

Supervisor Comments

July 2020

Bridge Out in AuGres ... I was told by a Road Commission Foreman on July 6th, the bridge suffered structural damage to the piers due to the recent flooding. A state bridge inspector on 7/6, sent divers in to inspect the structure's integrity, and after the dismal report was reviewed, the bridge was immediately closed. I was told it will be at least a month, and possibly more, before repairs can be made. From 7/6 – 7/9 we were stuck with dealing with a six-mile detour using Court St., Bessinger Rd and the gravel and paved portions of Mackinaw Rd as continuing on Bessinger was prevented due to another bridge-culvert that had been damaged and was luckily put back into service on 7/10. All of the bridge damage in the county was all related to and caused by the recent flooding. There are two bridges on M-65 that will be out of service for a year to a year-and-a-half is what I was told by the Road Commission on 7/10. A bridge on Turner Rd, 7 miles west of 23, that has been out for over a month, was repaired and put back into service on Friday, 7/10. The week of July 6th has been a very busy and productive time for the Road commission! With Bessinger repaired, we now have access to 23 using Tonkey and Delano Rds or continuing on Bessinger until it eventually joins 23. Returning into AuGres, we still must use Court St, or continue on the gravel portion of Bessinger, south of Court St, to find yet another gravel road to get back on US-23. So far, this year has proved both unusual and difficult with the flooding, interruptions to traffic flow, flooded homes and property damage including shore-line damage and all capped off with a pandemic that has taken lives and livelihoods. So we do our part and wear the masks in public places and do the social distancing thing, and hopefully, within the next few weeks, things will begin turning around for the better and we can return to some form of normalcy in whatever form that may take.

Tribal 2% Distribution ... On June 26th, Sam Proulx and Mike Deleo accepted three grants in the form of a check from the Saganing Tribe on behalf of Sims Township. The township did well this cycle as we received \$3800.00 to purchase a 103" X 36" digital sign for the front of the hall. We also received \$12,500.00 for water meters which is our portion of the collaboration with Whitney Township and we received a \$1000.00 which will probably be used to install the new sign. For the next cycle that begins in September, I will submit three grant requests for new windows, new carpeting and a garage. Typically, it is difficult to prevail on items for halls, so we'll test the waters and see what happens. The grant request for the garage will be for a 24' X 24' garage/storage building to house our police car and records.

Changes to the Front of Sims Hall Coming ... We have contracted with Jesse Gordon to remove the lilac bushes and Spruce tree on the corner of the property of the parking lot. They have become not only an eye-sore, but actually inhibit the line of sight when either entering or leaving Delano at the hall. Also, the two dead bushes on each side of the Sims Township sign at the front of the hall were removed on 7/10. Also to be removed soon is the wood structure that supports both the current signage and the bell. The bell may be located on a steel post-

platform closer to the hall. All of this is being done to pave the way for the new digital sign. We are optimistic that by the end of this year, we will have a new digital sign with appropriate landscaping, new windows and new carpeting plus a new garage. We'll see!

Status of Litigation with Whitney Township ... There should be a final hearing on 7/14 at 1:30 by Zoom. As you may recall, we sued Whitney this year for 1) failing to pay their fair share of their cemetery obligation for 2.5 years, plus 2) to set aside a bogus quit claim deed they filed in 2010 claiming ownership of the cemetery. We prevailed on both counts. Currently, we are pursuing another bogus claim that they own the water tower in Whitney and the majority of the revenue from the AT&T tower antennas, has been diverted into a Whitney account for several years, rather than being put in the Water Authority account where it rightfully belongs. Years ago, both townships deeded the tower properties to the Authority and those towers are assets of the Authority and all revenue from those towers belong to the Authority. Our attorney has filed a complaint with the Attorney General for an opinion via our state representatives. A copy of that complaint is attached for your review.

Final Thought ... Maybe part of being both Blessed and Grateful is that every time you can find some humor in a difficult situation, you win!