

Geneva Township
Regular Meeting
March 11, 2026

Chairman Mills called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Shook, Steve Gala, Bill Douglas, Tony Vaccariello, Drew Raymond, Bob Russell, Bob Rosebrugh, Eric Hrin and Savannah Workman.

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

Mr. McGrath made the motion and a second by Mrs. Miller to approve bills for \$78,063.12 covered by E- payments E 42-2026 through 75-2026 and Warrants 23588 through 23614. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed

Public Comment:

Bill Douglas asked the Trustees what the plan is with the new BZA. There are 5 new members and they don't know what to do. He asked if the board will get something printed for the meetings so they have the items to review before the meetings? He suggested having commented from the Fire, Road and Zoning department included in their packets, consideration of creating an expectations sheet or job description for the boards. He also commented that there is a proper swearing-in procedure that can be downloaded online under BZA guidelines. Some other suggestions were

- Packets should be received ahead of time (3-4 days).
- Board members should visit the properties in question.
- The application and director's report should be included in the packet.
- A calendar with cutoff dates is needed.
- Need recommendation from the road department on road locations

Bill Douglas also commented that the Trustees requested a legal opinion on this issue and it was never present to the BZA Board.

Drew Raymond commented that the Chamber is having their dinner on Monday and the Chinese Auction in April. On Saturday GOTL will be having their St. Patrick Day events and there is the grand re-opening for Earth's Natural Treasurer.

Fire:

Chief Shook provided a report stating there were 18 incidents. Five odor complaints for hazmat release with no hazmat. Many calls were due to gas odors as the snow was melting. The odors seemed to be from rotting vegetation after the winter and heavy snow. There were also four motor vehicle accidents and two fires. The one fire involved a backhoe catching fire at the

landfill and the other was due to a gas line leak. An extrication was performed to remove a large individual from a trailer with a hoarding situation; the individual died a couple of days later. The department responded to calls in Madison (7), Harpersfield (3), and Trumbull (1). Mutual aid calls from Madison were often canceled before arrival.

Trustees Mills presented a Fire Hydrant Plaque to recognize Chief Shook's service to Geneva Township as he is retiring and thanked him for his many years of service to Geneva Township

Zoning Report:

Ron Cerjan reported it has been a busy month with 4 permits issued and 2 pending. He also reported that the conditional use permit was approved by the BZA. A demo on Wheeler Creek House was referred to the county. An issue arose with an Airbnb on Austin Road where storage sheds were converted into rental units with bathroom facilities without proper permits or inspections. The owner was asked to cease operations or face involvement from the county and health board. The sheds did not meet the 1100 square feet of residential living area required. A permit was given on New London Road for a bull barn conversion into a residential area, pending county permits and inspections. A complaint was received about sewage in the basement of a property on Maple Avenue. No sewage was found, only water leaks. The resident was asked to clean up the property and address debris.

Road Department:

Savannah Workman reported they have been ditching and picking up trash on the nice days. There are a couple sink holes on New London that is dipping down. They will be looking at those to see what is going on. She also reported that they fixed the end of Wheeler Creek Road. They were able to dig it out and stone it. They have everything ready for mowing.

Tim Mills commented that he is having the County Engineer engineering Austin Road and will be applying for Issue I. He also commented that Tuttle Road is getting very bad. He will be approaching the Landfill and see if they are willing to contribute to the cost. He is also planning on asking the Solid Waste District to contribute. The quote is about \$50,000. The Township will not be doing any Chip and Seal this year to save the money to pave Austin. The last time Austin was paved in 2000.

Fiscal Officer:

Mrs. Caya went over the February month end financials. Mrs. Caya reported she has just completed the 2024 & 2025 audit. It was a clean audit with just a suggestion to have someone else sign the Road Superintendent time card. The audit will be available to the public once the Auditor of State issues the final report on their website. Mrs. Caya reported the Fire Fund is low, with only \$13,000 remaining. There is not enough money to pay March's Fire Contract bill until property tax settlement arrives. There are two levies, fire and road, are coming up for renewal. She will prepare the Resolutions for the levies for the next meeting.

There was a question asked if the Geneva Township Trustees are following the property tax levy issues? The Trustees responding, they believe people want lower school taxes and that school taxes are "really killing us." Townships' only source of funding is a concern, making everyone nervous about potential changes.

Annexation is being discussed, with potential changes to annexation laws to make it easier for surrounding entities to absorb townships. Townships banding together to create larger areas is another possibility.

Old Business:

There was a discussion on the Sheriff proposal that was presented at the last meeting. There is no contract and the Trustees can stop the services at any time if they chose. The Sheriff will provide 8 hour shifts for \$40.00 an hour. Dave McGrath made a motion to move forward with the proposal to hire the Ashtabula County Sheriff Department for \$40 per hour not to exceed a total of \$9,600.00. Tiffany Miller seconded the motion. Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

New business:

Resolution 2026-04– A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS
Mrs. Miller made the motion and a second by Mr. McGrath to approve Resolution 2026-04 Roll Call, all trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Tim Mills presented a letter the Trustees received from Ashtabula County Transportation (ACTS) asking for a donation to offset costs. Dave McGrath commented that they provide very good services to our community. The system provides transportation throughout the county. In 2025, the system provided 2,454 trips to and from Geneva Township. Their funding comes from ODOT, Job and Family Services, and county commissioners, with other entities also contributing. Tiffany Miller made a motion to donate a \$1,000 to Ashtabula County Transportation Service. Tim Mills seconded the motion. Roll Call on passage, Mills – yes, Miller – Yes McGrath abstain. The motion passed.

Andrew Raymond asked if Geneva Township is in the loop on the Water Shed meetings that are being held. Tiffany Miller stated she was at the last meeting.

Public Comment:

Bill Douglass asked of the Township Trustees have been involved with any talks about the property tax issue. Bill Douglass also asked if there are any updates on the Water Tower project. Tim Mills commented that it is a county project and they have already started some ground work. There was a comment that the County Commissioners have already awarded the contract. Bill Douglas asked if there is any update on the zoning re-write? Tiffany Miller commented that is no update. The trustees will be working on sending an official letter ending the work with the current company they have been using and will be looking at hiring someone else.

Mr. McGrath made the motion and a second by Mrs. Miller, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM. All trustees voted yes. Motion passed.

Recorded and documented by Tammy Caya, Fiscal Officer