

Geneva Township  
Regular Meeting  
February 9, 2022

Chairman Mills called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Those present were Mr. Mills, Mr. Russell, Mr. Brown, Ron Cerjan, Fiscal Officer Caya, Fire Chief Shook. Citizen Bill Douglas and Owen Schroeder were present.

Mr. Brown made the motion and a second by Mr. Russell to approve minutes from the January 12, 2022 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 \$ 67,105.88 covered by e-payments E-1-2022 through 16-2022 and Warrants 21925-21968. All trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comment: Mr. Douglas asked about the status of the creek issue. Mr. Mills commented that he spoke with Chris Deluca from CT Consultants and they will be pulling the report from Tim Martin to review. He hasn't heard from them yet but will check to see if that has been done. Mr. Douglas also asked if the Township has heard anything from the Prosecutor on short term rentals. Mr. Russell commented that the Prosecutor responded with the only place that short term rentals are allowed in Geneva Township is where hotel and motels are currently allowed in the zoning. Ron Cerjan commented that if someone built a house and wanted to rent it for 1 month, 2 months or a year, the current zoning doesn't address it, it would be just like renting a cottage. Mr. Russell stated that the Township has talked about redoing the zoning he recommends that the Township look at outside counsel to address it. Mr. Mills stated that he talked to Nick Brown about his interest and he would be interested in a case-by-case basis. Mr. Russell said he will also talk to Mr. Pasqualone.

Mr. Russell reported on the school travel pan meeting he attending this past Thursday. The meeting was with the Safety Consultant, the School Superintendent, GOTL, City and Township representatives. The proposed plan will take several years to implement. There have been high priority and low priorities of the plan established. A plan will be submitted to the state by March 1<sup>st</sup>. One issue discussed was that part of the school zone is in the City and part is in the Township. The Township will have to talk to the County about that. There was also talks about where there should be sidewalks on Austin Road and the big concern is who is going to maintain them if they are installed. There was a question about what kind of funding is the state offering? Mr. Russell responded that you can get up to a \$400,000 grant but they are very competitive. There is no matching requirement. There was a question asked if there are any funds in the current Township budget for sidewalks. Mr. Russell responded that there are not.

Fire: Chief Shook reported that there were 22 incidents in January. The incidents consisted of a chimney fire, truck fire, couple residential fires one being a mobile home on Myers and one being on Wheeler Creek. The rest were lock outs, ice issues and furnace issues. Mr. Mills made

a comment that there are a ton of fire hydrants buried and maybe the Township and the City can add it to their website about clearing them out. Chief Shook stated he also asked the City to add it to their water bills. Chief Shook also commented that the City has a hydrant maintenance program and he has been in discussion with Mr. Starkey about creating a MOU for the County. Mr. Russell said that there was a minor flood on Wheeler Creek this past weekend. The Fire Department helped and Harold Smith and Josh Santiago did a great job.

Zoning Report: Mr. Cerjan reported there was 1 permit issues on Route 20 East. There were some complaints about junk and a meth lab on Maple. There is a lot of junk issues on Lake Road near Saybrook Township. Addressing these have been tough with the snow so some of these issues will have to wait until spring. There was a demo permit for 6636 West Maple that he will be looking into. He also sent another letter to Austin Mobile about no property violations. Mr. Cerjan has a zoom meeting tomorrow with Eagleworks on zoning software. Geneva on the Lake is also thinking about going with them, he will research the cost. There was a discussion about a listing that Miller reality has and if we should reach out to them and tell them about the zoning restrictions.

Mr. Russell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown to appoint Bob Warner to a 5-year term to the Zoning Board and to appoint Herbert Krihwan and Tom Thress to a 1-year term to the Zoning Board of Appeals and appoint Chuck Clark to a 5-year term. Mr. Russell asked Mr. Douglas if he would be interested in being appointed to the Zoning Board. He will think about it and let the Trustees know.

There was a discussion on short term rentals in the Township and the discussion hiring outside legal to be able to go after zoning violations.

There was a question if the Township has received a report on the bed tax yet? The Township will look into it

Road Department: Mr. Young was not present at the meeting to give a report. Mr. Russell reported that the road crew worked hard during the snow event. They spent a lot of time at the Township and took naps here to be able to go aback onto the roads quickly. Mr. Mills said he received a call about a concern on Maple so he went and pushed the snow further back from the intersection of Maple and Austin. Mr. Russell also reported that Tod re-ditched Wheeler Creek.

Fiscal Officer: Mrs. Caya reported that 2021 has been closed and the Annual Certificate of Estimated resources was sent to the County for review. She also placed the ad in the paper that that annual finances are available for Public review. Mrs. Caya also reported that there was some confusion on the time Comp policy so to correct the confusion a new Comp Policy was presented with allowing up to 24 hours of comp time for an employee. Mr. Russell made a motion to approve the 2022 Comp Time Policy allowing up to 24 hours of Comp time to be earned by an employee. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Mr. Russell reported that he met with Mr. Peet over the cell tower issue. Mr. Peet believes he is owed \$131,000 for less an acre of land. The cell tower company and the Prosecutors office wants the Township to take the property by eminent domain but the Township would like to try and work out a resolution. There was a suggestion to talk to A. Louise Steel to see if they are interested in the property. Tim Mills said he would talk to them.

There was a discussion on the 2022 NOPEC Energized Community Event sponsorship. The Township received \$1,500 again this year. Mr. Russell made a motion to award Share A Christmas the \$1,500 sponsorship again this year. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Liquor permit that was received by Dollar General was reviewed. The trustees saw no reason to oppose the liquor permit.

Mr. Russell commented that the final guidance on the ARPA funds has come out. One of the allowable uses it to get up to 4% recap of loss revenue. You can also use it for wages. The Township has considered using some of it for the waterline extension but would have to use federal procurement guidelines. The Trustees and the Fiscal Officer will be reviewing the guidance and deciding the best use of the funds. David Thomas will be helping the Townships on navigating through the rules.

Committee: None.

Public Comment:

Owen Schroeder attended the meeting. He is a senior at Geneva High School and he discussed the scholarship he is applying for through the Township Association. He wants to be either an environmental engineer or marketing/communication major.

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 10:07 AM.

Motion made my Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Brown to reconvene from the Executive Session. Meeting reconvened at 10:25 AM

Mr. Russell made the motion and a second by Mr. Mills, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:26AM. All trustee voted yes.

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Fiscal Officer