

GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting
August 3, 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, Jodie Valenti, and Todd Walker.

Also present was Township Manager Kelly VanMarter, Township Attorneys Joe Seward and Kali Henderson, and 21 people in the audience.

Call to the Public

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

Mr. Robert Ford of 2692 Canfield Trail is objecting to the lake treatment proposal. The contractor only treats $\frac{2}{3}$ of the lake because they are not allowed to treat the lily pads. Now the lily pads have taken over that part of the lake. The residents are paying for treating the entire lake.

Ms. Marge Csizmadia of 6824 Rink Drive thanked Joe for taking on the responsibility of this project. The lake has improved substantially since she moved here. She stated that the property owners need to maintain the lake area in front of their home.

Ms. Polly Skolarus of Challis Court stated the board is doing a good job. Her and her residents are planning on redoing their subdivision roads. They previously did slurry coating on the roads, but it did not last more than five years. The township should put more money into the account that the township uses to fund the road projects; approximately \$500,000. She asked the board to address her project at one meeting instead of holding multiple public hearings to save the residents the cost of publishing multiple notices.

Mr. Bill Reiber of 3154 Stillriver Drive addressed recent events in the township relating to the upcoming primary election. He did not want to complain, bash, blame, finger point or accuse any of his fellow board members. He reminded his peers that all board members signed an agreement to conduct the business of the township in a respectful and professional manner. He feels the board has fallen short on this. Campaigning is hard, expensive, time consuming, and stressful. It can bring out the worst in people. The board has come short on delivering on the promise to conduct business in a respectful and professional manner. He offered an apology to the friends and neighbors for having them be exposed to things that the board promised to avoid; whether it be through emails, newspaper, or social media. The residents of Genoa Township deserve better.

Mr. Jeff Dhaenens of 5494 Sharp Drive wants the board to think about how the solicitor's ordinance will be enforced. He agrees with Mr. Reiber. After what occurred over the last few weeks, the township should have a social media policy. There should be no negative posting. He is looking forward to the town hall where the township will be talking about transportation.

Ms. Colleen Quinn of 4042 Brookstone Court agrees with Jeff regarding the solicitor's ordinance. It is more government getting in the way. She thanked Bill for his comments and agreed with what he said.

The call to the public was closed at 6:47 pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- 1. Payment of Bills: August 3, 2026**
- 2. Request to approve the July 20, 2026 regular meeting minutes**

Approval of Regular Agenda:

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to approve the Regular Agenda with items 3 through 10. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- 3. Public Hearing on the proposed Grand Beach Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project.**
 - A. Call to the Property Owners**
 - B. Call to the Public**

The call to the property owners was opened at 6:49 pm.

Mr. Joe Fader of 6812 Rink Drive lives on the lake and worked with companies to have it treated. He would like more of it to be treated, like Bob mentioned, but it cannot be done because there are restrictions regarding the treatment of native plants. He explained the details of the treatments. His opinion is that the SAD's have worked well in the past.

The call to the property owners was closed at 6:54 pm.

The call to the public was opened at 6:54 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 Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Supervisor Spicher explained the township's SAD process. These are brought to the township by the residents; they are not initiated by the township.

Ms. Hunt advised that the township is the financing mechanism. The contract is managed by the residents.

Ms. VanMarter stated this is a renewal of a Special Assessment District. She provided the details of how the costs are allocated for each property on the lake.

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 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; Walker - 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 August 17, 2026 and Directing the Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Grand Beach Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment Project (winter tax 2026). (Roll Call)

Moved by Hunt, supported by Walker, to approve Resolution #4 - Resolution Acknowledging the Filing of the Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling the Second Hearing for August 17, 2026 and Directing the Issuance of Statutory Notices for the Grand Beach 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; Walker - yes; Reiber - yes; Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes)**

6. Request for approval of Resolution #5A- to amend the Special Assessment Roll for the Genoa Estates No. 1 (Weatherly and Russell Drive) Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project to reduce the assessment amount to reflect construction cost savings (winter tax). (Roll Call)

Supervisor Spicher stated the final project cost was less than was estimated so the assessment amount will be lower. Ms. Hunt stated a refund check will be issued to the one resident who paid in full.

Moved by Hovarter, supported by Reiber, to approve Resolution #5A- to amend the Special Assessment Roll for the Genoa Estates No. 1 (Weatherly and Russell Drive) Road Rehabilitation Special Assessment Project to reduce the assessment amount to reflect construction cost savings (winter tax). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Valenti - yes; Hovarter - yes; Walker - yes; Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes)**

- yes)

7. Review of a proposed Peddlers and Solicitors Ordinance.

Township attorney Kali Henderson submitted a proposed ordinance regarding commercial solicitation, noting it requires registration with the township, allows a no knock list, and restricts soliciting hours to match the township's noise ordinance or dusk. The board and the attorneys discussed this issue at length.

Mr. Reiber asked who will maintain the no knock list. Ms. Henderson stated it would be kept and maintained by the township clerk. The solicitor will need to ensure they have an updated copy of the list. He asked if the list will be public information and Ms. Henderson stated it will only be addresses, not names. If a resident has "No Trespassing" or "No Solicitating" signs on their property and if a solicitor disregards this, a complaint can be made to the township's code enforcement officer and there is a fine. There was a discussion regarding fees for the solicitors, providing window clings for residents on the no knock list, and what to do if residents sign up other people on the list.

Ms. Henderson stated that this ordinance will only apply to commercial solicitors. It does not apply to civic or philanthropic organizations, such as Girl Scouts, church organizations, caroling, political canvassing, etc.

Mr. Reiber requested to amend "it protects the people" to "it *is intended to* protect the people". Ms. Hunt agrees. There was a discussion regarding limiting the number of times that a solicitor can go to a resident's house. The township cannot do this.

There was further discussion regarding the time limits. Ms. Henderson advised that whatever time is chosen, there needs to be a specific reason why that time is chosen.

Mr. Seward and Ms. Henderson will review the feedback received this evening and present an ordinance for the board's review.

8. Request for approval of the closed session minutes from July 20, 2026.

- 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ vote)**
- B. If necessary, consider motion to adjourn the closed session and reconvene in open session. (Roll Call)**

Each board member reviewed their copy of the minutes provided by Mr. Soucy.

Moved by Reiber, supported by Hunt, to enter into closed session to discuss attorney client privileged information. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Hovarter - yes; Walker - yes; Reiber - yes; Hunt - yes; Valenti - yes; Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes)**

The board entered into a closed session at 7:53 pm.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to exit closed session and enter into closed session to discuss attorney client privileged information. **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote (Walker - yes; Reiber - yes; Hunt -yes; Valenti - yes; Hovarter - yes, Soucy - yes; Spicher - yes)**

The board returned to the open session at 8:04 pm.

Moved by Hunt, supported by Soucy, to approve the closed session minutes from July 20, 2026 as amended. **The motion carried unanimously.**

A call to the public was opened at 8:05 pm

Ms. Skolarus stated none of the trustees' name signs can be read from the audience. She also suggested that the documents that are put on the large screens should be enlarged so they can be seen by the public

The call to the public was closed at 8:06 pm.

Items for Discussion:

9. Discussion of funding and budget amendments for the Special Assessment District Fund No. 202

Ms. VanMarter noted that Ms. Skolarus spoke about this during the call to the public. She stated a budget amendment is needed for the SAD fund due to the many street projects that have been approved. There is only \$118 available at this time. The board can increase the fund by \$225,000 or not approve any more road projects until next fiscal year.

Supervisor Spicher provided details of this fund, how it was spent this year, and how the fund is replenished when the payments are received on the tax rolls.

Ms. Hunt addressed Ms. Skolarus' request to not have the public hearings to save money on publications. She stated it is required by law to hold the public hearings. She stated that this would be put on the summer 2027 tax bill.

Mr. Reiber stated the township has a budget, and he prefers waiting until the new fiscal year for any more road projects. No board members disagreed.

10. Update on Speed Radar Sign Installation and Future Deployment.

Supervisor Spicher stated there are two signs up; one is on Crooked Lake Road and the second one is on the westbound lane of Brighton Road, just west of Clifford Road, but it is not functional. The board discussed other locations for the signs.

Correspondence

Mr. Soucy provided complimentary notes received from residents thanking the clerk's department for its outstanding service. Pam and Susan are doing a phenomenal job.

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Approved Minutes

Mr. Soucy stated 5,900 absentee ballots were mailed out and over 3,800 have been sent back. They have started preprocessing these ballots. There were 362 early voters.

Mr. Reiber asked if there is a published list of election workers that includes their names, which municipality they live in, and their political affiliation. Ms. Soucy stated, yes, he has provided that to the chair people of the political parties. He reiterated that the township held their own training and did not go through the county's training.

Board Comments

Mr. Walker stated that Chief Michael O'Brian resigned as BAFA Fire Chief. The board will be seeking a new chief.

Ms. Hovarter stated Saturday, August 8 is the Melon Ball. It will be at the Howell Opera House. People can register for the event on the HAPRA website. The Melonfest will start the following Friday, August 14.

Supervisor Spicher reminded the public that on Wednesday, August 5, at 6:30 pm the township will be holding a town hall to discuss transportation.

Mr. Reiber stated it was confirmed 100 percent that trustee Hovarter did not commit an act of theft.

Adjournment

Moved by Walker, supported by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Thomas, Recording Secretary

Approved:

Rick Soucy, Clerk
Genoa Charter Township

Kevin Spicher, Supervisor
Genoa Charter Township