

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS 2021 REVIEWED DECEMBER 2021 SIMSTOWNSHIP.ORG

Another year of covid-mania and mandates is almost finished, except for the covid part and never-ending testing and boosters that will possibly hang over us for decades. It's a fact that all the media hype and pomp and circumstance will be transitioning with us into 2022 and beyond. Unfortunately, this is the collective baggage we all will continue to share through no fault of our own, but I'm optimistic that better times are just over the horizon and, for a moment, are only temporarily out of view! One thing is for sure and that is, together we've accomplished quite a lot in the township over the last year, as you'll see from the review following ...

In **January**, we reported that Miehl's had installed 740 meters to date with 380 remaining. As of now, there are approximately 50 remaining to be installed. Also, remember that the majority of our meetings for months were by Zoom;

February ... The new LED lights were installed in the hall, we bought and installed a new furnace for our Cop Shop and the first lawsuit against Whitney regarding them not paying their fair share for the cemetery was settled and the plaintiff Sims prevailed;

March ... We became aware of water billing errors and other software glitches;

April ... We announced Republic as replacing Waste Management as our new vendor for the Transfer Station; Sharon continued de-bugging the water billing system;

May ... We had an election with two proposals for millage increases of .5 for gypsy moth and roads and both passed! Thank You to everyone who helped us throughout this election cycle. A resident sued the Water Authority and Sims Township for refusing to install water service at a park (**Note:** It was clear to the court that the plaintiff failed to follow the township ordinances); We were informed that a substance was leeching into the river at Singing Bridge, was contained and did very little damage; One side note, is the **May** Supervisor Comments was the shortest ever posted in 6 years! I'm kinda sorry, but seriously, I didn't have anything much to report!

June ... We reported a very productive Cemetery and Transfer Station meeting with our dear friends from Whitney; We received a Tribal 2% distribution for \$10,415.00;

July ... The areas on both sides of the drive at the Transfer Station were cleaned up, with old trees and brush being removed and 20 loads of topsoil brought in to level the areas in preparation for a new fence and gate; We experienced operational issues with Republic for a few weeks and we hope the matter has been fully remedied; Also, Miehl's reports 146 meters remain to be installed from the 380 in January and we are at 50 remaining now;

August ... The Census data came in and Sims population is 986 which is 109 less than the 2010 census; The new equipment shed arrived at the Transfer Station and was set in place;

September ... Suzanne and Judy attended the MTA Conference in Escanaba; The new fence and gate were installed at the Transfer Station; Sharon stepped down as Water Clerk but will continue as Treasurer;

October ... On the 4th, Sharon unexpectedly resigned as both the Treasurer and Water Clerk; On the 5th, Ann Marie Borushko was appointed Interim Treasurer and Judy Mackie was appointed Water Clerk and will also continue as the Clerk's Deputy; Jesse Gordon removed the brush and trees along the cemetery fence line in preparation for a new fence; A new fence was installed along the east side of the cemetery;

November ... Ann & Nancy Court project began with the removal of the old culverts and re-digging for the new culverts; The weather became too cold for paving the roadways, and that project will be first on the list for Spring 2022 according to the Road Commission; Whitney sued the Water Authority and Sims over the ownership of their water tower and the AT&T revenue stream from the antennas on the deeded tower that rightly belongs to the Water Authority;

December ... Jesse Gordon and crew trimmed all the trees at the S-W Cemetery and Cemetery Beach and did a very nice job as usual; At the Tribal 2% Distribution at the end of November, our Trustees, Mike and Sam, received an \$8600.00 check, and \$7600.00 was a grant request that paid the cost for the new S-W Cemetery fence, with the \$1000.00 balance being the amount gifted twice yearly by the Saganing Tribe to each Township in Arenac County. The Transfer Station will be closed Saturday, 12/25/21 and the following Saturday, 1/1/22.

January 2022 ... Whitney Lawsuit Moving Along ... A pre-trial conference is scheduled for the morning of Feb 9th at 10:45 by Zoom and only attorneys need to be present. We are hoping everything can be worked out through mediation and a facilitator has been selected. Should mediation not be successful, the matter will move through the court. I suspect there will be a period of 'Discovery' followed by Depositions of all parties. As a review, Whitney is suing Sims and Water Authority Board members – myself and Mike Deleo - for not assigning/re-deeding their water tower back to them when the water plant bonds were paid in 2015, in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation. **HINT:** Mike and I were not board members or even elected until 2016 and they never brought it up until 2021!

Website Training ... We recently contracted with a website design company in Troy and our staff – Suzanne, Ann Marie, Judy and Mike Fil - had 90 minutes of training on Thursday, 1/13 and 90 minutes on Monday, 1/17 on how to "migrate" material into the site and basically, manage our own site. We are excited to see what this new site will look like and hopefully, it will be ready for launch, Feb 1, 2022;

February

March '22 ... The board worked together to develop an easier to understand township budget format that went from 14 pages to 2;