

Geneva Township
Regular Meeting
February 11, 2026

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

The pledge of Alliance was recited.

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

Others present were Fiscal Officer Caya, Asst Fire Chief Parks, Steve Gala, Bill Douglas, Phil & Cathie Schmidt, Tony Vaccariello, Drew Raymond, Bob Russell, Bob Rosebrugh, Tom Newman, Savannah Workman and Joe Lonardo.

Mrs. Miller made the motion and seconded by Mr. McGrath to approve minutes from the December 10, 2025 meeting. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Mrs. Miller made the motion and a second by Mr. McGrath to approve bills for \$95,535.14 covered by E- payments E 1-2026 through 41-2026 and Warrants 23550 through 23587. High costs attributed to salt purchases, insurance, and fire contract payment to the city Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Public Comment - Cathy and Phil Schmidt spoke on behalf of the Platt R. Spencer Historical Society. They would like to put up street signs related to Spencer, coinciding with the 250th anniversary. The society has requested designs from Michael Saul, a master penman, and a writing class at the Geneva Library. The society is asking if this project can be part of the Township's 250th-anniversary plans. Tim Mills asked them to sample designs and the Township will get quotes on signs. They will provide artwork to Savannah to get a cost estimate. There was a suggestion to have Conrad signs to give a quote. There are concerns about state highways requiring permission for sign placement on the state routes but Tim will look into it. Tim Martin is easy to work with for the County. The historical society wants something that looks like bronze or stone. The township can install the signs.

A resident inquired about why the January meeting was canceled. Tim Mills stated it was because the meeting room floor and wall repair was being done and it wasn't going to be done in time.

Fire:

Assistant Chief Parks provided a report stating there were 13 incidents, MVAs., odors, wires down, CO, one false alarm and an overloaded extension cord. There have been zero accidents at 534 and Maple.

Zoning Report:

Ron Cerjan reported there were 2 permits issued for February with 3 or 4 still pending. Samantha Reed from Wheeler Creek Grill wants to develop 15-16 acres into an agricultural setting.

Growing flowers, creating a bird sanctuary, growing fruits, and having a shop to sell produce. Plans include a hiking trail for educational purposes.

Joshua Young bought multiple lots on Maple and Weaver Creek and combined them. He has been logging the land and wants to grow trees for future harvesting. His issues are the auditor's website lists the property as residential, even though it's used for agriculture. He was advised to contact the planning commission and auditor's office to change the zoning designation. Numerous requests have been received for zoning violations, building permits, and occupancy permits, including for Little Arms. Work is being done on the cell tower in 534. Only equipment is being changed, with no expansion or new construction, so no permits are required.

There was a discussion on the Conditional Use Concerns. Bob Russell stated he wrote a letter was sent to Tiffany and Tim regarding conditional use in areas that don't allow it. The Township lawyer responded, stating they have to go through the proper channels. Bob Russell requested a copy of the Attorney's response. There may be a zoning appeals hearing in February or March. The zoning board is not set yet. There was a comment made that no real plans have been received.

Road Department:

Savannah Workman reported they have been very busy plowing. The township ordered its full year's allotment of salt (880 tons) early and has it stored in the new salt bin. Plow blades and carbide blades have been acquired.

Tim Mills reported that four units participated in the Winterfest parade. The road department did an excellent job with winter maintenance. They painted the room, fixed the wall and drains, and built the awning. They saved money by fabricating the awning in-house. The new zoning maps were mounted by the Roads Department. The road crew can handle various tasks, reducing the need to outsource.

Fiscal Officer:

Mrs. Caya went over the January month end financials. Mrs. Caya reported that the year-end has been closed and reports have been sent to the Auditor of State. We are currently waiting for them to schedule the audit. The year-end certificate has been sent to the county for approval.

Old Business: None.

New business:

Resolution 2026-01– A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2026 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT Mrs. Miller made the motion and a second by Mr. McGrath to approve Resolution 2026-01 Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 2026-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COLLECTION OF TRANSIENT LODGING TAX. Mrs. Miller

made the motion and a second by Mr. McGrath to approve Resolution 2026-02. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed. The County will do the collection for Geneva Township and keep 1% of the 3% collected.

Resolution 2026-03 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GENEVA TOWNSHIP TO GRANT AND CONVEY TO THE VILLAGE OF GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE AN IRREVOCABLE AND PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT FOR A MINIMUM TERM OF FIFTEEN (15) YEARS FOR PARCEL NO 21-030-00-024-00

Mr. McGrath made the motion and a second by Mrs. Miller to approve Resolution 2026-03. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed. Tim Mills commented that Geneva on the Lake has asked Geneva Township to help with some funding for Township Park Funding Request. The Village at Geneva on the Lake asked for money towards their grant match. Tim Mills expressed concerns about contributing money when the Township has a road and bridge levy and fire levy coming up. They do not want to give money away for a project when they are asking for renewals of taxes. The Village at Geneva on Lake wants around \$50,000.

Committee Reports:

Tiffany Miller gave an update on Wood and Lamping and the Zoning Update. She stated the consultant has been out from a surgery and was out before her father was sick and passed.

Tiffany Miller stated she thinks the Township should start looking at other consultants to finish the zoning update. thinks they need to start looking at other options. There was a suggestion to get a quote from CT Consultants since they did the comprehensive plan. CT consultants are familiar with the area.

The Trustees talked about the upcoming Levies and recommends starting another committee for the fire levy. The first time they can put both of those on is in November's election. Legislation needs to be started soon. It is due 90 days before the election. The levies are not an increase and they need a group to help spread the word and awareness that it is not an increase.

Tiffany Miller asked for a list of all the roads in the township for the road and bridges levy. She would like to know when the roads were chipped and sealed, hot paved, or coal paved. This will help them visually see what a road needs to be redone and have a record of when the roads were last worked on.

Tim Mills have a report on the upcoming Road Projects he is working on. He has asked the county engineer to engineer Austin Road for a repave with a 2-inch overlay. The speaker had them do an alternate all the way down to Lake Road. The speaker is getting Geneva on the Lake engineered also.

Tim Mills has also started the OPWC process with the county engineer for Walter Main Road. This will be for a total reconstruction of Walter Main Road. The earliest they could do anything would be July of 2027. The county engineer recommends doing it over a two-year period (2027 and 2028) to get more points. They would do the construction drains in 2027 and then pave in 2028. They can get more points on their point scale for OPWC if they take a zero-interest loan. The county engineer is going to check his culverts to see if he has any there. If the county has

anything over a 36-inch culvert, it is up to them. Anything under that is the township's responsibility to replace.

Tuttle Road is the third project. It is falling apart and it was paved 16 or 17 years ago. Austin Road was paved 24 years ago. The road has held up nicely considering the weight of the trucks that use it daily.

Chip and seal have been overused on some roads, leading to tar buildup and slick spots. Padanarum Road is an example of this issue.

It was also reported that Geneva Township is working with the city and Harpersfield on a transportation safety grant. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

Tiffany Miler reported Northwest Ambulance's average response time for the township is 9.4 minutes. There were 50 calls in the township last month, compared to 44 in the same month of 2025. Total calls for the area last month were 349. Mutual aid was provided to Geneva Lake and Madison. The speaker said, "Those are in nine minutes. It's pretty darn good response time for a township."

The Geneva Area Chamber Spring dinner is on March 16th for anyone who wants to attend.

The Township Trustees suggested the following Zoning Appointments

Dave McGrath made a motion, seconded by Tiffany Miller to appoint the following Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments. Roll Call on motion, all three trustees voted yes.

- Valerie Leach – appointed Zoning Board of Appeals for a five-year term.
- Debbie Caranci - appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a four-year term.
- Bill Douglas - appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term.
- Ed Andrus - appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a two-year term.
- Ken Wu – appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term.
- Paul Leider and Phil Schmidt were appointed as alternates.

Dave McGrath made a motion, seconded by Tiffany Miller to appoint the following Zoning Board Appointments. Roll Call on motion, all three trustees voted yes.

Zoning Board Appointments

- Denny Crawford - appointed to the Zoning Board for a five-year term.
- Rick Pruden - appointed to the Zoning Board for a four-year term.
- Jeremiah Smith - appointed to the Zoning Board for a three-year term.
- Kyle Mack - appointed to the Zoning Board for a two-year term.
- Ann Herman - appointed to the Zoning Board for a one-year term.
- Bill Sturm and Leroy Caranci were appointed as alternates.

Public Comments

Joe Leonardo, a commercial real estate developer from Cleveland, is working on a property under contract between Geneva Township and Saybrook Township. The property is currently zoned for commercial and residential use. He is in the early stages of due diligence to determine the feasibility of development. The property is located on North Bend, between New London North Myer's and Nineveh Roads. Part of the property may be zoned R1, residential.

Andrew Raymond stated he is glad to see progress on grants, road plans, and the zoning board. He also inquired about the comp plan and its use for road improvement. He emphasizes the importance of following the comp plan and not leave it sitting on a shelf.

There was a discussion about House Bill 109 and Senate Bill 104 and their potential impact. The state might control the regulations completely if the local government doesn't act. It's better to have a local plan in place, even if state law will need to be followed.

There was a discussion about Hearthside Grove Agreement with Geneva on the Lake. Tim Mills said there is an agreement with Hearthside Grove, involving a percentage of their income tax. Hearthside Grove's project is 1.3 million with a 1-million-dollar grant.

There was a comment made by a resident that the sheriff's department has limited manpower, especially considering that Ashtabula County is the largest in Ohio. Noise complaints and speeding are low priorities for the sheriff's department due to limited deputies. Having additional law enforcement presence would be an advantage.

There was a comment made that an officer would accompany individuals checking zoning issues.

Mr. McGrath commented that the proposed Agreement with Sheriff would bill the township directly for the service. The sheriff already provides a good presence in Geneva Township despite limited manpower. A formal agreement could be drafted for review at the next meeting to get his asset. The increased presence would be beneficial during the summer tourist season. Summer Law Enforcement. The focus is on summer months due to increased tourism. A summer-only agreement could save money during the winter months. Increased law enforcement presence will be needed if tourism continues to grow.

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

Recorded and documented by Tammy Caya, Fiscal Officer