

## **SUPERVISOR COMMENTS ... SIMS TOWNSHIP YEAR IN REVIEW DECEMBER 2018**

**Water Plant ...** The biggest single item for this year was the completion of the water plant. While there were some issues with the general contractor as to overcharges, toward the end, they did take steps to "mitigate damages" somewhat. For instance, we were never satisfied with the original aluminum frame windows as condensation would form on the inside, so those were exchanged for a vinyl/wood window at contractor expense. The other issue that could present problems is with the freezing of the pond and outlet to the lake that could shut down the plant, should we have a hard freeze over several days or weeks. It remains to be seen what will happen as the temperature has been quite moderate so far. One fix, should freezing become an issue, is to install a "bubbler" system similar to what is used in marina slips and other applications to keep the water agitated and less likely to freeze solid. Those systems are being evaluated and will be discussed at the meeting on 12/20 at 2 P.M. at Whitney Hall. The water quality and purity of the finished water from the new plant is 80% better than what was produced by the original plant according to our operators and this information comes from lab reports.

**PFAS ...** There is yet another water crisis in our country and in our state called PFAS. This new gunk, which has been around for years, and we are just now being made aware of, must be monitored, as it has serious side effects and health risks when contacted at high levels. PFAS, or polyfluoroalkyl substances, has several variations or strains. PFOA and PFOS are two strains or compounds of PFAS and there are many more. PFAS is used in carpeting, to waterproof clothing, food paper wrappings, upholstery, takeout containers, furniture, some cosmetics and more. Some health risks include thyroid disease, decrease fertility in women, increased blood pressure and cholesterol levels, increased risks of kidney and testicular cancer and more. Our military serves us well all over the world. Unfortunately, our military leaders somehow dropped the ball on this one, as they knew about the potential dangers of this stuff for years on military bases and said and did nothing about it. So far, there are 34 confirmed PFAS sites around Michigan, but the DEQ suspects there could be 11,300 potential sites. The largest hot-spots so far in our area are from the Grayling military base and Oscoda's former Air Force base. Grayling and Oscoda's primary culprit was a certain firefighting foam (AFFF), and contains a PFAS compound, which brand is no longer manufactured. The highest level of PFAS recorded was in Rockford, MI at 841 ppt and was the highest recorded in the country. 1.5 million Michiganders have been unknowingly drinking

well water contaminated by PFAS. Another alarming stat is 95% of Americans now have measurable amounts of PFAS in our blood. In our area, this PFAS gunk leached into water wells near the military bases and from there, to the underground river system, or aquifer, and eventually migrated into Lake Huron. Currently, the recommended lifetime health advisory limit for PFAS is set by the EPA as 70 parts per trillion (ppt). The water coming into the Saginaw-Midland Plant and our plant is 11 ppt for PFAS and the finished water, after treatment, from our plant is 0. For now, we are in very good shape in Sims and Whitney. The Michigan legislature is actually being proactive for once in getting this problem under control and is leading the nation in finding remedies to combat by specific filtration processes the removal of these dangerous compounds. This information regarding PFAS was gleaned from the Michigan Environmental Report, Vol 36, No.2 should you desire additional information.

**Road Renewal Process ...** For 2018, we had the ability to have Baum Rd. paved and the Road Commission began preparatory work on Mclean Rd to hopefully have it paved in the Spring of 2019. Mclean Rd required that the trees that have grown up in the ditches be removed, and so on one side of the road, the trees have been removed. The trees on the opposite side will be removed next Spring. This Fall, even though it is late in the year, the Road Commission still intends to install two 12" steel tubes under the roadway to drain water from the swampy side to the none swampy side, if that makes sense. They've got to re-direct that water, so the road does not flood when the new asphalt is put down next year. All of the county roads in Sims Township will have been paved when Mclean is completed.

**Sims Centennial ...** The day started off a little cloudy, damp and very windy and turned out to be beautiful. A lot of folks did a lot of work putting this together and if I begin listing them all, I may forget some, so I better pass on that attempt! Suffice it to say, we appreciated everyone's help and contributions for a successful and fun outcome for the first 100-year celebration. Over 200 showed up throughout the day, the food was great, and everyone got a chance to sit around and visit. The kids had games and everyone else were serenaded by the Kowalski Bros Polka Band under the big tent. The AuGres/Sims/Whitney Fire Department brought their newest, less than 6 months old, ladder truck and the kids got a chance to sit in the truck. So, Thank You to everyone and may God Bless Sims Township for another 100 years plus!

**Final Thought ...** From the Sims Township Staff & Board ...Wishing you and yours the best Christmas ever ...!