

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting
May 18, 2026

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 Jodie Valenti. Absent was Todd Walker.

Also present was Township Manager Kelly VanMarter and 18 people in the audience.

Call to the Public

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

Mr. Jim Carpenter of 4715 Stillmeadow Drive watched the last meeting and there was more time spent talking about the chair than Janene's resignation investigation. That is odd. No one seems to care that she and her deputy resigned. There may be a new clerk in November and this could happen again. What was learned from Janene's resignation. He is disappointed.

Ms. Deb Beattie of 3109 Pineview Trail spoke about the wetlands ordinance that is before the board this evening. She looked at multiple townships and they recognize wetlands under two acres in their wetland ordinance. They use language from the Michigan Legislature. She stressed the importance of protecting all wetlands.

There are many items for the Planning Commission to address. They are working on ordinances and the Master Plan. This needs to be done ASAP. One meeting a month is not enough to get

these done quickly. She suggested two meetings be held each month for the next six months so these items can be completed quickly.

The call to the public was closed at 6:37 pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

1. **Payment of Bills: May 4, 2026 and May 18, 2026**
2. **Request to approve the May 4, 2026 regular meeting minutes.**

Approval of Regular Agenda:

Moved by Soucy, supported by Valenti, to approve the Regular Agenda with the addition of Item #10 - CPR/AED Class Discussion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Public Hearing on the proposed Grand Beach No. 3 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 6:39 pm.

Mr. Joseph Fader of 6812 Rink Drive stated the proposed project is well overdue and he appreciates all of the work that was done. He lives at the dead end of Rink Road and in front of 6824 and 6830 Rink Drive most of the culverts are almost gone. He recommends this be added to the project.

Mr. Robert Ford of 2692 Canfield Trail stated there is an address that shows it is not accessible to Simon Drive and that is not correct. They have a circular drive that connects to Simon and Mahinski Drive. The amount they are being charged should be changed. Ms. VanMarter explained the methodology for determining the benefit and cost for that property.

The call to the property owners was closed at 6:45 pm.

The call to the public was made at 6:45 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 Grand Beach No. 3 Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). (Roll Call)**

Moved by Soucy, supported by Hunt, to approve Resolution #3 - Approving the Project Cost Estimates, Special Assessment District and causing the Special Assessment Roll to be prepared for the Grand Beach No. 3 (Rink, Simon & Mahinske Drive) Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Hunt - yes; Valenti - yes; Hovarter - yes; Reiber - yes; Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes)**

5. Request for approval of Resolution #4 - Resolution Acknowledging the Filing of the Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling the Second Hearing for June 1, 2026 and Directing the Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Grand Beach No. 3 Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Ms. Hunt advised that the construction project will occur this summer and be completed by the fall. There is a two percent interest charge on the assessment so if any residents would like to avoid paying interest, the special assessment has to be paid in full by September 25, 2026.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to approve Resolution #4 - Resolution Acknowledging the Filing of the Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling the Second Hearing for June 1, 2026 and Directing the Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Grand Beach No. 3 (Rink, Simon & Mahinske Drive) Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Valenti - yes; Hovarter - yes; Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes)**

6. Request for approval of Resolution 260518 to approve the Assessor's Affidavit of the 2026 Millage Levies for Genoa Charter Township which reduces the millage rate from 0.7752 mills to 0.7707 mills. (Roll Call)

Supervisor Spicher explained how the millage rate is calculated. This is required to be calculated and approved each year. He added that Genoa Township has the fifth lowest millage rate in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Reiber asked if the township's average SEV has increased and Supervisor Spicher answered "yes".

Moved by Soucy, supported by Hovarter, to approve Resolution 260518 to approve the Assessor's Affidavit of the 2026 Millage Levies for Genoa Charter Township which reduces the millage rate from 0.7752 mills to 0.7707 mills. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Hovarter - yes; Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Valenti - yes; Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes).**

7. Request to introduce proposed ordinance number Z-26-01 regarding zoning ordinance text amendments to Article 13 entitled "Environmental Protection Regulation" related to Hazardous Materials and Fuel Storage and Wetland Protection Standards and to set the meeting date for considering the proposed ordinance for adoption before the Township Board on Monday, June 1, 2026.

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Unapproved Minutes

Ms. VanMarter noted that this ordinance was sent back to the Planning Commission from the board so they could review the comments from the township attorney. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed changes and recommended approval to the board, with additional small changes.

Mr. Reiber gave an overview of the Planning Commission's discussions. He stated the Planning Commission's goal is to preserve as many wetlands, woodlands, and watershed areas as they can without infringing on property owners' rights.

The additional changes were regarding the cooling systems for the data services. The previous version of the ordinance stated that the township prefers a closed loop system; however the Planning Commission changed it to say that it must have a water saving system.

They also discussed wetlands between two acres and four acres, and what can the Planning Commission do to protect smaller wetlands, those under two acres. An example was if a homeowner had 11 acres of land and 1.99 acres is wetland. That would not be regulated, so the owner can do what they would like with it. The Planning Commission and staff agreed that this is appropriate. They further discussed what the township can do to determine if these size wetlands are regulated. The township would need to hire someone who has that specialized skill set to determine the size of the wetland, if it is actually a wetland and should it be protected. It's time consuming and costly so that is why the planning commission decided to recommend not applying ordinances to wetlands under two acres. It was also noted that doing this could prevent a property owner from using their property the way they want to.

Supervisor Spicher stated that there are regulated wetlands under two acres that are protected. Mr. Reiber agrees. The ordinance is for unregulated wetlands under two acres.

Ms. VanMarter stated the township has EGLE and state wetland inventory mapping and other databases to use to determine if a wetland is regulated. If there are any questions, the township works with EGLE to make the determination.

Ms. Hovarter recommended encouraging residents to maintain and not disturb the wetlands on their property.

Ms. Hunt agrees. She does not want to add regulations that the township cannot monitor.

Mr. Reiber stated there are other changes to wetland setback requirements that were made, as well as tree ordinances, that help protect the wetlands and woodlands.

Ms. Hunt asked if the Planning Commission discussed the use of pesticides and fertilizers near wetlands. Mr. Reiber stated it was discussed but it cannot be monitored or enforced.

Moved by Reiber, supported by Hovarter, to accept the draft Ordinance Number Z-26-01 and to set the meeting date to consider adoption before the Township Board on Monday, June 1, 2026 for the purpose of considering the proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment to Article 13 Environmental Protection Standards. **The motion carried unanimously.**

8. Request for approval of Resolution #1 to Proceed with the Project and Direct Preparation of the Plans and Cost Estimates for the Pardee Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Ms. VanMarter provided a review of the project. She noted this has been done every year since 1997 and it has been renewed every five years since then. There is an increase in cost this year because four parcels were combined into two parcels. The residents asked the board to approve the project.

Mr. Reiber asked if this requires 51 percent approval. Ms. VanMarter stated the township initiates the renewals if the district has been successful and there have not been significant complaints. The renewal can be stopped if 20 percent of the residents vote to stop it.

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

9. Request for approval of Resolution #2 to Approve the Project, Schedule the First Hearing for June 1, 2026 and Direct Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Pardee Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to approve Resolution #2 to Approve the Project, Schedule the First Hearing for June 1, 2026 and Direct Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Pardee Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Hunt - yes; Valenti - yes; Hovarter - yes; Reiber - yes; Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes)**

10. CPR/AED Class Discussion

Supervisor Spicher stated there were too many registrants at the last class CPR/AED class so the township will be holding another one. These have been well attended and it is a valuable skill. The board decided to hold the class on June 23, 2026.

Board Comments

Ms. Hovarter attended a HAPRA meeting. They are working on a storm response plan for during the Melonfest. They would like to have Seltzers in the tent, which required them to amend their liquor license. They are seeking volunteers for the festival. HAPRA hosted the statewide ping pong tournament at the Oceola Township Hall earlier this month. Vice Chairperson Shawn Dunleavy has stepped down. They have filled the open board seat with a former member, Terry Philibeck.

Mr. Soucy stated the May election was the township's first election since reducing the number of precincts. The election went off without a hitch. It was the first time in memory that the township did not have to go to the county to fix something. It was certified by the Board of Commissioners with no questions.

Ms. Hunt stated the township is live and up to date on the BS&A cloud software.

Supervisor Spicher stated that Genoa Township is one of 79 municipalities to challenge PA233, which would take away local control for renewable energy ordinances. The vote last week was not favorable to local governments. The municipalities will be filing an appeal.

Mr. Reiber asked if anyone can see the aerial views of Genoa Township and see which wetlands are protected and which are not. Ms. VanMarter stated wetlands can be seen on the EGLE website. The Livingston County GIS maps are available on their website at milivcounty.gov/gis. It is called "GIS Parcel Viewer".

Mr. Reiber questioned the cost to have someone contracted or to have a full time employee to assess the smaller wetlands. Are there any other municipalities who have an employee in this position? Ms. VanMarter stated she is not aware of any townships that have one on staff. This is typically done by contracting firms. She displayed Niswander Environmental's website, stating it is a Livingston County firm that the township has used in the past. There are also wetland scientists on staff at some of the local engineering firms.

Ms. Deb Beattie stated Brighton, Milford, and Meridian Townships were the ones that she checked that regulate wetlands less than two acres. She spoke about the pesticide ordinance. She does not think the inability to enforce an ordinance is a reason not to have it.

Mr. Jim Carpenter asked when there will be an item on the agenda for the community to learn about the status of the Latson PUD.

Adjournment

Moved by Soucy, supported by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Thomas
Recording Secretary

Approved: Rick Soucy, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township

Kevin Spicher, Supervisor
Genoa Charter Township