

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**SIMSTOWNSHIP.ORG**

**MTA CONFERENCE IN ESCANABA ...** Sunday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, Suzanne, Judy and myself headed for Island Resort Hotel and Casino for a two day “Up North Summit,” having to do with township ‘stuff.’ Actually, they were the ones registered and I was just the driver! The classes they took were on Election Updates, Understanding Ordinances, Changes in Finance Reporting and their favorite being Cemetery Operations. They came away with a lot of useful ideas, some of which will be implemented. My time was spent playing golf at the Northern Michigan University course in Marquette and visiting the U.P. Bible Camp in Little Lake and Gwinn, near the former Sawyer Air Force Base, which camp I attended for about six years when I was a young-un and had and have many great memories of that place. And some might ask, “Did we win big at the Casino?” They won big with the classes, but as for the games, none of us played. We returned Wednesday morning, arriving home at 1 p.m. Township business does not stop just because one goes to a conference, so Suzanne and Judy had the great joy of working both Friday and Saturday, to finish paying the bills, getting out payroll and finalizing the agenda for our monthly board meeting on Sept 21<sup>st</sup>!

**TRANSFER STATION ...** The new fence and gate have been installed and Midland Fence did a great job for us. The new equipment shed arrived on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Transfer Station is looking good. The board has approved the language and other changes for a new cost sign to replace the current sign. This is the large sign behind the compactor that lists pricing for disposal of large items such as couches and mattresses, etc.

**CEMETERY ...** Jess Gordon came in this week to remove a large “widow maker” limb from one of our taller trees in the SE corner of the cemetery. Denny Killingbeck’s crew removed several mounds of dirt near the equipment shed and relocated them to a low area on the south end of the cemetery and leveled the areas. The cemetery is looking good. Midland Fence gave us a price to remove and install 490’ of fencing, some of which is leaning 45 degrees over the edge of the hill. This includes the cemetery beach fencing which will be completely replaced. The new fence will be raised one foot above grade and a tension wire installed along 520 feet to keep the sections from flapping in the wind. I believe the total length of the fence is 770 from the north to the south corner. The fence sections will be 4 feet high rather than 5 foot. The reason for the 1 foot gap is to prevent the accumulated leaves from collecting along the bottom which puts a tremendous strain on the fence sections and which contributed to the shifting, or “leaning” of the fence sections over time. The majority of the damage was to the original fencing installed about the middle of the cemetery and north and has been in place for about 20 plus years. The newer section from midway of the fence-line and south is only about 10 years old. The purpose of the fence originally was two-fold, 1) to prevent motorcycles and

atv's from hill-climbing, which was, in fact, a problem and 2) to prevent residents from tossing their brush and other junk over the hill, which also was a problem.

**TOWNSHIP JOB CHANGES ...** In November, Sharon will step down as Water Clerk but will continue as Treasurer. Sharon has done a great job over the last several months figuring out and working with our I T folks to fix all the software glitches we had encountered with the billing system and getting us back on track. The position was posted locally, but we had no response. Judy has expressed an interest in the position, but it must be approved by the Board.

**FINAL THOUGHT ...** Sharon's husband, Jeff passed away unexpectedly August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We grieve with her and her family and Jeff's friends and co-workers as Jeff is missed and will be missed. His legacy was to help others whenever he had the chance. The prayer of the church offers hope when it says, "May the angels lead him into Paradise; May the Choir of Angels greet him and may he have eternal rest. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the unending Mercy of God, rest in Peace." This is a reminder to all of us, that like Jeff, we are to Be Kind, Be Vigilant, Be Busy as life is very brief, like the falling of a leaf.