

Geneva Township  
Regular Meeting  
January 12, 2022

Chairman Mills called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Those present were Mr. Mills, Mr. Russell, Mr. Brown, Ron Cerjan, Fiscal Officer Caya, Fire Chief Shook. Citizens Cynthia Seams and Shelley Gardner was present.

Mr. Russell made the motion and a second by Mr. Brown to approve minutes from the December 8, meeting. All trustees present voted aye.

Mr. Russell made the motion and a second by Mr. Mills. All trustees present voted yes to, approve bills for \$ 74,133.09 covered by e-payments E-199-220 and Warrants 21801-21924. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comment: Mr. Gardner asked about the status of the waterline. Mr. Russell commented that he talked to Doug Starkey and Casey Kozlowski. They County is in the process of hiring an expert to deal with the AARP funds. The County Engineer has been working on doing a preliminary survey and working up the plans. The Township will have to figure out how to deal with the money and how to interact with the County on it. The Township has received about \$182,000 in AARP funds but have not appropriated anything for 2022. The Township does have the intention of using about \$120,000. Mr. Russell commented that he hoped to be further along but would like to sit down with the County after phase I is complete. Mr. Russell also stated that the Township's fire fund will pay for the hydrants and this project should have about 8-9.

Fire: There were 19 incidents which was more than normal. 9 of those incidents were on the 11<sup>th</sup> from the storm event. There was a small building fire on S. Myers Road on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Zoning Report: Ron Cerjan reported he issued 2 permits last month. There were 3 requests for lot splits. They are currently being reviewed in Jefferson. He also reported that he contacted Sims about filling in the ditch. They will be applying for a permit for the fence. They are waiting for the study to see how much dirt they will need. Mr. Cerjan commented that he is still receiving a lot of calls about Lake Road East and people wanting to build on the lots. He has been referring them to the Health Department to see if they can out septic tank on the lots. Mr. Cerjan stated he also sent out information on 3 lots in Austin trailer park about violations. There was a resident on Padanarum that inquired about a dry hydrant. He will have them get a hold of Chief Shook.

Mr. Russell said he checked the online portal to see if the Prosecutor has given a response yet and the case was closed. He knows it has been a while since he checked it. Mr. Russell went back in and sent another request for opinion on short term rentals. He would like this opinion before the Township works on rezoning. Mr. Russell recommended to take the \$25,000 that is

appropriated for zoning code rewrite and see outside counsel on zoning issues. Mr. Russell asked the other Trustees to think about attorneys that could request proposals from. There was a suggestion to reach out to Nick Brown from GOTL. They will also check with Harpersfield and see who they use.

Road Department: Mr. Russell reported that 2 of the 3 Road crews was out with COVID and one is still currently out. Mr. Russell commented that the Township did have a back up plan, there were a couple Fireman, Harold Smith and Josh Santiago, that offered to plow if needed. Mr. Russell made a motion to authorize Chairman Mills to hire someone in an emergency if needed. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was a suggestion to check with the insurance company on using someone else in an emergency to use the plows.

Mr. Russell reported that the road crew likes the new truck and they have ordered more salt today.

Mr. Mills commented that he spoke with Chris Deluca from CT Consultants about the water issue on Lake Road by Mr. Douglass's house. Chris will talk to his boss and see if they can get a topography of the area from the County. They will also call Tim Martin and talk to them. Chris will see what CT Consultants can do without charging. If they have to get too in depth, they will give the Township a quote.

Mr. Russell reported that Mr. Peet was a last meeting and he is not happy about the lack of progress on the cell tower issue. He committed to meet with Mr. Peet with the next 45 days. The case is still open with the prosecutor's office. Mr. Brown asked to be kept informed of the progress of the meeting.

Fiscal Officer: Mrs. Caya reported that she is almost done with closing 2021. 2022 has been opened and the budget was inputted and purchase orders for 2022 created. The W-2's have been printed and should be issued this week. The insurance change went smooth and she was able to print temporary insurance cards for employees that needed them at the beginning of January.

New Business:

Committee: Mr. Mills reported that one person was out on vacation and one had COVID at the cemetery so they were unable to hold any funerals. All the funeral homes were contacted. If needed to still hold funerals that week, they would have made it work.

Mr. Russell reported that 5 out of 7 full-time employees and 2/3 of auxiliary at NAD were out with COVID. They were able to make it through, people stepped up and some firefighters put in hours. MR. Russell also reported that there are 2 full crews now Monday – Friday dayshift and soon will be full crews on afternoons. Community Care has been short staff so NAD has been having more calls, especially to nursing homes. Mr. Russell made a comment that the Police, Fire and NAD crews always step up when they are needed.

Mr. Brown suggested to get shades for the Township meeting hall to help with the sun glare.

Mr. Russell suggested to get alive camera so the road crew can log in remotely and check the local weather.

Public Comment:

Cynthia Seams attended the meeting. She is a senior at Geneva High School and she discussed the scholarship she is applying for.

Motion made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Brown to convene into Executive Session to discuss compensation of a public employee. All members voted yah. Meeting convened into executive session at 9:52 AM.

Motion made my Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Mills to reconvene from the Executive Session. Meeting reconvened at 10:38 AM

Mr. Russell made the motion and a second by Mr. Mills, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM. All trustee voted yes.

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Fiscal Officer