

# Genoa Township Fire/Rescue/EMS Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

April 4, 2023 – Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by John McHale
  - a. Attendance was recorded – Committee members present in person were Duane Knauer, Fred Johnson, John McHale, Mary Fehskens, Chris Chesson, Chelsea Fuller, Jeff Gale, Reid Caryer, Frank Michell, and Joe Ponzi (Fire Chief).

Absent were Mark Antonetz, Tracy Damschroder, Tom Munley, George Schultz, and Tammy Sroufe.

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 March 7, 2023, by Duane Knauer. Chris Chesson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Update from John McHale, Chair.

- a. Election of Committee Officers for 2023-2024.
  - i. John McHale, Current Chair, volunteered to stay in position as Chairperson. There were no other volunteers or nominations for Chair.
  - ii. Chris Chesson volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. There were no other volunteers or nominations for Vice Chair.
  - iii. Frank Michell, Current Secretary, volunteered to stay in position as Secretary. There were no other volunteers or nominations for Secretary.
  - iv. The Committee members voted unanimously to accept John, Chris and Frank for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively, for 2023-2024.

- b. Review remaining 2023 Meeting Dates & Virtual Attendance Rules.
  - i. Committee meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month. Due to conflicts the July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was changed to July 11<sup>th</sup>, the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was cancelled (National Night Out), and the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled (GTFD Toy Drive).
  - ii. The meeting schedule is included on the Genoa Township website ([https://www.genoatwp.com/departments/fire\\_and\\_ems/fire\\_rescue\\_ems\\_advisory\\_committee.php](https://www.genoatwp.com/departments/fire_and_ems/fire_rescue_ems_advisory_committee.php)) and the meetings are open to the public. There are times when a meeting is cancelled if there is no business to discuss (notice is provided in advance for the Committee members and also noted on the GT website).
  - iii. Attendance in person is preferred. Provisions are provided for Committee members to attend virtually. Experience has been that virtual attendees typically have some difficulty following the discussions during the meetings.
- c. 2023 Projects.
  - i. Provided a brief overview of status of the new ladder truck currently on order (9/2022) with Sutphen ([Fire Truck Manufacturers | Custom Fire Apparatus | Sutphen](#)). Delivery / lead time for the \$1.6M truck is 20-24 months.
  - ii. Provided details of the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) and ARP (American Rescue Plan) grants that GTFD applied for.
  - iii. Eastside Study. Initiated discussions for an option to construct a second fire station on the east side of Hoover Reservoir to improve run times to those portions of Genoa Township in that area.
  - iv. Details for the ladder truck, SAFER & ARP Grants, and the east side study are included in previous Committee meeting minutes which are available on the Genoa Township website ([https://www.genoatwp.com/departments/fire\\_and\\_ems/meeting\\_minutes\\_and\\_audio.php](https://www.genoatwp.com/departments/fire_and_ems/meeting_minutes_and_audio.php)).

### 3. Update from Chief Ponzi.

#### a. Run Stats review.

- i. Reviewed data for March 2023.
- ii. Chief Ponzi explained each of the categories included in the report.

#### b. Big Walnut Roundabouts - Impact on GTFD.

- i. Plans are being developed by Delaware County to install two (2) roundabouts on Big Walnut Road; one at the intersection of Old 3C Highway and the other at the Tussic Street intersection ([Big Walnut, Old 3C and Tussic Street - Engineer \(delaware.oh.us\)](#)) to improve traffic flow and to reduce accidents that have been experienced at these intersections.
  1. Anticipating the construction expected in late 2024 into 2025 will take 2-3 months during which road closure(s) will pose a problem/concern for increasing response/run times for first responders to get to locations in several areas of Genoa Township.
  2. Also, whether there could be a problem with the rear wheels of the heavy GTFD ladder truck running over the aprons of the roundabouts potentially causing accelerated degradation/damage to the roundabout concrete and excess suspension/tire wear for the ladder truck.
  3. Chief Ponzi is having discussions with the Delaware County Engineers Office and with the Genoa Township trustees about these concerns.

#### c. Eastside Study Progress.

- i. Chief Ponzi has met with each of the Genoa Township Trustees to discuss response times and to recommend conducting a study by a specialty contractor to do an independent analysis / review of whether an additional fire station is needed to serve all of Genoa Township with adequate "run times".
- ii. The new station could be constructed on land (~4-acres) that Genoa Township currently owns on the east side of Hoover.
- iii. Will be commissioning a study by a specialty company to evaluate options for improving run times which are as long as

12-minutes on portions of Genoa Township on the east side of Hoover versus the National Standard of 4-6 minutes which will include whether a new fire station on the township owned land is the best option.

- iv. Finding options to finance the new fire station including grants, bonds, loans, etc. will be explored if recommended by the study once a good estimate of the cost for a new fire station is determined.

4. Comments/Questions from committee.

- a. A question was raised about what level of communication and advocacy members of the Genoa Township Fire/Rescue/EMS Citizen Advisory Committee can have with GT residents. It was explained that the committee members are a “sounding board” for the Fire Department and can provide information to the residents on fire and EMS related items but cannot “lobby” on behalf of the Committee / GTFD on items like recommending a levy vote, etc.
- b. Chief Ponzi will ask for a representative from Genoa Township to attend a future committee meeting to explain further.

5. Announcements.

- a. Next Meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2023 (6/6, 7/11, 9/5, 10/3, 11/7).
- b. Vice Chair, Chris Chesson, will be chairing the June 6<sup>th</sup> & July 11<sup>th</sup> meetings.
- c. Optional tour of the Fire Station after the 5/2 meeting, time permitting.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.