

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

MARCH 2021

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Water Billing Issues ... We have encountered software glitches in our billing system that was generating negative dollars and gallons in addition to creating multiple bills being sent to residents. I received two bills myself in the same week and others have received three. When we discovered the problem, we immediately contacted our software provider BS&A and meter manufacturer, Badger to come in to assist with whatever corrections are needed. We also set up an emergency audit with Yeo & Yeo to determine if we had a money issue glitch as well. Yeo & Yeo determined that there were no problems with the overall finances and informed us that we were on the right path for putting corrections in place, whatever that mumbo-jumbo means. Our office staff have been re-assigned to assist the water clerk and the problems have all been identified, we hope. As of this writing (3/11) that's the best we can do. If you have received a bill that doesn't look right and has negative numbers, or you have received multiple bills, please call our office at 989-876-8631 or call my cell at 989-646-0200 and let us know. As of today, we have received approximately 60 calls regarding problematic billing.

Election May 4th ... We have another election coming up and this one has to do with two millage proposals. The first proposal is for a half mill increase for mosquito and gypsy moth to one mill. As you may recall, three years ago, we reduced that millage to .05 from 1.0. as gypsy moth was not an issue and we had significant revenue in the fund for mosquitoes and we saw no purpose to continue increasing that particular fund balance. Since that time and throughout the state, many communities, including ours, have experienced a growing infestation of gypsy moth that is a real tree killer and it began last Spring and has gained momentum in many regions of the state including our region. When the millage was reduced, gypsy moth had not been on the radar for any part of the state for quite some time and now it's back with a vengeance. Please vote to increase that millage as it benefits all. The second proposal is for a half mil increase for road repair from .05 to 1.0. In the last four years, Sims Township has converted several gravel roads to paved and includes Point Lookout, a portion of East Michigan where it comes into AuGres, Baum Road and last Summer, 'A' Street in Wallace & Orr. Two years ago, Mclean Road was completely rebuilt after removing more than 150 huge Cottonwood trees from the ditches and rebuilding the ditches plus the road surface, which remained gravel due to the fact we did not have sufficient funds to pave that .75 mile section. It remains the only county road in our township that is not paved. That project was our most expensive to date as just the tree removal alone was \$35,000.00. Nancy Court will have to be entirely resurfaced and the cost of that alone – at last year's prices – was just shy of \$200,000.00. Even with the county kicking in \$25,000.00, we do not have that kind of money in reserve for project's that large and is the reason we hope our residents will vote to increase that road millage from .05 to 1.0 and we Thank You in advance for your kind and generous support as we are doing the best we can with what we have to maintain and improve all the roads in Sims Township!

The Annual Meeting is March 27th at 10:00 a.m. ... This will be an in-person meeting at Sims Hall to review all the finances and projects of the previous year. Our meeting last year was limited to 10, five of which were the board members.

Final Thought ... Over the next few months, I want to share in this section a "conversation" on happiness as there seems to be an epidemic lately, possibly due to covid and forced isolation, which has caused many to feel that they are not feeling 'happy.' So the first question becomes, what is happy? Is happy

euphoric, or is it giggly, or is it a sense of peace and calm, how do you experience it? So can we assume that maybe happiness is the absence of sadness to a certain degree, but maybe they should be taken together rather than viewed as two separate things? So if we visualize both as being like a thermometer, as an example, we could say there are “degrees” of both, one of which we can call very very happy on the high end of our thermometer, and on the bottom end of our sample thermometer, we’ll call it being very very sad. The center of this thermometer we can call it an ‘average’ of happy-sad as opposed to calling the center ‘normal,’ because maybe there is no real ‘normal.’ So to define sadness, is it a constant barrage of dark thoughts, or is it a lack of motivation or lack of goals or purpose and are there symptoms that make one feel they are slipping or sliding into some kind of abyss that may or may not be a ‘happy place?’ Does having a Purpose Driven Life, as one author has written, create happiness or could that life even include sadness? If you want to join in this conversation, feel free and email me at bobbermack@yahoo.com with your thoughts on how do you experience happiness and how do you experience sadness and what is the key to being one or the other and how do you handle one or the other and how would you define either happiness and sadness? There are thousands of books written on ‘How To Be Happy’ and even one on ‘How To Be Happy Though Married!’ Very few books have been written on ‘How To Be Sad,’ so that makes me wonder, if being sad is our normal default mode and maybe it’s a safe zone to some extent. I’ll include your thoughts in future editions and let’s see where this conversation goes.