

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2022 PLUS THE SIMS TOWNSHIP  
PROJECTS REVIEW BY MONTH FOR 2022  
SIMSTWP.ORG**

Another year is soon coming to a close and the feeding frenzy of covid mania of the last two years has thankfully quieted down some. The federal government and the southern border continue to be in perpetual chaos, while the Ukrainians continue to gain some of their land and freedoms back. In Sims Township, we continue to make life better to the best of our abilities for all our great residents and together, we've accomplished quite a lot over the last year, as you'll see from the review following ...

In **January**, we reported the lawsuit Whitney Township brought against Sims Township had moved to the pre-trial conference stage and there will be more on that later, as we move through the year; We had contracted with Revize web site developers from Troy in 2021 and are now receiving additional training; some folks had the audacity to leave garbage at the Transfer Station gate and that's a no-no and law enforcement was contacted and the individuals visited by same;

In **February**, we reported the Whitney vs Sims lawsuit had reached a mediation phase and we were satisfied with the process ... as you may or may not recall, Whitney Township had sued Sims for Breach of Contract regarding the ownership of the Whitney water tower plus the AT&T antenna revenue. The short story is the water plant bonds were paid off in 2015 and Whitney was supposed to notify Sims that they wanted their water tower deeded back to them and then waited until 2021 to make it an issue. Our stance was and always has been, both towers were on deeded property making the Sims-Whitney Utilities Authority the exclusive owners of the towers, not the townships. The lawsuit was about suing myself, as Supervisor and our Trustee, Mike Deleo for breach of contract for not re-deeding the tower back to Whitney in 2015 after the former water plant bonds were paid off. Mike and I were not elected to office until 2016, so maybe you get a glimpse of how this lawsuit would begin soon unraveling in the months following;

In **March**, our annual meeting was the last Saturday of the month as it will be this year for 2023; We added additional capacity at the Transfer Station with an

additional six, eight-yard dumpsters, which brought our capacity to 20 dumpsters plus the compactor;

In **April**, we reported that NorthCoast had completed the annual clean-up at the Cemetery; We reviewed and renewed the Transfer Station policies of not accepting brush any larger than ¾" to 1" in diameter and all household waste must be in plastic bags; The water meter replacement project was down to 35 meters remaining in residences to be replaced;

In **May**, Ann and Nancy Streets were paved, and three new ADA compliant exterior doors were added to the hall; The Spring 2% distribution from the Saganing Council resulted in a check for \$7600.00 that covered the cost of the new fence and rolling gate at the Transfer Station;

In **June**, we were notified by the state that the e-coli numbers were elevated slightly for Cemetery Beach, but no closure was warranted, as was not the case for the beach at Singing Bridge, which has been closed for swimming for several years; The zero-turn Cub Cadet went to Miscisin in Standish for roller and blade replacement and is holding up well; As you may or may not recall, that mower was purchased as a part of the 2% distribution from the Saganing Council five years ago;

In **July**, we reported that Sims Hall staff had constructed offices for the Clerk, Treasurer and Water Clerk. Our Clerk, Suzanne's husband Walter, Mike Fil and I did the construction; Our Zoning Administrator, Ernie Kata, retired after 26 years of faithful and quality service to the community;

In **August**, we reported that we were sprucing up the township hall yard and had removed several dead trees and some overgrown brush; We were in contact with Consumers Energy for a quote to get electricity to the Transfer Station that would enable us to operate electric compactors, which are more efficient than the gasoline unit we currently operate;

In **September**, we had a profitable Cemetery and Transfer Station Quarterly Meeting with the Whitney Township Board, with much of the discussion centered around the possibility of going all electric at the Transfer Station at some point, and in the interim, converting to propane to eliminate the health and safety

issues associated with transporting gasoline by the employees; I agreed to write a grant, in collaboration with Whitney, for 2% funds from the Saganing Council to cover some of the cost for upgrading to electric; After 38 years, the carpeting and flooring were replaced in Sims Hall, after which, Mike Fil completed all the new office trim work;

In **October**, three 50/50 'Revenue Sharing' grant requests, in collaboration with Whitney Township, and for an amount of \$23,000.00 were submitted to the Saganing Council. In addition, two 50/50 'Revenue Sharing' requests for the Sims Hall carpeting and flooring for \$18,000.00 were also submitted. Revenue Sharing is dividing the cost by two where we would pay 50% and the Council would "share" with the additional 50%;

In **November**, we had the election and several from the community helped, and we needed that help and appreciated the help; The gas engine at the Transfer Station for the compactor was retrofitted with a device that allows it to run on propane, gasoline or natural gas and we are now operating on propane; There will be some changes at the Transfer Station beginning in 2023. Saturday hours will change from 10-430 to 9-6. On Mondays and Wednesdays, the hours will change from 10-430 to 9-5 and will be closed on Sundays; The lawsuit brought against Sims Township officials by Whitney Township was finalized ... The Whitney Water Tower continues to be owned by the Sims-Whitney Utilities Authority and the revenue from the antennas mounted on that tower are now deposited in a SWUA account rather than a Whitney account; From the five grants totaling \$41,000.00 submitted, we received a check from the Tribal Council for \$12,000.00 to apply toward our electric project at the Transfer Station ... it is difficult to prevail on all our requests submitted as we are competing with 16 other townships in two counties. The secret is to keep submitting the same requests if necessary, so we will submit the same four for the 2023 Spring 2% distribution;

In **December**, Ann Marie and Noreen attended an accounting conference and Mike Fil and I attended a Township Officials Workshop near Lansing; The meters project is close to completion with five remaining to be installed ... unfortunately, they are indoor meters, and we are having difficulty getting in touch with the owners to gain access, but we are closer to completion than last year at this time!

## **FINALE ...**

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you to be a better person ... Benjamin Franklin In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, but never in want ...  
Traditional Irish Toast The bad news is time flies. The good news is, you're the pilot ... Michael Altshuler

From the Sims Township Staff, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and we wish everyone a joyous Holiday Season as you celebrate with family and friends ... Next Stop – 2023!