

Geneva Township
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2026

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

The pledge of Alliance was recited.

Roll Call: Mr. Mills, Mrs. Miller and Mr. McGrath were present.

Others present were Fiscal Officer Caya, Fire Chief Arkenburg, Asst. Chief Parks, Steve Gala, Bill Douglas, Tony Vaccariello, Bill Sturm, Eric Hrin and Savannah Workman.

Mr. McGrath made the motion and seconded by Mrs. Miller to approve minutes from the March 11, 2026 meeting. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Mrs. Miller made the motion and a second by Mr. McGrath to approve bills for \$66,670.40 covered by E- payments E 76-2026 through 112-2026 and Warrants 23615 through 23637. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed

Public Comment:

Bill Sturm - property owner at 4435 North Broadway is requesting ditch maintenance at his property. _The ditch between his property and the state property (north of his) has not been adequately maintained. Water is not draining properly, affecting trees planted. He also requests to put the ditch on a cleaning schedule, including the laterals under the highway. Jim Burhenne did some work on it 8-9 years ago, and a skim was done more recently._The township acknowledges the issue and will add the ditch to the list for cleaning this year, from 534 all the way through. They will also request to have city jet lines clean out underneath the road.

The speaker commented that he was mistakenly made as an alternate on the zoning commission that he has been on for several years. Tim Mills commented that was his fault and that he misunderstood his availability. Bill Sturm wanted to be removed from the board completely saying he was not going to be delegated to the second string after being one of the prime players for the last 30 years." The website only lists phone numbers for the alternates, not the main zoning commission members. Tammy Caya commented that most of the members are new and she is still working on getting contact information.

Bill Sturm also asked a question about the Fire Levy that just passed and why the Fire Department does not charge the people insurance for their services. Chief Arkenburg responded he is looking into the issue and has a meeting set up with a billing company to get some information. There are complexities involved in implementing a billing system for fire services, but it is being explored. An offer is extended to the resident to discuss the fire department's operations and budget in detail.

The Trustees explained that the fire levies are split into two parts, making it appear as though the Township is constantly asking for more money. The reason they have two levies and if one fails, they still have a backup.

There was a discussion about a past agreement between the city and township regarding equipment ownership in case of separation from the City of Geneva.

Mr. Sturm also expresses concern about rising property taxes, even if the millage rate remains the same. Township officials clarify that property valuations are determined by the county, not the township.

Tim Mills stated that Township also uses the Fire funds to pay for fire hydrants

Tim Mills also commented on the Road Levy that is coming up. The road department has cut back on expenses by doing a lot more work in house. They restored a 94 or 95 motor in-house, saving money. They have a mechanical person who rebuilds stuff rather than buying new, and they try to keep equipment looking good to get more money for it at auction.

Bill Sturm expressed concerns about the Township only having meetings in the morning. Tim Mills commented they used to have meetings 6 months in the morning and 6 months at night, but more people showed up during the day. People are only going to show up when they have an issue. Bill Sturm commented that he believes that people who work days cannot attend meetings in daylight hours.

There was a question about whether residents can extend their driveway themselves. Tim Mills responded yes, but it needs to be inspected. The township can install the pipe for free if the resident buys it and will also provide a load of stone.

Bill Douglass commented that last month he asked who the trustee is that oversee the zoning department and nobody was in charge of it. The Trustees will have someone work directly with zoning.

Bill Douglass also expressed confusion regarding the approval of a site plan for new buildings. The site plan with 3 new buildings was presented but not approved by the BZA. The plan has not been reviewed by Ron or the fire department and has drainage issues. The site plan review should go to the planning commission. Stormwater drainage is a concern with the proposed development. An 18-inch line may not be sufficient for that number buildings.

He also expressed concerns about the lack of communication regarding meeting schedules and advertising. A board meeting was scheduled for next week without proper notification or advertisement. Dave McGrath stated he will make sure that meeting is canceled until it can properly be advertised.

Mr. Sturm expressed dislike of the Townships website. He had difficulty navigating the website to find meeting minutes. The website's organization is confusing.

Fire:

Chief Arkenburg provided an update on the Fire Department.

- Engine 314 is having front-end issues.
- Hydrant maintenance in both city and township will be starting within the next two weeks and will occur spring and fall.
- New software program rollout is in progress.
- Four inspectors are completing class and will undergo internal training. Inspections started back up about three weeks ago on a broader scale.
- ISO rating is important for both residential and commercial properties.
- Emergency vehicle operations (EVOC) training starts tomorrow night.
- Addressing potential billing for services.
- Attended the Ohio Fire Chiefs conference in Columbus to discuss the property tax issue.
- The Fire Levy up this year, planning to educate the committee and hold meetings for residents to ask questions. Will be attending PR events this summer, including community days, water battles, and school fests.
- Asst Chief Parks will be attending most day-to-day meetings.
- Problem at County Line in Maple with the Amish clearing property under power lines. Open burning concerns: fires left burning, spreading, or causing concern. They addressed the issue swiftly.
- Free smoke detectors available on a limited basis. They will provide the Township information to put on their Facebook page. The Trustees asked for a monthly report showing the incidents in Geneva Township as previously provided.

Zoning Report:

Ron Cerjan was not in attendance but provided a zoning report. He had several requests referencing the zoning map on our website and not being able to read. AT&T requested a permit to do work on a tower NW area of our township. The parcel number given to me was not in our jurisdiction, it was in GOTL. There was a business license request for a retail store at 4288 N. Broadway, just N. of New London Rd. The retail store would consist of camping supplies, knickknacks, miscellaneous supplies, etc. There was a permit request for a wall sign for a business at the corner of Rt.20 and Martha Ave. There was a Permit request for a fence on the property of the old Spencer School property. He also spoke with James Miller reference construction people dumping debris on property east of Myers Rd. On the south side of Rt.20

Road Department:

Savannah Workman reported they have been working on ditching and shoulder work. There are some sink holes on New London that will need dug out and filled similar to Walter Main. They have also been doing equipment maintenance, loader painted and vehicle servicing. Mowing season approaching so they're getting everything ready. Tim Mills reported that he is working on a plan for the paving Tuttle Road, which has been in poor condition for 18-20 years. Funding will come from Solid Waste, Waste Management and the Township. The Township will cover the base repairs and ditching costs.

He also reported we are still having issues with the placement of recycling bins. The hauler (Sunburst) is placing the bins too close together, making it difficult for residents to use them. Tim Mills stated if they can't get it corrected, he is going to pull them and we won't do the recycling. We also have a lot of debris and mess around the bins which are a constant problem.

Tim Mills gave an update on the Austin Road Paving Project. Geneva on the Lake is interested in partnering to pave their end of Austin Road. The engineer's estimate was \$105,000-\$110,000 per mile, but the actual cost is expected to be higher.

The Township is applying with OPWC to reconstruct Walter Rain Road from Harpersfield line to Route 20. It will be a two-year phase: ditching and drains in the first year, paving and site restoration in the spring of 2028. The County Engineer is doing the estimate.

Fiscal Officer:

Mrs. Caya went over the March month end financials. She reported the first half property tax and levy settlements were received March 31st. The March fire contract payment made. She commented that she prepared the first of the required two resolutions for the Fire and Road Levies.

There was a discussion about the Townships NOPEC donation of \$1500 for a community event and who the Township would like to sponsor this year. The options discussed were Geneva on the Lake fireworks, City of Geneva movies or back-to-school event. Tammy Caya commented she contacted the city and they are not doing movies this year. Tiffany Miller commented that she would like to have a "Pet the Truck" event at the township and have Fire trucks, Road Department vehicles, ambulance and, sheriff involvement. They can potentially have giveaways, food, bounce house.

Tiffany Miller made a motion to allocate NOPEC funds: as follows: \$500 for fireworks (through the visitor's bureau), \$500 for "Pet the Truck" event and \$500 for back-to-school event. Dave McGrath seconded the motion. Roll Call, all trustees present voted yes. Motion passed.

Old Business: None.

New business:

Resolution 2026-05– RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY (First) Resolution requesting certification from county auditor Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §5705.03– Fire Levy. Mrs. Miller made the motion and a second by Mr. McGrath to approve Resolution 2026-05. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 2026-06– RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY (First) Resolution requesting certification from county auditor Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §5705.03– Road and Bridge Levy. Mrs. Miller made the motion and a second by Mr. McGrath to approve Resolution 2026-05. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

NAD is doing well, but had a slower month this last month.

They would like to update the website with a yearly update and pictures of projects. Add information about the Imagination Library, a free program for residents from birth to age 5 where they can get a free book every month.

Short Term Rentals: Still working with the County on the short-term rental list The County forms don't include the Township yet.

Trash Day: May 2nd, 8 AM to noon at Waste Management landfill. Residents need to have a utility bill or ID that says their township residents.

Tire Amnesty Day: May 9th at the fairgrounds, up to four tires for free (no fancy tires).

Zoning: Still working on zoning and the redlining process.

Dave McGrath gave an update on the yearly District Advisory Council Meeting. The county took over the plumbing department from the health department. The health department asked for a \$2.25 increase per residence, but the trustees gave them a 5% increase (60 cents a resident). The \$0.60 increase will come out of the general item for next year. He commented that he was voted as vice president again.

Public Comment:

There was a discussion about Tire Amnesty Day and a suggestion to do it locally and haul the tires to the county. The Geneva CIC used to hold the program, but it was very costly (over \$20,000). Suggestion to run a survey to see how many people in the township actually take the tires out to the county. Concern about local businesses bringing tires in and disposing of them for cheaper.

Upcoming Meetings

- May 13th, June 10, July 8, all at 9: AM.

Mr. McGrath made the motion and a second by Mrs. Miller, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:07AM. All trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Recorded and documented by Tammy Caya, Fiscal Officer