

**GENOA CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
Regular Meeting  
October 7, 2024**

**MINUTES**

Supervisor Rogers called the regular meeting of the Genoa Charter Township Board to order at 6:30 pm at the Township Hall. The following members were present constituting a quorum for the transaction of business: Bill Rogers, Paulette Skolarus, Jean Ledford, Terry Croft, Robin Hunt, Diana Lowe and Jeff Dhaenens. Also present was Township Manager Kelly VanMarter, Township Attorney Joe Seward, and nine people in the audience.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Ms. Karen Wilbanks of 2914 Russell Drive stated that the website offered by Mr. Dhaenens is full of fraudulent statements and hate speech. She reviewed specific statements stating they are all false.

Mr. Mike Wilbanks of 2914 Russell Drive referenced an article from Consumers Reports about how large warehouses negatively affect communities due to noise, traffic, damage to homes, and pollution, and they can affect children's health.

Ms. Christine Wetzel 390 Natanna Drive stated that when she was working the primary, she was approached by Mr. Rogers and he told her that we need the asphalt plant in our town and that it does not smell.

Ms. Melanie Johnson of 3990 Chilson Road stated she likes where she lives and wants to live here for the next 30 years. The PUD project is not needed. We should plan for the next 100 years. She thanked the board members for their service.

Ms. Tracy Pardiak of 4312 Rurik Drive is aware of Jeff Dhaenens slanderous campaign website. She listed some of the items that are on there and stated they are lies. She hopes he gets sued. The people who won listened to their constituents and this board did not.

Ms. Deb Beattie of 3109 Pineview Trail has lived here for 35 years. She agrees with what Tracy said. The three board members belittled the winners and the people who voted for them.

The call to the public was closed at 6:41 pm.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

- 1. Payment of Bills: October 7, 2024**
- 2. Request to approve the September 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes.**

**Approval of Regular Agenda:**

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

- 3. Request for approval of updates to the Genoa Charter Township Employee Handbook as presented by Kim Lane, Human Resources Manager.**

Ms. Lane stated it has been ten years since the Employee Handbook has been updated. It was one of her goals for this year. The proposed changes address changes in the law, township policies that have been updated and approved, and other work practices that have been done but did not have a formal policy. The proposed updates are changes to the longevity bonus, medical and hospital insurance contributions, long term disability time limits, funeral leave, court duty, sick or personal leave, Family Medical Leave Act, severance pay, travel and mileage, anti-nepotism, hours of operation, CDL licensing, and the exam/licensing incentive program.

Mr. Seward stated it is not the law that employees are paid for court leave, but it does state that crime victims cannot be disciplined or terminated when subpoenaed or asked to attend a court hearing by a prosecuting attorney. He wants to ensure this language is in the revised policy.

Ms. Lowe asked how the new handbook will be disseminated to the employees. Ms. Lane stated that each employee will receive a copy and sign and return the acknowledgement page after they are given the updated handbook.

Mr. Dhaenens questioned the separation agreement and asked if there is a reason why there is a difference between the length of severance pay and length of COBRA coverage for employees who separate after 10 years of service. The board agreed to keep it as it is in the policy.

Ms. Hunt thanked Ms. Lane for the work on this update.

Mr. Rogers suggested the handbook be updated as changes are made to policies instead of waiting to do them all at once after many years.

**Moved** by Hunt, supported by Croft, to approve the 2024 Employee Handbook as presented by the Human Resources Manager with the following language being added to Section D. Court Duty, "*Crime victims cannot be disciplined or terminated when subpoenaed or asked to attend a court hearing by a prosecuting attorney.*" **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. Consideration of a request to approve a Bilateral METRO Act Right-of-Way Telecommunications Permit with 123.Net, LLC.**

Ms. VanMarter reviewed the request from 123.Net for installation of approximately 40,000 linear feet of underground fiber on Grand River and down Dorr Road, Grand Oaks, and Cleary Drive and 55 linear feet of above ground fiber. This will result in \$2,200 in annual revenue for the township. It is for 15 years with three subsequent 5-year renewals.

**Moved** by Dhaenens, supported by Lowe, to approve the Bilateral METRO Act Right-of-Way Telecommunications Permit with 123.Net, LLC for an initial term of 15 years, subject to the review and approval of the Township Attorney. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Correspondence**

Ms. Skolarus submitted a letter and photos from a resident from Lake Edgewood Condos regarding dirt running off the hill and collecting on the sidewalks on Grand River.

Ms. VanMarter stated this is a known issue to the township. For the last few years, the township's maintenance company has had to hand remove all of this sediment off the sidewalk. This has cost between \$1,600 - \$1,800 per year. She met with the Livingston County Road Commission and Tetra Tech in April and they have a plan to eliminate this issue. The estimated cost from the engineer is approximately \$19,000. She will be returning to the board with a proposal.

Supervisor Rogers noted that residents have put some drainage pipes from the dirt road above the hill, which is draining all of their runoff down onto this sidewalk. Ms. VanMarter has spoken to the LCRC about. She showed what is being proposed to properly drain the water from the roadway above.

#### **Member Discussion**

Mr. Dhaenens stated there were two houses on Lakewood Knoll who were not originally included in the road maintenance project; however, he worked with Ms. VanMarter and they were included in the project and the paving in front of their homes is complete.

#### **Adjournment**

**Moved** by Lowe, supported by Croft, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Genoa Charter Township Board Meeting  
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Approved Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Thomas  
Recording Secretary

Approved: Paulette Skolarus, Clerk  
Genoa Charter Township

Bill Rogers, Supervisor  
Genoa Charter Township