

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting
December 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, Candie Hovarter, Robin Hunt, Bill Reiber, Rick Soucy, and Todd Walker.

Also present was Township Manager Kelly VanMarter, Township Attorney Joe Seward, and 33 people in the audience.

Call to the Public

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

Ms. Agga Bisbikis of 2511 Little Sunset Trail acknowledged the candidates who will be speaking this evening. She suggested having goats for hire clear the Brighton Road property. She would like the township to hold a workshop to have the residents work on a data center ordinance.

Ms. Colleen Quin of 4042 Brookstone Court thanked the board for initiating the third-party investigation as to why the clerk left. The two positions that should have received priority when the new board was elected are the clerk and the supervisor. She spoke about the way the new clerk was appointed. One person who ran at the last election is on the agenda as a trustee candidate. She requested to know which trustees chose which candidates.

Ms. Candie Hovarter spoke for Susan Nichols. She does not agree that Jeff Dheanens should be considered because he ran and lost at the last election as well as the comments he has made on his website. She recommended Jim Carpenter and hopes that the motion was done after the discussion.

Ms. Michelle Benson stated that she grew up in this community. She spoke about the request

from Trustee Reiber regarding lawsuits of the township. No trustee, except Supervisor Spicher, knows what lawsuits are pending in the township. She provided details of a current township lawsuit.

Mr. Frank Castle of 4355 Filbert Drive is in support of the SAD for the weed control program for Round Lake. They have problems with the weeds, geese, and invasive swans.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Mr. Reiber requested to have the December 1, 2025 minutes moved to the Regular Agenda.

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

1. Payment of Bills: December 15, 2025

~~2. Request to approve the December 1, 2025 regular meeting minutes. (moved to Regular Agenda)~~

Approval of Regular Agenda:

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

2. Request to approve the December 1, 2025 regular meeting minutes. (moved from Consent Agenda)

Mr. Reiber requested changes be made.

Moved by Reiber, supported by Hovarter, to approve the December 1, 2025 regular meeting minutes as amended. **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Public Hearing on the proposed Round Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Roll.

a. Call to the Property Owners

b. Call to the Public

The call to the property owners was opened at 7:01 pm.

Mr. Martin Toomajian of 4449 Filbert Drive is in favor of the SAD for weed control on their lake. They have the support of 75 percent of the residents. He provided a review of the process they took to determine which contractor to hire. He thanked the township and is asking for the board's support.

Ms. Dorene Walsh of 4443 Filbert Drive asked the Round Lake residents to stand up. The residents thank the township for their support and outstanding assistance to develop the SAD for weed control on their lake. They appreciate all the work of the township staff.

Mr. James Scherer of PLM Lake and Land Management. He is looking forward to working with the residents of Round Lake to recover their lake. He thanked the township board and Ms. VanMarter.

The call to the property owners was closed at 7:09 pm.

The call to the public was opened at 7:09 pm with no response.

4. 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 Round Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Ms. Hunt stated she has never seen 75 percent support on an SAD. There was one objection from Beth and Craig Hagen.

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 Round Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Hovarter - yes; Soucy - yes; Walker - yes; Spicher - yes)**

5. Request for approval of Resolution #4 - Resolution Acknowledging the Filing of the Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling the Second Hearing for January 5, 2025 and Directing the Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Round Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (summer tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Moved by Soucy, supported by Walker, to approve Resolution #4 - Acknowledging the filing of the Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling the Second Hearing for January 5, 2026, and Directing the Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Round Lake Aquatic Weed Control 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)**

6. Consideration of a request for approval of the Trustee Candidate Interview process.

Mr. Reiber stated the process did not restrict the trustees from reaching out to references of the candidates. Mr. Seward stated the interviews have to be done in an open meeting and not one on one. There was nothing that permitted reaching out to the candidates as part of the

discussion of the interview process. Mr. Soucy stated it is not permitted so that a trustee has more knowledge than the other trustees do not have. Mr. Seward stated Mr. Reiber obtaining information and making his decision based on that information is a violation of the Open Meetings Act. **Mr. Reiber did not agree with this statement.**

A discussion **continued began** regarding a trustee calling references for a candidate. Ms. Hunt stated that the questions on the application helped her make her decision on who should be interviewed. She suggested not having each applicant answer those same questions this evening. She does not agree with the question that Mr. Reiber submitted to be asked tonight. Mr. Soucy agrees. Mr. Reiber read his proposed question "You were asked to provide reference contacts as part of the questionnaire. In doing so, was it your intention to make available additional information to board members should they decide to contact them related to your qualifications that are not on the questionnaire and that might be helpful in their decision making process". Supervisor Spicher does not believe that question will help the board determine who the best candidate is. Ms. VanMarter understood that the trustees would read the applications and provide her with their top candidates. **Ms. Hovarter asked why the references were even included if they could not be used.** She included the references when they were given to the board, so they knew that they provided them. Mr. Walker referenced a section of the Open Meetings Act, providing details of the process of appointing a new trustee. **Mr. Walker stated Mr. Reiber submitted his trustee choices two days late, but they were still allowed to be taken into consideration for an interview.**

There was a discussion regarding when the trustees should state which of the candidates they chose to interview. It was decided it would be done after the vote on the motion to appoint the trustee.

Moved by Reiber, supported by Hunt, to amend the process to include that each board member shall state which candidates they nominated after the vote on the motion to appoint the trustee and strike Item #3, the third bullet point that states "Questions should be consistent across candidates, or each trustee should use the same personal question with each applicant." **The motion carried unanimously.**

7. Open Interviews for Trustee Candidates.

Supervisor Spicher stated they received 12 very well qualified applicants.

Mr. Michael Hadjinian provided details of the company where he recently retired from and his role as president, his personal information, education, work history, why he is interested in the position, and his qualifications. One question was asked by Mr. Soucy.

Mr. Darrell Kenney provided his history as a board member and treasurer of his condominium association in Florida, his career working in the banking industry, including starting the Ann

Arbor State Bank in 2008, his management style, his strengths, and why he is interested in the position. One question was asked by Mr. Reiber.

Mr. Jeff Dhaenens stated he has served the township for 14 years as a member of the ZBA, the Planning Commission, and a trustee. He provided what was accomplished in the township during that time, his qualifications, his involvement in the township since not being ~~reelected~~ **elected**, what his priorities are as a trustee, why he is interested in the position, and the references he provided. Ms. Hovarter asked Mr. Dhaenens one question. Mr. Reiber and Mr. Dhaenens had a discussion regarding Mr. Dhaenens' campaign for ~~reelection~~ **election**.

Mr. Doug Moore spoke about his past and current experience in public service and what he accomplished, his education, career history, and what benefit he can bring to the township. Mr. Reiber, Ms. Hovarter, Mr. Walker, and Supervisor Spicher each asked Mr. Moore one question. Mr. Moore asked the board members a question.

Ms. Jodie Valenti provided her history of living in Livingston County and Genoa Township, her current position at Brighton Area Schools, why she is interested in the position, what she wants for the future of the township, and how her experience running the senior center has taught her a different perspective on the community. Ms. Hovarter asked Ms. Valenti one question.

Mr. Jim Carpenter provided his history of living in Genoa Township and the growth he has seen, his career history, his experience working elections since 2016, why he is interested in the position, and his solutions for certain issues facing the township. One question was asked by Mr. Reiber.

The board took a break from 8:58 to 9:08 pm.

8. Consideration of an appointment to fill the vacant Trustee seat.

The board members took time to review their notes from the interviews.

Moved by Reiber, supported by Hovarter, to appoint Mr. Jim Carpenter to fill the vacant seat of trustee.

Mr. Soucy noted that Mr. Carpenter has cursed when speaking to the board. Mr. Reiber stated Mr. Carpenter is passionate and attends the meetings. He thinks he would be the best fit. Ms. Hovarter stated that he thinks outside the box and he will help the board. Ms. Hunt is looking for a calm board that will work together.

The motion failed with a roll call vote (Reiber - yes; Walker - no; Hunt - no; Hovarter - yes; Soucy - no; Spicher - no).

Ms. Hunt was very impressed with Ms. Valenti's answers and application and her strong community involvement. Ms. Hovarter agrees she is very good at running the Senior Center. Mr. Soucy has another candidate in mind.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to appoint Ms. Jodie Valenti to fill the vacant seat of trustee. **The motion carried with a roll call vote (Hunt - yes; Reiber - yes; Walker - yes; Hovarter - yes; Soucy - no; Spicher - yes).**

The trustees then stated who they nominated.

Ms. Hovarter nominated Doug Moore, Jodie Valenti and Jim Carpenter. Mr. Soucy nominated Darrell Kenney, Mike Hadjiinian and Jodie Valenti. Supervisor Spicher chose Jodie Valenti and Michael Hadjiinian. Ms. Hunt recommended the one applicant who dropped out, Jeff Dhaenens, and Darrell Kenney. She stated that she read the applications with the names redacted and looked at who was the most qualified. When she realized that many in the community did not want Jeff because he did not win in the last election, he was removed from her list. ~~Mr. Reiber nominated the one applicant who withdrew, Doug Moore, and Jim Carpenter.~~ Mr. Reiber nominated Doug Moore, Jim Carpenter and another candidate that did not receive enough nominations to be chosen for an interview. Mr. Walker nominated Darrell Kennedy. His other choices did not result in being chosen for an interview.

Items for Discussion:

9. Update on the progress of the Brighton Road property field work investigation and notice of public workshop on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026 as submitted by Supervisor Spicher.

Supervisor Spicher stated that the consultant spent a week at the property and did a tree survey. Planting a significant number of large trees will be needed to restore this property. There will be a workshop on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the township hall where the consultant will be present to review his findings and seek input on planting and design elements.

10. Update on the Master Plan Survey as submitted by Supervisor Spicher.

Supervisor Spicher stated the survey closes tonight at midnight. The current number of responses is 912.

11. Update on internal investigation as submitted by Clerk Soucy.

Mr. Soucy received two quotes for the investigation. It will cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. He is pursuing quotes from other firms. The board discussed the firms who provided the quotes. Mr. Reiber stated this has to be done because the residents asked for it.

12. Discussion of project tracking for items approved by the Township Board as submitted by Trustee Reiber.

Mr. Reiber reviewed his proposal for developing a project tracking spreadsheet that will be shared with the board and available to the public. The board is in favor of this. Mr. Reiber will begin developing it for current projects.

Board Comments

Mr. Walker stated Mike Corrigan was reelected as the Citizen at Large member of the Brighton Area Fire Authority Board. Shawn Pipoly will be replaced by Susan Gardener from the City of Brighton.

Supervisor Spicher stated the Livingston County EMS response system is close to being fully repaired. He thanked Chief O'Brian for bringing the issue to the forefront. He and Trustee Walker attended a meeting organized by Brian Ignatowski with Congressman Barrett who was able to secure \$495,000 in funding to help fix the problem. They are continuing to pursue the installation of another tower.

Mr. Soucy read a complimentary letter sent to Ms. Hunt.

Adjournment

Moved by Soucy, supported by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Thomas
Recording Secretary

Approved: Rick Soucy, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township

Kevin Spicher, Supervisor
Genoa Charter Township