

Geneva Township
Regular Meeting
June 8, 2022

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

The pledge of Alliance was recited.

Those present were Mr. Mills, Mr. Brown, Fiscal Officer Caya, Fire Chief Shook. Citizens present were Bill Douglas, Harold Smith, Robert Russell, Rusty Shafer, Ed Andrus, David Foote, Tiffany Miller, Duane Feher and Amanda Briggs de Lavini. Eric Hrin from the Gazette and Brian Haytcher from the Star Beacon were also present.

Mr. Brown made the motion and a second by Mr. Mills to approve minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting. Both trustees present voted aye.

Mr. Brown made the motion and a second by Mr. Mills. All trustees present voted yes to, approve bills for \$ 117,907.76 covered by e□payments E-77-2022 through 94-2022 and Warrants 22094-22144. Both trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comment:

Ed Andrus commented that he is very disappointed in the last special meeting and that there are still only 2 trustees and there shouldn't be. He stated he hopes the Trustees move forward quickly to fill the spot.

Mr. Russel commented that he is speechless about the action at the last meeting. He is embarrassed for the Township.

Harold Smith commented that as a Township resident he is appalled at Mr. Brown's actions and is disgusted about the last Trustee meeting. As a Firefighter he took an Oath and Mr. Brown also took an Oath as a Trustee and he believes Mr. Brown's actions are unacceptable. Mr. Smith also commented about a rumor that Mr. Brown and Mr. Feher met with the Judge and if that is true that should be investigated. Mr. Smith commented that this appointment should not be political, it should be the best person for the position. Harold Smith asked for Mr. Brown's resignation based on his recent actions and he chooses not to, something should be done to have him removed.

Denny Brown commented that he did not get a call about the last meeting and he didn't get the email because he doesn't have a working computer. He was at the meeting he was suppose to be at and it was an honest mistake.

Harold Smith commented that Mr. Brown was at the meeting when the special meeting date was set and he made the motion.

Denny Brown responded that after those conversations, he had it clear in his mind when the dates were. He wanted to meet with the candidates and he has. He believes they are all knowledgeable and likes them all and he would like all of them to move forward. He also commented that they have to follow the law of him and Mr. Mills cannot agree.

Tim Mills stated that one of the candidates call him and said Mr. Brown missed the interview that Mr. Brown set himself.

Harold Smith again asked for Mr. Browns resignation. He feels it is clear that Mr. Brown does not know what is going on and he is suppose to be representing the entire Township not just his political party.

Mr. Brown stated he is not going to resign. He feels he is representing everyone, Geneva Township, Geneva City and Geneva on the Lake and he thinks he is doing the right thing. He appreciated Harold's comments.

Tim Mills expressed his frustration about Mr. Brown repeatedly missing meetings, constantly saying he can't hear things going on at the meeting and he hasn't done a lot to help and just goes with the flow. He feels him and Mr. Russell have done all the work for the past 8 years.

Harold Smith again stated the Trustees should pick the best person for the job and not the best for the political party or their friend. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Brown is he took anyone else besides Mr. Feher to meet with the judge?

Denny Brown commented that he doesn't know if Mr. Feher went to the judge.

Mr. Feher commented that he doesn't know where Mr. Smith is getting his information but it is not true. He feels Mr. Smith is just feeding a rumor.

Rusty Shafer commented that he us disgusted with the last meeting and feels it was juvenile at best. It was not a good representation of the Township and how they conducted business in the past and he is speechless. Mr. Shafer stated he believes Mr. Mills needs to investigate having Mr. Brown removed from his seat. A decision needs to be made for the Township.

Tiffany Miller said she is a resident of the Township and a potential candidate and she is just at the meeting to see how things work.

Denny Brown commented that he did the best he can for the City and when he was a cop for 35 years. He has done his job and interviewed all the candidates. He talked to some in person and some on the phone. He also commented that he was told by Ton Long that Mr. Russell and Mr. Mills do the work and he can just sit back. He has voted with Tim and Bob

on most things because he thought it was the right thing. He thinks he only voted against them 2 times. He was elected by the residents of Geneva City, Geneva Township and Geneva on the Lake. He feels embarrassed. He also had his life threatened while on City Council by someone who is capable. Anyone who sits on the seats will have a problem.

Mr. Russell commented that Tim is right, that Denny has not done a lot over the years. He blames himself because he knew Denny was having issues so he didn't give him a lot to do because he wasn't sure it would get done. He stated the Trustees need to appoint someone. Tim Mills has his top three and the interview committee recommended a top 2. If Mr. Brown picks his top 3 and Tim picks his top 3 one candidate should overlap. He also stated he would be ashamed if this decision goes to the judge.

Tim Mills made a motion to appoint either Amanda Briggs de Lavini, Tiffany Miller or Tim Miller to the unexpired term. There was no second. Mr. Mills stated the motion dies to lack of second.

Denny Brown stated he wants all 5 candidates and he does not want any one eliminated. They all have certain qualities but no one has all the answers. Mr. Russell stated he feels Mr. Brown doesn't want to go out on a limb and wants it to go to the judge.

Tim Mills asked Denny Brown for his top pick. Denny Brown again stated he wants all 5 and he feels it is a problem some have been eliminated already.

Tim Mills again asked Denny Brown how he wants to pick, Denny Brown stated he doesn't want to pick one. Tim Mills expressed his frustration on the way Denny is representing the Township.

Duane Fehr stated at this time he wanted to recuse himself from consideration. He thanked Tim Mills for his honesty and had no ill feeling if he wasn't the one picked.

Denny Brown stated there are now four candidates and he again wants all of them considered.

Tim Mills asked Denny to make a motion. Mr. Brown did not make a motion.

Tim Mills made a motion to appoint Tiffany Miller to the unexpired Trustee term. There was no second. Mr. Mills commented that the motion dies due to lack of second.

Denny Brown stated there is a law to follow of the Trustees cannot get it done.

Dave Foote asked if Mr. Browns motive is to send it to the Common Please Judge? Denny Brown responded No. Mr. Foote commented that it is his job as a Trustee to get it done. The seat has to be filled and he needs to do the right things for the Township. Denny Brown stated the judge can still appoint anyone they want.

There was further discussion on the appointment and the process.

Denny Browns made a motion to appoint Tiffany Miller to the Trustee position. Mr. Mills seconded the motion. Roll call on passage, Mills – yes Brown - yes.

Fire: Chief Shook reported that there were 17 incidents this past month. Majority were vehicle accidents. Mr. Shook thanked Mr. Douglas for the helping get a boat donated for the Fire Department. It is a big asset to the department.

Zoning Report: Mr. Cerjan reported there were 5 permits issued this month, 2 agriculture. He was also dealing with a junk vehicle on Lake Road East and they have been working on cleaning it up. Phillip Schmidt filed for a variance for combining lots and then dividing them again. The Board of Zoning Appeals will have to meet. Mr. Douglas commented that he has heard a lot about following the law at this meeting and he hopes the Township follows the law on the short-term rentals. Mr. Cerjan commented the he feels he needs a good legal opinion so he knows how to proceed.

Tim Mills stated at the last meeting Mr. Brown was going to reach out to some attorneys. Mr. Brown stated he didn't have time because he was interviewing the candidates but he will this month.

Duane Fehr suggested that the Township advertise for an RFQ for legal services since they have been talking about finding legal services for the past few meetings.

There was also a suggested that the Township send a letter in opposition of Sarah Fowlers bill. Mr. Mills made a motion to send a letter in opposition to the sort-term term rental HB. Denny Brown seconded the motion. Both trustees voted yah,

Road Department: Mr. Young reported that there has been some local interest in the dump truck bed out back and suggested advertising it locally for a sealed bid. The 2007 is at Best Truck for a hydraulic replacement. They also 160 feet of 15" pipe on wheeler creek, a sink hole repair on New London Road and installed a storm line on Padanarum Road. They also had to get a counter 600-pound counter weight for the new mower. Ron Cerjan commented that he did receive a complaint about the State doing the chip and seal on Route 534.

Tim Mills commented that there were 3 bids received for the Chip and Seal: Russell Standard for 3.85 per gallon, Geauga Highway \$3.63 per gallon and Frank Martuccio for \$2.56 per gallon. Mr. Mills made a motion to approve the bid of Frank Martuccio Asphalt at \$2.56 per gallon. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Both trustees voted yes and motion passes unanimously. There was commented not to move forward with Chip and Seal until after July 4th.

Fiscal Officer: Mrs. Caya reported that tax budget is due by July 23 so she will have a draft prepared by the July meeting.

New Business: None

Committee: Tammy Caya reported that she attended the NAD meeting. They are keeping an eye on their supplies because the list is growing of items that are being limits. So far, they are not having issues but they are watching it closely.

Next meeting the Trustees will have to look at committee appointments.

Public Comment: Mr. Shook stated that as of July 1st the firework law has changed. The City's attorney is currently reviewing it.

Mr. Brown made the motion and a second by Mr. Mills, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 AM. All trustee voted yes.

Fiscal Officer