated the same process that was used for the Planning and Zoning workshop will be used and then it will be published on the app and website. He also asked what a good date and time would be to have Coffee With a Cop at the township hall and how often they should be held.

Ms. Hunt stated today was the last day to pay summer taxes. \$28.5 million were collect. \$280,000 stays in the township. Payments can still be made at the township through February 2026, with a one percent penalty.

Supervisor Spicher shared a resolution passed by the Brighton Area Fire Authority at their last meeting regarding communication. He would like the board to meet with Chief O'Brien to discuss his concerns.

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Unapproved Minutes

Mr. Walker provided a review of the latest Brighton Area Fire Authority meeting.

Mr. Walker stated he negotiated with GoGov, who manages the MiGenoa app, to hold their pricing for three years.

Board Comments

The board discussed the Planning and Zoning workshop that was held on Wednesday, September 10.

Adjournment

Moved by Soucy, supported by Reiber, to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Thomas
Recording Secretary

Approved: Janene Deaton, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township

Kevin Spicher, Supervisor
Genoa Charter Township