

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

AUGUST 2019

We've had some nice weather the last few weeks and all we can say is, it was about time, after a winter and spring that just kept giving bad news.

There are a couple of township items that we would appreciate input from our residents. First, there are those within the Sims-Whitney community that believe it would be a good idea to sell water from our new water plant to AuGres. Second, one of our residents would like to purchase a one acre, hill and beach portion at the south end of the Sims-Whitney Cemetery and there would be no development of that portion. If you would like to weigh-in on either discussion, call me at 989-646-0200 or email at bobbermack@yahoo.com ...

The following are some of the comments received so far regarding potential water sales to AuGres ... 1) While it may be a nice gesture, there are many problems waiting in the wings ... 2) The finances of AuGres in years past were sometimes a financial rollercoaster, having to pay huge retirements to public officials and the prior shared police matter with Sims ... 3) The water system was sized and designed primarily with supplying water to Sims - Whitney and Alabaster ... at no time during the design phase was there presented the prospect of supplying water to any other additional municipalities ... 4) Before any steps can be taken or decisions made to provide water, the city and townships would have to have iron-clad operational by-laws and/or a contract in place to cover length of service, payments, system maintenance, etc. ... 5) Sims Township should in no way subsidize a water connection to AuGres as recently proposed as that does not make sense ... no one stepped forward three years ago to contribute to paying the tab for the Sims-Whitney Plant ... even charging for water use would require a substantial amount of time to get to a "break even" point ... 6) Before a final determination of feasibility could be made, Sims and Whitney residents are entitled to both a letter of explanation of what's happening and there would have to be a public hearing on the matter ... 7) The water plant is funded by the residents of S-W... AuGres has no investment in the plant ... 8) Does AuGres have an alternative plan to provide water to their residents when their tower is being painted ... The question becomes, how did AuGres handle the water distribution the last time their tower was serviced/painted ...? 9) If there are any problems with the city's distribution system such as lead pipes, etc., S-W should not be incurring additional liability ... Note S-W recent situation with the DEQ regarding lead 10) When will the city begin taking steps to update their own water plant and when will those private and public discussions begin ...? 11) If water can be purchased from S-W, will AuGres be permanently shutting down their water plant? 12) The S-W water plant is a non-profit operation and does not require additional revenue to pay for the operation of the water plant ... 13) The water

plant should be managed by a maintenance company and should include centralized billing for S-W. A maintenance company has more resources available should extraordinary events occur ... 14) Whatever is done, Remember Flint! Give me your thoughts please ...?

Regarding the cemetery offer, I have received no comments on that other than it certainly would put the cemetery in good financial shape for quite some time! Give me your thoughts please and it will be discussed also on Sept. 3rd at 6 p.m. at Sims Township Hall.

BS&A Training in Marquette ...

Some of our Staff – Judy, June and Sharon – attended accounting training from July 29 – August 1st ... BS&A was not offering training at a closer locale this summer, other than Marquette. They did have a good week, as both the weather and accommodations were great. Their training was in the new Holiday Inn they were staying in, so that helped a lot in not having to travel anywhere. The hotel also had a very nice restaurant. They learned a lot and all of their questions were answered. To those who have not been to Marquette recently or at all, it is safe to say that it is a microcosm of Traverse City as there is a lot of growth and development.

Final Thought ...

It seems any more, we are continually bombarded with horrific events, like what happened in El Paso and Dayton and most people of good will are trying to make sense out of the senseless loss of life and what to do. Rory Cooney offers the following ... *Do not fear to hope tho' the wicked rage and rise. Our God sees not as we see, success is not the prize. Do not fear to hope for tho' the night be long, the race shall not be to the swift, the fight not to the strong.*