

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS
JULY 2021
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TRANSFER STATION ... We have a project at the Transfer Station this summer to possibly add an additional compactor, and at this writing, are not sure if the compactor selected will be electric or propane. Since we do not have electricity in the yard, we are diligently working with Consumers Energy to determine a cost and that process has been both a little complex in working with CE and becoming quite pricey. The biggest benefit to go electric is environmental, however it's seriously starting to look like propane may be our best option. To date, using electric compaction, minus the machine itself and just getting electric service, we are at the \$60,000 dollar mark and still climbing. A brand-new propane powered compactor puts us at \$53,000. The project will involve installing an additional cement pad the same size as the existing pad and quotes for that work, so far, are at \$24K to \$36K. Adding an additional compactor allows us to eliminate more than half of the 22 – 8-yard blue boxes we currently use and cost-wise, it works out about the same. The boxes can create quite a mess in the yard, especially when it gets windy and the tops blow open and stuff gets blown around. Bonnie and Mark come in early every workday and spend time picking up junk that's been blown around the yard.

RECYCLING MAY BE GOING AWAY ... In one sense, re-cycling isn't working out too well in that the containers provided are seldom completely emptied of contents to the tune of about 10-20% of the former trash remains, whether it's ours or someone else's. We've complained, taken pictures and sent them to Republic and it's hit or miss if the next container arriving is empty or not. A container with trash remaining is costing us more money in the long run, because the frequency of occurrence is cumulative in not only what's remaining, but the money going out for, what amounts to, incorrect invoicing and double dipping on Republic's side of the equation. We receive nothing for re-cycling. It's a service that, in the long run, ends up costing us more money and attempting to determine that extra costs are prohibitive. The exact dollar amount cannot be calculated, but we know the cumulative effect is costing us more. Then we have many residents that refuse to break down cardboard boxes, even though there are signs stating, "**BREAKDOWN ALL CARDBOARD BOXES**" Obviously, if boxes are not being broken down, we cannot get as many in a container as we would if those boxes were flat. Republic

makes a lot of money on “air spaces in containers,” and when cardboard is flat, there is less “air” for Republic to make money on at our expense is how it works. Another issue is some residents are putting their household waste/garbage in the re-cycle containers, so again, we lose money. Republic tells us that our re-cycle containers go from our yard to their yard in Pinconning, where it is all loaded on a large truck and hauled to a GFL “material recovery facility” in Traverse City. The recycled materials are recovered and the garbage that has been co-mingled goes into the GFL Landfill, which is adjacent to the “recovery facility,” so we’re told. But there may be a problem and unfortunately, we cannot verify if that problem is true or not true. Republic has told us that our service is disrupted oftentimes due to 1) trucks broken down and waiting for service and 2) a lack of drivers. With that being the case, it’s difficult to comprehend how Republic can afford to send a driver and truck to Traverse City when they are having such difficulty maintaining their local service schedules. Waste Management informed us a few years ago, there recycle materials do, in fact, go into their local landfill in East Tawas and we suspect and have suspected for quite some time that Republic is doing the same thing. We have been told there is no longer a market for cardboard and plastic and China was the largest buyer of that stuff and they no longer need it or want it. The obvious question becomes, why are we continuing to pay for recycling that may not be happening, and we can’t prove is happening? If recycling does go away, don’t worry as we will continue to collect cardboard in the small 8-yard boxes and yes, it will have to be broken down and flattened, while the plastic and glass stuff, just put in your garbage bag because it’s on its way to the land fill – unfortunately.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ... After two months, re-building and re-paving of US-23 from Foster to the Arenac/Iosco County Line are completed. It would appear it has been done differently than in the past with extending and blending the shoulder/bike path into a single surface and maybe that helps keeping the water from under the road surface where it freezes and seizes the drive surface and hopefully, it lasts longer.

FINALE ... Deal with the faults of others as gently as your own. Chinese Proverb

It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt **Abigail Van Buren**