

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2025

MINUTES

Call to Order

Supervisor Spicher called the regular meeting of the Genoa Charter Township Board to order at 6:37 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, Candie Hovarter, Robin Hunt, Bill Reiber, Rick Soucy, and Todd Walker.

Also present was Township Manager Kelly VanMarter, Township Attorney Joe Seward, and 25 people in the audience.

Call to the Public

The call to the public was opened at 6:38 pm.

Ms. Denise Policella of 4200 Sweet Road is a marijuana lawyer and there is legislation pending in the Michigan legislature. She has concerns that the legislation would permit the override of caps and bans on marijuana dispensaries. She has drafted many ordinances for this and has also sent one to the township. She recommends that the township take this up.

Mr. Mark Jones 1084 Chemung Drive enjoys the MiGenoa App. It is timely and relevant. The Master Plan survey was excellent and asked the right questions.

Mr. Gordon Sewell of 5238 Old Hickory spoke regarding the open letter from Supervisor Spicher to the township residents. It was an excellent letter, and he would like it put into the record.

The call to the public was closed at 6:44 pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Mr. Reiber stated he has changes to the November 5 special meeting minutes.

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

- 1. Payment of Bills: November 17, 2025**
- 2. Request to approve the November 3, 2025 regular meeting minutes.**
- 3. ~~Request to approve the November 5, 2025 special meeting minutes.~~ (moved to Regular Agenda)**

Approval of Regular Agenda:

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

- 3. Request to approve the November 5, 2025 special meeting minutes. (moved from Consent Agenda)**

Mr. Reiber stated that Ms. Hunt's motion on Page 16 of the packet originally used the word "nominate" and prior to the vote, Ms. Hunt asked for clarification from the ~~board~~ attorney, and it was changed to "appoint". Also, Mr. Reiber asked whether other nominations were permitted and Supervisor Spicher stated "no, depending on the outcome of the vote, there may be no other nominations"

Moved by Reiber, supported by Hunt, to approve the minutes with the above amendments. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- 4. Public Hearing on the proposed Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project.**
 - A) Call to the Property Owners**
 - B) Call to the Public**

The call to the property owners was opened at 6:55 pm.

Mr. Frank Serbus of 5011 Old Hickory stated they were the first subdivision built west of Bauer Road and the roads were put in in 1970. Since then, they have had it sealed twice, and the condition of the road reflects on the township. Residents have agreed to pay for part of it, and they appreciate the township's consideration.

Mr. Gordon Sewell of 5238 Old Hickory thanked Kelly for helping them with their request. They take pride in where they live.

The call to the property owners was closed at 6:58 pm.

The call to the public was opened at 6:58 pm with no response.

5. Request for approval of Resolution #3 - Approving the Project Cost Estimates, Special Assessment District and causing the Special Assessment Roll to be prepared for the Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Ms. VanMarter provided a review of the project, including the cost per resident.

Moved by Soucy, supported by Walker, to approve Resolution #3 - Approving the Project Cost Estimates, Special Assessment District and causing the Special Assessment Roll to be prepared for the Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Soucy - yes; Hovarter - yes; Walker - yes; Spicher - yes)**

6. Request for approval of Resolution #4 - Acknowledging the filing of the Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling the Second Hearing for December 1, 2025, and Directing the Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Forest View Estates Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to approve Resolution #4 - Acknowledging the filing of the Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling the Second Hearing for December 1, 2025, and Directing the 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 (Hunt - yes; Soucy - yes; Hovarter - yes; Walker - yes; Reiber - yes; Spicher - yes)**

7. Consideration of a request for a change to the employee contribution rate for the Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO Plan for the 2026 benefit plan year as presented by Human Resources Manager, Kim Lane.

Ms. Lane stated that after the benefits packages were approved at the October meeting, she discovered negative impacts that the Blue Care Network point of service plan would have on the employees. She reviewed the proposed changes.

Mr. Reiber questioned the account that the township has, which currently has \$50,000. Ms. Lane explained how those funds are used. The board and Ms. Lane further discussed the details of how the proposed changes affect the employee contributions and how much the township contributes. He commented that the approximate \$35,000 additional spend on employee benefits will need to be offset by a reduction in the 2026 budget.

Ms. Hovarter stated that next year we are going to try and partner with Livingston County for health insurance for the staff.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to approve the change in Employee Contribution in the amount of 10 percent as presented by the Human Resources Manager. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The board took a recess from 7:33 to 7:43 pm.

- 8. Request for approval of the closed session minutes from November 3, 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 approve the closed session minutes from November 3, 2025. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Hunt - yes; Soucy - yes; Hovarter - yes; Spicher - yes; Walker - yes; Reiber - yes)**

Items for Discussion:

9. Review and discuss draft questionnaire for the Trustee vacancy.

Ms. VanMarter presented a draft questionnaire and asked the board to provide feedback. The board, Ms. VanMarter, and Mr. Seward discussed the proposed questions, the process of reviewing the applications, interviewing applicants, and appointing a new trustee. Ms. VanMarter will make the recommended changes.

Member Updates

Mr. Walker stated that at the previous meeting, a member of the public noted the inability to delete notifications on the app. He spoke to the app developer, and they stated that when a notification is read, the blue dot goes away. There was a discussion regarding having time sensitive notices expire so they are removed.

Mr. Walker stated that BAFA held a garage sale for the items from Station #31 that they will not be using when the new station is built. That station is now closed and demolition has begun.

Mr. Reiber stated a Livingston County Sheriff's Deputy will be at the township hall next Monday, November 24 at 6 pm to hold the financial abuse and scam training.

Supervisor Spicher stated that Motorola evaluated the emergency response system. The county board has approved funding the new towers that are needed.

Board Comments

Genoa Charter Township Board Meeting

November 17, 2025

Approved Minutes

Mr. Soucy stated a deputy clerk has been hired and she will start on Wednesday, November 19. She has over 20 years of municipal clerk experience. He will be offering a clerk assistant and election specialist position to someone who also has over 20 years' experience as a clerk.

Ms. Hunt and her staff have been working to balance the winter tax roll. The tax bills will be mailed November 26. She stated that tonight's special meeting was horrible and what Ms. VanMarter went through was awful and should never have happened. She would like this board to consider hiring an outside attorney firm to complete a full investigation. Mr. Reiber's one-sided investigation is not sufficient. Mr. Soucy agrees. He recommends staff research a firm to hire and present it at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Moved by Hovarter, supported by Reiber, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Thomas
Recording Secretary

Approved: Rick Soucy, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township

Kevin Spicher, Supervisor
Genoa Charter Township