

Supervisor Comments

January 2019

Passing of Dick Terry ... Dick passed away January 5, 2019 at the age of 81. His obituary is on Page 2. Since 2010, Dick was a popular member of our Planning Commission and his enthusiasm and friendship will be missed. Please keep Carol and his family in your meditative thoughts.

Possible Lead in our Water Review ... Our water plant operators - Keith and Bruce - must sample residential water every six months. They have 41 residential sites where they pull these samples. A few weeks ago, four of the sites showed high lead content that was higher than the 15 ppt (parts per trillion) allowable. The sample from the township hall, on the other hand, showed a very high reading that was much higher than residential sites. The DEQ was intending on us jumping through hoops on this in the mailing of all the paper work results to all the residents. It turns out, subsequent samples pulled from the same suspect sites showed no lead, except for the hall, which showed a much higher reading than the first sample, from 251 ppt to 551 ppt. Unfortunately, the DEQ only goes by the first sample so any other samples are null and void. The water authority board had a phone conference with the DEQ rep, which included their legal counsel. Keith and myself were the ones that ended up doing all the questioning. We mentioned that such a letter could cause panic because of what happened in Flint. We brought up that their approach was less than scientific and their response was a knee-jerk reaction to Flint. We brought up that there would typically be three responses, 1) Where do I pick up my bottled water, 2) Where and when do I pick up my filter, and 3) When will the backhoe be in my front yard to dig up my pipes, and this would be all because of what happened in Flint. In addition, before we can do a mailing, we would have to have official authority from the DEQ in the form of a letter, under their letterhead, to include the appropriate state statute that gives them authority to give us authority and signed by a contact person, so residents can contact that person and not the Sims Township Hall. To date, we have not received that letter as the DEQ rep that was in charge was suspended and that suspension may have had something to do with our case. To be clear, there are no lead water lines in our township as the system is all copper. High lead readings could be explained by the use of lead solder in the 80's. We have scheduled a contractor from Goyette Mechanical to check the hall plumbing. It might be a possibility that we just don't run the water enough, so until we can determine a fix or the readings normalize, please don't drink the hall water.

Final Thought ... People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it. ... George Bernard Shaw

