

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

MARCH 2020

ELECTION ... For the election on Feb 10, we had 305 voting which included 136 absentee voters with 169 coming to the polls. We had a great group of election workers that included JoAnn McDonald that got the election started at 7 a.m. with “Hear, Ye, Hear Ye, the poll is now open” and included the ringing of the big bell in the front of the hall. At 8 p.m. she announced “Hear Ye, Hear Ye the polls are now closed.” Other workers included Noreen Pendred, Marci Preuter, June Ogden, Linda Lewis, Pat Roach, Mike Fil, and Judy Mackie, whose main job is to coordinate the process and ensure everything is done by the book. Sharon Boensch provided a very nice brunch. It’s safe to state that we can’t get through an election without computer problems and this year was no different. There was an issue with the software the state supplied that affected 10 of the 12 townships that prevented us from generating final reports. No big deal, as the county had the fix when we took the laptop to them at midnight. We’ll call that a successful warmup for August and November!

CENSUS JOBS ... Sims Township is hoping a couple of our residents will step up to help with the 2020 census as accurate numbers determine what we get from the state and feds. If you are interested, these jobs are starting at \$14.00/hr. so please call 231-944-7700.

TRANSFER STATION ...

The tag ID program went into effect on March 2nd and seems to be working quite well. We had Kevin’s shed moved to the middle of the driveway with the intent that everyone should stop so Bonnie can check for a tag. Please keep in mind, those without a tag will be turned away. There is no recycling offered, other than scrap metal and broken-down cardboard must be placed in specific dumpsters to keep it from plugging up the compactor. SunRise Disposal is no longer on site and WM will provide an additional 6 dumpsters to replace the ones removed by Sunrise.

LAWSUIT AGAINST WHITNEY TOWNSHIP REGARDING THE CEMETERY ... On Feb 26, Judge Riffel ordered Whitney Township to pay their share of the cemetery expenses of over \$11,000.00. In addition, the 2010 Quit Claim Deed where Whitney Township claimed ownership of the cemetery was declared null and void and an order so stating must be filed by the attorneys with the Register of Deeds. The 1957 deed giving each township a 50/50 interest in the cemetery remains unchanged. Both townships return to court on March 25 at 1:30 p.m. to hear Judge Riffel’s final ruling on the bylaws the townships were ordered to create by that date. A check was received from Whitney Township for the full amount of \$11,875.00 on March 7th.

CEMETERY JOB POSTING ... The Sims-Whitney joint board for the cemetery is looking for someone to care for the cemetery for 2020 and beyond if possible. Primary duties are to mow and weed whack for the cemetery and cemetery beach and there are other small tasks as well. The job starts out at \$11.00/hr. and is for 25-30 hours/wk. beginning in mid-April and ending September 7th. If you are interested, contact the Clerk/Cemetery Sexton – Judy – at Sims Hall.

LATE WATER PAYMENT FEES MAY INCREASE ... We have several folks that are late with water payments every month and it seems to be the same ones for the most part. Currently the late fee is \$5.00 and the board will consider raising it to \$25.00. To put it in perspective, the bank charge for a check return is \$35.00. It costs the township time and money to process late payments with additional notices and phone calls. Our current low penalty does not seem to generate the attention required to pay on time.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ... As you know, large gatherings are being discouraged all over the country, schools and universities are closing until early April, sporting events have been cancelled, and international travel is being limited. All of this is being done to help eliminate interaction to hopefully stop the spread of the virus. All of us need to be mindful of what's happening or could happen, limit our exposure potential and protect ourselves to the greatest extent possible. If you are ill, please stay home.

FINAL THOUGHT ... People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. Maya Angelou