

Genoa Township Fire/Rescue/EMS Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

May 2, 2023 – Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Vice Chair, Chris Chesson.
 - a. Attendance was recorded – Committee members present in person were Fred Johnson, John McHale, Mary Fehskens, Chris Chesson, Chelsea Fuller, Jeff Gale, Reid Caryer, Frank Michell, Tracy Damschroder, Tom Munley, Tammy Sroufe, George Schultz, and Joe Ponzi (Fire Chief).

Absent were Mark Antonetz, and Duane Knauer.

The guest attending the meeting in person was Paul Keene.

There were no virtual attendees.

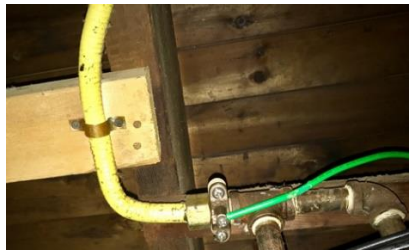
- b. Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from April 4, 2023, by George Schultz. Fred Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Update from Chief Ponzi.

- a. Run Stats Review.

- i. Reviewed data for April 2023.
 - ii. There were no structure fires in Genoa Township in April.
 - iii. A number of service calls were to assist homeowners with their smoke detectors.
 - iv. Discussed fires that have been caused by rechargeable lithium batteries in other jurisdictions including Westerville where 2-fires were recently experienced due to lithium batteries used in toys (RC cars, scooters, etc.). Chief Ponzi provided a link to access an article about the number of fires experienced in New York City due to “lithium batteries - [Exploding batteries ignite urgent challenge for firefighters \(ny1.com\)](#).

- v. Discussed potential fire hazards due to lightning strikes that are experienced in the Genoa Township area during storm seasons. There have been ~ 25 house fires due to failure of appliance natural gas “flex lines” during a lightning strike. Chief Ponzi recommended that homeowners with the flex, corrugated, yellow, natural gas connection lines (i.e., CSST) to their gas fired appliances be grounded/bonded to provide a path to ground for any stray current that can be result from a lightning strike during a storm. The yellow connectors meet code but do pose a potential fire hazard during a lightning storm if not properly grounded. Following is a photo that shows grounding of one of these natural gas yellow connectors:



- b. Grant Applications (ARP, AFG, SAFER).
 - i. No responses yet for the grant applications except for the AFG submittal. Additional information was requested about how the vehicle exhaust system would be vented outside of the building.
- c. New Ladder Truck.
 - i. Lead time is 20-24 months after being ordered in September 2022. Anticipating that production will start within the next 6 months. Fire and EMS vehicles are experiencing long delivery times. For example, the medic that GTFD ordered in September 2020 has not started production. Delay in getting the custom F550 chassis for the vehicle is a major hold-up.
 - ii. GTFD will have an opportunity to inspect the chassis when it is available. The date for that inspection has not yet been established.

- d. Big Walnut Roundabouts.
 - i. Specs for the new ladder truck were provided to the architect for the planned roundabouts. Their analysis indicated that the truck will be able to navigate the roundabouts while staying on the roadway/pavement.
 - ii. Chief Ponzi has raised concerns about delayed response times to the east side of the Township during construction of the roundabouts when Big Walnut Rd is expected to be closed for thru traffic for 2-3 months or more for each roundabout (assuming they are not done at the same time) depending on the construction schedule. During the shut-down for through traffic may need to rely on GTFD mutual aid partners for Fire & EMS emergency runs.
- e. Eastside Station Project.
 - i. No update at this time.

3. Comments/ Questions from Committee.

- a. Upgrades are in progress on the GTFD webpage.
- b. Discussed creating a one-page flyer for smoke detectors.
- c. A question was raised about the merits of conducting a Fire/EMS survey of Genoa Township residents as well as with GTFD staff. A Genoa Township survey primarily focused on planning and zoning was conducted by a third-party contractor in 2015.

4. Announcements.

- a. Next Meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2023 (7/11, 9/5, 10/3, 11/7).
- b. Optional tour of the Fire Station following the 5/2 meeting.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.