

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS APRIL 2020

The Era of Social Distancing ... We are living through a surreal moment, and some days it feels like we're staring down the apocalypse and when the dust settles, who has any clue of what our new normal is going to look like. Early on, most figured out that if they had enough toilet paper, Dasani and frozen pizza, they could last for months, or maybe years. So there are changes coming and we may not like them, but they are coming anyway.

For instance, due to the highly contagious nature of the COVID-19 virus, many doctors are encouraging patients exhibiting symptoms to visit them "virtually," which means to use "telemedicine," and many companies have sprung up in the last few weeks that are offering these services. So the days of calling the doctor on the phone may end sooner than later. Many that have used this "telemedicine" technology claim that it's "not too bad" in that one does not have to spend extended periods of time sitting in a waiting room.

So "telemedicine" may become part of our new normal, and COVID-19 helped accelerate its spread. So life as it was may not be a matter of just picking up where we left off and moving on. Personally, I have met no one or heard of anyone within my usual circle of contacts using this technology and I suspect that maybe it's just more fake news and I really won't have to adapt any time soon! I'm going to test this out and call Dr. Joe tomorrow and see if he takes my call. Hopefully he won't have a message that says "Effective immediately and due to COVID-19, you must use a telemedicine provider to gain my services ... Thank You and have a nice day."

In the weeks ahead, we'll all figure out new ways to adapt, hold on to what's positive and discard anything adverse and just keep moving forward, one step at a time, one day at a time ...

Sims Township Hall and the Pandemic ... To those who have stopped by the hall recently, soon discover the door is locked and we do not allow walk-ins to the counter any longer to pay water bills or taxes due to the Governor's lockdown. We realize that this is a hardship, with the worst part being, there is no longer time for chit-chat with the Staff at the window! Water bills must be placed in the drop box next to the main entry and please pay using personal check, cashier's check or money order and no cash. Taxes are officially late at this date and must be paid at or to the county. Tags for the Transfer Station are being issued, but only by appointment with myself after 6 p.m. ... if you have a tag issue, please contact me at 989-646-0200 and we will set up a time to meet in the entry to the hall. Please have ready a tax or water bill.

Rather than five staff in the office at a time, that has been reduced to one and not more than two. We are very sorry for the inconveniences this has caused, but we also have to follow the rules. As to meetings, we continue with the monthly board meeting only and it is limited to 10 total, with 5 being board members. We are continuing with the safe distancing policy of not being closer than 6 feet. We may have to resort to teleconferencing at some point if this situation does not subside soon. All other meetings are being postponed indefinitely.

For the last four weeks, all township calls have been routed to my cell phone due to our staff shortage. There is a little light at the end of the tunnel, so late last week, those calls now go to the hall. Many of the residents who called were shocked, I guess, as they are used to having our staff answer, but we were able to muddle through it and get folks the answers they needed. The biggest item was water turn-ons for those returning for the summer months.

Changes at the Transfer Station ... The Tag I.D. program is going smoother than expected and some have found out, that if they show up without the tag, there is no longer the complimentary pass-thru as there was for the first two weeks, but Ms. Bonnie will politely ask you to turn around and go get it! Bonnie is traffic control and her "shack" has been moved to the center of the driveway. There is a **STOP** sign there also, which really means **STOP** so Bonnie can check for a tag. As a reminder, there is no re-cycling offered, but cardboard must continue to be placed in the dumpster to the far right of the drive, as it will plug up the dumpsters and the compactor.

Replacing Veterans Flags at the Cemetery ... This year we will plan on placing the flags on May 18 at 6 p.m.

Final Thought ... Some may recognize the following reminder as a song on YouTube and others may recall it as a scripture from Psalm 30:5 ... "Hold on my child, Joy comes in the morning ... Weeping only lasts for a while and the darkest hour means dawn is just in sight" ... translated may mean, there **WILL** be a time of **JOY** even in the midst of this pandemic ... so Hold On, Look for it and Expect it, and this too shall pass - not the **JOY**, but the pandemic ... !