

Geneva Township  
Special Meeting  
June 1, 2022

Chairman Mills called the special meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Those present were Mr. Mills, Mr. Brown, Fiscal Officer Caya. Citizens present were Fire Chief Shook Mr. Russell and Amanda Briggs de Lavini. There were also representatives from the Star Beacon and Gazette present at the meeting.

Mr. Brown began by stating he does not want to do this meeting without the opportunity to interview the candidates. Mr. Brown stated he was not aware of the previous meeting and was not given any notice. Mr. Mills stated that the special meeting to conduct the interviews was set at the last regular Township meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was also advertised in the newspaper, the Fiscal Officer emailed the meeting notice and it was posted on the Township's website. Mr. Mills also said that he tried to call Mr. Brown at the beginning of the meeting and he didn't answer. Mr. Brown stated he missed Tim's call, he doesn't get email and he doesn't check the Township's website. Mr. Brown also commented that he asked to meet privately about the candidates. Mr. Mills commented that Trustees cannot meet privately, it has to be done in a public meeting.

Mr. Brown stated it might have been his fault but when he was on City Council, a packet was delivered a week ahead of time. Mr. Mills commented that the Township has never done that.

Mr. Brown commented that this meeting is not a legal meeting and it hasn't been opened yet because there was no vote to open it. Mr. Mills commented that you do not need a vote to open a meeting. He already opened the meeting but will again call the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Mr. Mills read a letter stating that members of an interview committee interviewed with five candidates who had submitted letters of interest, and unanimously recommended Amanda Briggs de Lavini as the top choice, and Tiffany Miller as the second choice. Mr. Mills stated that he felt Amanda Briggs de Lavini brought a lot to the table, she was young, enthusiastic, smart and lives in the township.

Denny Brown again stated he was not at the meeting because he wasn't notified. Tim Mills asked Denny Brown since he wasn't at the meeting did he contact the candidates on his own to interview them. Mr. Brown stated he talk to a couple of them. He also stated he wants this issue investigated on why he wasn't notified of the meeting. Mr. Mills repeated that the meeting was set at the last regular Trustee meeting, it was emailed on 5/16/22, posted on Township website and in the paper and he tried to call him. Denny Brown commented that the Township needs Legal Counsel.

Mr. Russell commented that at the 5/11/2022 meeting the date for the interviews was discussed and decided to be May 25<sup>th</sup> and everyone was present at that meeting including Mr. Brown. It was also decided at that meeting to have another special meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> to appoint a Trustee. It is no one's fault but Mr. Browns that he wasn't there. In all his years of serving as a Trustee he has never seen a meeting like this and he is embarrassed. He commented to Mr. Brown that he is an appointed Trustee and he is responsible to be at the meeting. He suggested the Mr. Mills resign as Chair and let Mr. Brown run things so he can plan things going forward so he knows what is going on. The Trustees only have 30 days to appoint someone. He gave 60-day notice of his resignation so there is no reason there shouldn't be someone appointed in time.

Mr. Mills commented that someone needs to be appointed because checks need to signed and he doesn't want the Township to have any fines.

Mr. Brown commented he understands the frustration. He knows if him and Tim can't agree the people would make the decision. He is very upset and he is very upset over not having legal counsel, they can't operate like this.

Tim Mills reminded everyone that everyone needs to stay on topic of the agenda for the special meeting – appointing a trustee.

Denny Brown again stated he wants to hear from all the candidates and again stated he wants to meet with Tim Mills. Tim Mills suggested that Denny Brown pick a date on his own and meet with the candidates since the committee already met with them.

Tim Mills expressed his frustration with Denny Brown sitting back and going along for the ride. He also commented that he believes Mr. Brown missed the meeting deliberately because he only wants one person and he is pushing to have that person appointed, Duane Fehr.

Mr. Brown stated he believes Duane Feher is more qualified than any other candidate and he has known Duane ever since high school and knows his entire background and he is a Democrat. Mr. Brown doesn't believe any of the other candidates are qualified.

Mr. Brown stated again he wants it investigated why he missed the meeting.

Mr. Russell asked Mr. Brown did anything to prepare for the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting? He knew the purpose of the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was to appoint a Trustee.

Denny Brown commented that he will follow the Ohio Revised Code for the process.

Mr. Mills made a motion to appoint Amanda Briggs de Lavini to serve the remainder of open trustee term. There was no second so the motion dies on the table and was not able to go to a vote.

Mr. Russell again expressed his disgust. Geneva Township will be the laughing stock of the County. Mr. Mills suggested Mr. Brown speak to the five candidates before the regular meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mills made the motion and a second by Mr. Brown, there being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM. All trustee present voted yes.

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Fiscal Officer