

January 9, 2020

TO: Sims Township Residents

FR: Bob Mackie, Township Supervisor

RE: 2019 Sims Township Year in Review and Going Forward ...

Tag for Transfer Station Admittance ... Enclosed you will find a yellow tag that can be hung from your vehicle's rear-view mirror. Beginning March 1, 2020, each Sims-Whitney resident will need the tag to gain access to the Transfer Station. A little background on this new program may be helpful.

During the summer months, the Sims-Whitney Transfer Station - also affectionally called the "Dump" – sees a huge increase in traffic not typical of other months. That increase is justified as our population for the two townships nearly doubles in size.

What also increases dramatically are the townships cost for disposal which set a new record this past summer, where the costs in some instances nearly doubled. We've known for a long time there are people from other townships using our beloved "dump" and the joint board says it's now time to do something meaningful about it to control, what amounts to, unwanted and illegitimate traffic. So, with that as a back-drop, the joint board at their October meeting, decided to implement the plan and purchase laminated plastic tags that will hang from a car mirror.

These tags will simply state "**SIMS-WHITNEY TS**" and underneath, sequential numbers from 0001 to whatever that allows the townships to assign them to a residence. The color of the tags will be blue for Whitney residents and school bus yellow for Sims Residents. Tags for both townships were purchased at a price of \$1600.00 for 5000 tags and those tags are transferable between the residences' own vehicles.

If for some reason residents desire an extra tag, it will be available from each township for \$20.00. For residents, a driver's license will be needed and for non-residents, a water or Consumers Energy bill will be needed to obtain additional or replacement tags. You will need to have that tag visible every time you visit the beloved dump. Kevin and Mark

will be checking for those tags and a vehicle without a tag, the driver will not be allowed to drop off. We are hoping this approach will eliminate any and all traffic from other townships, while at the same time, reduce our disposal costs.

Saginaw-Midland Water Plant Construction ... If you've driven by the Saginaw-Midland water plant recently, you may have noticed the construction that is going on for the last couple of months. What is happening is that Consumers Energy is replacing the outdated sub-station with a new one and the job may be completed by the end of the year.

" I cannot believe that the purpose of life is to be happy. I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be compassionate. It is, above all to matter, to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all." Leo Rosten

Seawall Failures ... The unusually high lake levels have played havoc on several seawalls along Crescent and elsewhere. The EGLE – Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (formerly DEQ) offers four recommendations on their site for sea wall issues but unfortunately, offer no funding. Sea wall damage is not covered by homeowner's insurance is what we have been told. If the lake freezes this year, like past years, the ice and easterly winds could do additional damage to those seawalls when it thaws. It seems strange not to have a beautiful beach-front, with many enjoying long walks on that fine sand. Hopefully the beach returns sooner than later.

Golf Cart Street Use Regulations ... We were informed by the Arenac County Sheriff that golf carts are not allowed to be driven on streets with posted speeds of 35 mph or more, such as Michigan Ave, so pass the word along and check out the official golf cart ordinance on line at simstownshiphall.org ...

Water System Maintenance ... Questions on who does what with components of the water system arise on occasion, especially when we are subjected to very cold weather that can cause freezing of water pipes. To help clarify who is responsible for what, we refer to Section 15 of the ordinance which states, "Persons using water must keep their service pipe and their meter protected from frost and hot water at their own expense. Where the service pipe or meter is damaged by frost or hot water, the service pipe is to be repaired by a licensed plumber, paid for by the consumer, while the water meter is to be repaired by the Township at the customer's expense." This applies to meters that are on or inside a residence and not to meters that are in a stand-alone pit. The Water Use and Rate Ordinance provides that no person may connect, tap, change, obstruct, interfere with or in any way disturb the water system or its water mains, hydrants, or appurtenances. No person may make any connections with or opening into, use, alter,

or disturb any public water main or appurtenances on the connections system including the structure's meter, without first obtaining a written permit from the township. It is also prohibited to tamper with or alter any equipment in the water system or remove any water meter, water pipe, or other water equipment or tools. We recently had a resident remove a water meter and that case is pending before the Arenac Prosecutor. The police were called and a police report was recorded. Our water system is owned by the Water Authority in concert with Sims-Whitney Townships. Municipal water systems are under the umbrella of EGLE (formerly MDEQ) and Homeland Security. Any concerns regarding the water system must be directed to the water plant at 989-876-7904.

Mclean Rd. Project has been completed ... This project took all Summer and part of the Fall to complete. The township signed the final work order to have the road graded, stoned and rolled to the tune of \$20,000.00. The Road Commission charges \$25,000.00/mile and Mclean is .75/mi. All our costs combined for this project was \$72,130.04 which included removal of about 80 trees, stump removal, ditching on both sides of the road, install 15 driveway culverts and three drain-tubes under the roadway to move the water from the north ditch to the south ditch and into the county drain, exiting at Saginaw Bay eventually. Hopefully, the road can be paved in the summer of 2020.

Potential Cemetery Parcel Sale ... The Cemetery Board has been in discussion with the residents whose property adjoins the cemetery at the south end. Bill and Melissa Kozyra have approached the Cemetery Board with an offer to purchase a very steep and wooded hill parcel and beach, which is approximately 170' x 200' for an amount to be determined by appraisal and other means. The proposed parcel to sell is "land-locked" and only accessible via the Kozyra's property. This letter also serves as a notice to all Sims Residents that a formal hearing date will be established in May 2020 where residents can gather at Sims and Whitney Halls and give voice to their opinions and concerns regarding this potential sale. As many of our residents have left the area to return to their winter retreats, they can contact the Sims Board by letter or email by May 1, 2020. All of these actions taken together allows the Cemetery Board to make an informed and legal decision. Also, there would be deed restrictions and an appraisal would have to be part of the process. The parcel is not useable for cemetery purposes and the sale would give the cemetery a huge shot in the arm financially.

"It isn't what you have, or who you are, or where you are, or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about." Dale Carnegie

New Water Meters ... Within the next three years, all water meters in Sims -Whitney will be replaced with new units and new software for billing will be implemented.

Tribal 2% Distribution For Fall ... The total Fall distribution to Arenac Townships and cities for Fall '19 came to \$930,881.79. Of that amount, Sims-Augres Schools received \$74,051.00, Pinconning Schools received \$94,713.54, and Standish-Sterling schools received \$110,500.00. To those who are not familiar with the Tribal Distribution, state law requires the tribes to distribute 2% of their profits to the county where they reside, and that distribution occurs twice yearly. Eligible participants – schools, townships and cities – apply for grants of whatever they think they need that would benefit their community. For instance, last year we applied for a grant for a zero-turn mower for the cemetery and before that, a generator for the township hall. This time we applied for a digital sign grant for \$25,000.00 for the Sims Hall and unfortunately, did not prevail. The tribe received 374 grant requests and not all can be honored. We also collaborated with Whitney Township for water meters and that will be an on-going project for four years, or eight distributions. This year, Sims-Whitney received \$15,000.00 combined and \$7500.00 split. At the Spring distribution, our combined amount was \$5000.00 with \$2500.00 split. The minimum guaranteed to each group participating is \$1000.00 and that is in addition to grants received. So keep playing at the Saganing Casino and keep smiling and remember, your losses are helping others in a big way!

The plan for 2020 ... Possible addition of a garage to Sims Hall for additional file storage and parking our police cruiser via 2% tribal funds; Columbarium for the cemetery via a collaboration with Whitney for 2% tribal funds; Paving of Mclean Rd; Begin ditching Ann-Nancy subdivision with intent to resurface possibly latter part of 2020; Continue updating our web site; Continue submitting digital sign request for the hall from Tribal 2% grant (4th time!); Build up the driveway approach to Cemetery Beach with stone with collaboration with Whitney on 2% Tribal grant; I always look for and expect input from our residents. You can contact me by email at bobbermack@yahoo.com or call me on my cell at 989-646-0200 with questions, comments or ideas.

Final Thought for 2019 ...

From the Staff and Board of Sims Township, hoping all of our residents had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year ... It has been a privilege serving you this year and we will continue to do our best and be our best for 2020 ... !