

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS JULY 2019

AuGres Cruise July 27th ...

One of our tasks each year is to make sure we get a road closing permit from MDOT and that has been taken care of. This cruise is a huge event for AuGres and Sims Township every year and we hope everyone will join in the festivities at whatever level you can.

We've got two additional items to discuss at this meeting, beginning with a Golf Cart Resolution, followed by Water rate increases. On the back of this summer's tax bill, is a breakdown of the why and wherefores' for an increase. That tax statement has also been included on this review as it will become a part of our on-line web page, under Supervisor Comments www.simstownship.org ...

It has been a long time coming, but we have finally arrived to the point where we may have a workable ordinance that allows golf carts on our streets. Arenac County has an ordinance that allows the operation of ATV's and ORV's on the roads, but not golf carts as it is up to the townships to determine if they want to allow golf carts. For townships to allow the operation of golf carts, those townships would have to have their own golf cart-specific ordinance and that is what we will be voting on at tonight's meeting (7/16/19). Without an ordinance in place, golf cart operators could be and have been ticketed.

SIMS TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF ARENAC, STATE OF MICHIGAN RESOLUTION NO. __ _

RESOLUTION ALLOWING GOLF CARTS ON TOWNSHIP STREETS ...

At a regular meeting of the Sims Township Board in the County of Arenac, State of Michigan, held in the township offices in said township on the 16th day of July 2019, at 7:00 p.m. WHEREAS, the Sims Township Board wishes to allow the operation of golf carts on township streets as allowed by Michigan law; and WHEREAS, MCL 257 .657a provides that a township having a population of fewer than 30,000 individuals may be resolution, unless disapproved by the county board of commissioners, allow the operation of golf carts on the streets of that township subject to the provisions of the act; and WHEREAS, the Sims Township Board wishes to allow golf carts on township streets under the requirements set forth in the act. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** **1.** That the Sims Township Board shall allow the operation of golf carts on the township streets as allowed in Public Act 300 of 1949, as amended; MCL 257.657a. **2.** A person shall not operate a golf cart on any public street unless he or she is at least 16 years old and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle. **3.** The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal requirements of the motor vehicle code that apply to the operation of a vehicle. **4.** A person operating a golf cart upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or a vehicle proceeding in the same direction. **5.** A person shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line highway. This does not prohibit a person from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart on a township street using the most direct line of crossing. **6.** A person operating a golf cart shall not pass between lines of traffic but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a one way street, in an unoccupied lane. **7.** A golf cart shall not be operated on a township street during the time period from one half hour before sunset to one half hour after sunrise. **8.** A person operating a golf cart or who is a passenger in a golf cart is not required to wear a crash helmet. **9.** This resolution shall not apply to a police officer in the performance of his or her official duties. **10.** A golf cart

operated on a township street is not required to be registered under the Michigan Insurance Code. **11.** A golf cart means a vehicle designed for transportation while playing the game of golf. **12.** That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Arenac County Board of Commissioners upon enactment.

Effective June 2019 Water Rate Increase ... Mike Engels from Michigan Rural Water has reviewed our operational expenses for providing water and has recommended an annual 2% increase to our **Ready to Serve** charge per quarter and that annual increase will stay as such if those operational expenses remain in line with the Annual Cost of Living Index. A significant increase could occur if the Sims/Whitney Utilities Authority are required to enhance filtration to handle the PFAS contamination, should the PFAS levels in Lake Huron rise to an action level. Currently the PFAS issue is a huge problem nationwide and primarily in those communities that get their water from wells. Because our water is coming from Lake Huron and not wells, we do not anticipate a problem with PFAS anytime soon. "Ready to Serve Charges" are based on water meter pipe size in inches, and billed on a quarterly basis as follows:

<u>Meter Pipe Size</u>	<u>Ready to Serve Charge Per Quarter</u>
5/8" and 3/4"	\$59.50 (\$1.17 over previous)
1"	\$89.39 (\$1.76 over previous)
2"	\$349.00 (Check with Water Clerk)
3"	\$594.00 (Check with Water Clerk)

Consumption Fee ... all usage will be charged at a rate of \$4.47 (\$4.38 previous) per thousand gallons and fractionals of same ... Water Turn On Fee no change ... \$100.00; Water Turn Off Fee no change ... \$100.00; Connection Fee to Water System ... \$2000.00 if the connection is made during the summer months (April 1 - October 31), and in the amount of \$2500.00 if the connection is made during the winter months (November 1 - March 31). System Equity Fee is in the amount of \$6000.00 for new or existing dwellings or businesses that desire to connect to the water system; The Connection Fee of \$2000.00 plus SEF fee of \$6000.00 are paid prior to water service installation to Sims Township and cannot be added to the tax statement and paid over time as was done previously, as that payment program ended February 28, 2019. The rates for Whitney Township are a bit higher as they serve fewer customers.

Final Thought ... It's all in your mind ... "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