

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS**  
**JUNE 2023**  
**SIMSTWP.ORG**

**SPECIAL MEETING WITH SIMS-WHITNEY RESIDENTS AT SIMS HALL ON JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 6 P.M.** ... The joint S-W Board, back in December 2022, implemented a Commercial Tag fee of \$700.00 for use of the Transfer Station. It's not beneficial, at this point, to get into all the details of the back story as that is not the point of this review. Some residents had complained at Whitney and Sims Halls and via phone conversations with me about what they felt was an unjust "tax" on a specific group and was perceived by many as a possible situation of "taxation without representation," where the affected group had no voice. The fifteen S-W residents in attendance at this meeting became that voice and the Joint Board listened to their concerns and voted unanimously to rescind that fee.

As government leaders we must always be aware that we work for our residents and citizens and not the other way around. There are occasions when boards do not make correct decisions and can, in some cases, tend to be tone deaf. In this case, I appreciated the residents coming forward and bringing this matter to our attention and basically, telling us we were out of line and out of touch. The ten board members were able to clearly see the bigger picture and voted accordingly. This, to me, is a classic case on how government is supposed to work and that is to *Listen to the People ...*

**POLICE CAR TIRES ...** This certainly deviates from what I would normally write about in this forum, but since it is an item where the township spends quite a bit of money annually, then we need to be aware it is not a topic where we would be looking at cutting costs. The subject came up at our last board meeting where we were discussing the need to replace the tires on the Sims Cruiser and a couple board members were convinced, we could just pick a high mileage car tire and all will be good. Passenger car tires are a different breed entirely from what is referred to in law enforcement circles as police pursuit tires. Typically, when it's time to spend money for tires for the family car or truck, cost is a big consideration, and most will be looking for the biggest bang for the buck. Most will be looking for "All Season Tires" with a high mileage rating while others are looking for certain performance specs such as lowest noise rating, or the best tire for snow and rain, or maybe an all-out racing tire, which is to say, there are a lot of choices. Selecting a tire for a police car can be a science unto itself. The bottom line is passenger car tires are in no way suitable for a police cruiser, whether it's a cruiser car or a cruiser SUV. Tires for police vehicles are called Police Interceptor Tires or Police Pursuit Tires and they are much different than passenger car tires.

Police cruiser tires must be able to handle the strain and bumps of high-speed pursuit. In fact, most pursuit-rated tires carry the speed rating of W – meaning they're approved

for speeds up to 168 mph. In addition, police vehicles are designed differently than the typical passenger vehicle as they will have heavier shocks, springs and stabilizer bars front and rear and the overall design is with extreme use in mind. Larger police departments around the U.S. will replace tires every 30-60 days is the norm. In the case of Sims Township, we should be replacing the tires every 4 months as we must protect our officer no matter the cost and his safety is not the place for the township to even consider cutting costs. We are not looking for high mileage but for comfort, stability and the 'W' or 'V' and that should be paramount. I will work with our officer and select tires that have been tested and approved by The Michigan State Police Tire Testing Division. <https://www.michigan.gov/msp/divisions/training/precision-driving-unit/police-vehicle-tire-evaluations>

**THE TRANSFER STATION CLOSED BUT RE-OPENED ON WED 5/31 ...** Since Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> was a holiday, Republic Disposal was closed. When that happens, emptying our trash containers is set back a day. Unfortunately, on Wed, when they resumed operations, Republic did not empty the correct container first, which is supposed to be the compactor. What they emptied first were the two re-cycle "dog houses" as they have the little "windows" to put stuff in and in our operation, that's considered a lower priority when we're trying to keep the operation moving. At 1:20, there was no place to put the garbage, so Mark closed the yard and posted a sign on the gate that it was "Full." At the same time, Mark was on the phone with the Republic dispatcher trying to get containers emptied. At 3:15, Republic showed up with two 40 yard open-top containers and the yard re-opened at 3:45 until 6. By closing time, enough folks had showed up, plus Singing Bridge Sanitation, that the 40-yard box that had just arrived was now full, so Mark called the dispatcher to empty that box. At our Special Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Joint Board approved ordering an additional 40 yard open-top for overflow conditions and that container was delivered on 6/2. Both townships received many calls from concerned residents that wanted to know what was going on, and that, my friends, is our story as there are just some things we have no control over.

## **FINALE ...**

There's an adage that says that people may not remember what you do, but they'll certainly remember how you made them feel, and at no time is that truer than on *National Say Something Nice Day*, observed on June 1 each year. Since June 1<sup>st</sup> has come and gone, why not try it for each of the rest of the days of the month and maybe every day for the rest of the year, or maybe every day for the rest of your life?