

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting
November 3, 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, Township Attorney Joe Seward, and 21 people in the audience.

Call to the Public

The call to the public was opened at 6:31 pm.

Ms. Deb Beattie of 3109 Pineview Trail spoke regarding the loss of a valuable clerk. She wished this would have been handled in a different way. Her suggestion is a closed door session with the board, deputy clerk, clerk and township manager and anyone who should have been involved in this grievance and come to a better outcome. She thanked Bill and the board for the CPR class.

Ms. Colleen Quinn of 4042 Brookstone Court spoke regarding Ms. Deaton's resignation. She is upset that the person who was voted in was not given the tools and support to perform her duties. She would like to know what actions were taken by HR and the board regarding this issue.

Ms. Gina Gangnier of 4354 Highcrest Drive asked the board how it is possible for a new clerk to be successful with no files, no computer and needed records. She reviewed and questioned the items that were listed in Ms. Deaton's resignation letter. The people of Genoa Township voted for Janene Deaton because they did not like the previous administration. She asked to have this investigated.

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Ms. Kara Sawaya of 3597 Lakewood Shore Drive spoke regarding Janene Deaton's resignation. She questioned the items that were listed in Ms. Deaton's letter. She asked for an investigation to ensure the integrity of elections.

Ms. Debbie McCormick of 2656 Springhill Drive spoke about Ms. Deaton's resignation. She is concerned with the integrity of voting.

Mr. Bill Reiber of 3154 Stillriver Drive stated that Janene is his friend and he campaigned with her. She has done a lot of good for this township in the time that she has been here. He listed items that she accomplished. She did not have experience, but she attended all training available to her.

Ms. Candie Hovarter of 3128 Brighton Road spoke on behalf of Susan Nichols who was not able to be present. She thanked Janene Deaton for all she did as a clerk. She is disappointed her grievances were not addressed. She spoke to the two employees who resigned and asked if anyone else spoke to them. She asked how it will be handled going forward so it does not occur again.

Mr. Mike Wilbanks of 2914 Russel Drive stated that Janene is a wonderful person and great friend. He knew that Janene would represent all residents. He would like to have this resolved and move forward.

Ms. Karen Wilbanks of 2914 Russel Drive stated that the employees of Genoa Township should be held to as high a level of accountability as elected officials. It is time for a thorough review of all township staff. She stated that Janene has high integrity and moral values. It is shameful that these acts were allowed to happen.

Mr. Jeff Dhaenens of 5494 Sharp Drive thanked Janene. He appreciates the changes that she made. He wished her the best and hopes she is going to stay involved. He's sorry there were challenges with the office staff. He has found the staff to be phenomenal to work with.

Ms. Stephanie Booth of 516 Maple Street attended the Polly Skolarus trial to see the corruption that was going on. She sides with Janene and understands working in a toxic environment. She thinks there is a lot of local corruption, and the township board should be aware of it. She has seen it firsthand.

Mr. David Pickett 1017 Sunrise Park met Janene Deaton, and he didn't like things that she was saying, but she told the truth, so he voted for her. She is his friend. The board owes it to the residents to meet and see what can be done.

The call to the public was closed at 6:56 pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

1. Payment of Bills: November 3, 2025

2. Request to approve the October 20, 2025 regular meeting minutes

3. Request to approve the October 22, 2025 special meeting minutes

Approval of Regular Agenda:

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

4. Consideration of Board action on the resignation letter submitted by the Township Clerk as required by MCL 41.56.

Ms. Deaton thanked everyone who spoke on her behalf. It is clear that this board doesn't care. She spoke about the toxic environment at the township.

Ms. Hunt is disappointed in the way the resignation was handled. The accusations that were made in her letter are inaccurate. She addressed the items in Ms. Deaton's letter. She has served the township for almost 40 years, and she is proud of the township's dedicated staff.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to accept the resignation letter submitted by the Township Clerk effective immediately. **The motion carried with a roll call vote. (Walker - yes; Reiber - no; Hunt - yes; Spicher - yes; Deaton - yes; Soucy - yes; Hovarter - no).**

The board took a five minute break. Ms. Deaton left the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Supervisor Spicher called the meeting back to order at 7:09 pm. He stated that the clerk quit. She was not asked to leave. He disputes the accuracy of her facts.

Ms. Hunt stated that State laws require that all payments receive two signatures, one of which is the clerk. The township cannot function without a clerk. She is requesting a special meeting on Wednesday to fill the vacancy.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to schedule a special board meeting for Wednesday, November 5, 2025 to appoint a new clerk. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Hunt - yes; Reiber - yes; Soucy - yes; Hovarter - yes; Walker - yes; Spicher - yes)**

5. Request for approval of Resolution #1 to Proceed with the Project and Direct Preparation of the Plans and Cost Estimates for the Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Ms. VanMarter provided a review of the proposed project, including the total cost, the amount that the township is contributing, and the cost for each resident. They have over 60 percent of support from the residents.

Mr. Soucy wants the residents of Forest View Estates to know how much the township will contribute to this project.

Moved by Soucy, supported by Hovarter, to approve Resolution #1 to Proceed with the Project and Direct Preparation of the Plans and Cost Estimates for the Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Spicher - yes; Soucy - yes; Reiber - yes; Walker - yes; Hunt - yes; Hovarter - yes)**

6. Request for approval of Resolution #2 to Approve the Project, Schedule the First Hearing for November 17, 2025, and Direct Issuance of Statutory notices for the Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to approve Resolution #2 to Approve the Project, Schedule the First Hearing for November 17, 2025, and Direct Issuance of Statutory notices for the Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Hovarter - yes; Walker - yes; Hunt - yes; Reiber - yes; Spicher - yes; Soucy - yes)**

7. Request for approval of the closed session minutes from October 22, 2025.

- A) If necessary, consider motion to enter into closed session under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. (Roll Call, requires 2/3 vote)**
- B) If necessary, consider motion to adjourn the closed session and reconvene in open session. (Roll Call)**

The board members reviewed the minutes presented this evening in sealed envelopes.

Moved by Reiber, supported by Walker, to enter into closed session under the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute to address questions regarding the minutes of the closed session. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Soucy - yes; Hovarter - yes; Spicher - yes; Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Walker - yes)**

The board entered the closed session at 7:24 pm.

Moved by Reiber, supported by Hunt, to enter back into regular session. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Reiber - yes; Walker - yes; Spicher - yes; Soucy - yes; Hovarter - yes; Hunt - yes).**

The board returned to regular session at 7:32 pm.

Moved by Soucy, supported by Walker, to approve the closed session minutes from October 22, 2025 as amended. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Walker - yes; Hunt - yes; Hovarter - yes; Spicher - yes; Soucy - yes; Reiber - yes)**

Member Updates

Mr. Soucy stated he and Mr. Walker attended classes held by SEMCOG at their annual general assembly meeting. He saw a demonstration from a poll company who provides a live feed of survey results. This would be helpful for the Master Plan survey.

Ms. Hovarter stated the fire and ice project in Howell is continuing. Howell Township is going to be getting a new building.

Mr. Reiber provided a review of the CPR/AED training held at the township hall. Supervisor Spicher stated he received positive feedback regarding this class. There will be more trainings in January and March.

Supervisor Spicher stated there were two attendees at the Coffee with a Cop event. It was a productive session. The next one is Monday, November 24, 2025.

Mr. Walker stated that November is Veterans Appreciation Event. The Fill the Trailer event will be held in the Wal-Mart parking lot on November 15. They will be collecting food donations.

Board Comments

Mr. Seward stated that during the call to the public, there were a number of people in the call to the public who made factual statements and asked for disciplinary actions by the board. He cautioned the board to be careful of what they say and write, it is subject to a defamation claim. Do not say anything if it is not true.

Supervisor Spicher was disappointed by the call to the public. Comments such as that should be directed toward the board and not staff. They do their jobs, and they do them well. The manager was treated very poorly. She does a phenomenal job. Her knowledge and abilities are second to none.

Ms. Hunt thanked Kelly for everything she does and did not deserve what was said.

Ms. VanMarter stated that if anyone has questions about how her office operates or the treatment of Ms. Deaton, to contact her. There is another side to this story. Supervisor Spicher stated he is available as well. Ms. Hunt stated she is available also.

Adjournment

Moved by Soucy, supported by Walker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Thomas
Recording Secretary

Approved: Rick Soucy, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township

Kevin Spicher, Supervisor
Genoa Charter Township