

**BOROUGH OF WILMERDING  
MINUTES FROM JUNE 6, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Stephen Shurgot at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

**ROLL CALL: REV. DOROTHY REEVES, present; KAREN PETERSON, absent; LINDA KIRK, present; SANDRA SMITH, present; PAULA SHURGOT, present; JOHN THOMAS, present; STEPHEN SHURGOT, present. MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.**

**REV. D. REEVES / L. KIRK TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**PETITIONS & MEMORIALS**

**N. RONILLO, PAT MEWS DRIVE:** I asked you (Mr. Shurgot) and the Mayor why the park was not being cleaned and creek bank not being done and if this was a no smoking building. I saw them smoking at the Public Works Garage. I was told the rule was just for the upstairs.

**S. SHURGOT:** we will take care of it. After Election Day I had a list of 30 comments from citizens which I addressed in the form of email for 2 various departments in the Borough. One of the areas I addressed was graffiti on personal buildings, we gave this to Turtle Creek COG and the other was the creek bank. We're in the process of researching who owns that at this time, if it's the railroad or the water shed.

**N. RONILLO:** The borough always took care of it

**S.SHURGOT:** I'm not sure if the borough did, I was told that Darryl Dukic cut it. We were told a person did that so I haven't got to the bottom of cutting it permanently so that's what I'm working on right now. The playground, I gave them an emailed list, which I have a copy of, I asked them to mulch it and take the weeds out. Another gentleman told me about a broken railing on a couple streets, we are in the process of getting quotes for all the railings. Sidewalk issues on the 700 block of Middle, all sent to COG to contact the homeowners. Asked about the right away between Middle and Airbrake, COG is in the process of getting letters to residents to get it cleaned up. Everything you asked us to do was sent out to our departments and is all in the process of getting done.

**N. RONILLO:** I asked Jesse and Mayor about a couple places on Middle with high grass and was told he's too busy shutting down buildings. Is that his job or is he supposed to do other things likes weeds and grass?

**S. SHURGOT:** He's involved in many things. If he finds a dangerous living condition or if the police go for a reason and find a broken sewer than he has the authority to close that building, which he has done. So there are some things that take precedent like dangerous living conditions over high grass. He has to take care of that first whether people agree with that or not but life comes first and he's only here 20 hours a week.

**N. RONILLO:** than he need more hours.

**S. SHURGOT:** I understand that and we need more money to give him hours

**N. RONILLO:** every time I asked Al Hussey it was done immediately and I want to thank him for doing the job he did.

**S. SHURGOT:** Thank you for your opinion.

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**K. KLINE, MIDDLE AVENUE:** I would like to second that. There's a lot beside 124 Middle Avenue, we have been telling everyone about the rats, grass and snakes and nothings getting done

**S. SHURGOT:** thank you

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**E. BARRET, HERMAN AVE:** Duquesne Light did do some new light around park and they are wonderful you can actually see the street now. Also with the Public Works Department I'm not sure what their summer agenda is but I'm glad to see they painted diagonal parking lines on Herman Avenue and are there anything in the works for a school zone? I know the speed limit is 15 mph how far it goes I don't know.

**S. SHURGOT:** I know that on Marguerite and in the circle when it was a school there were signs there. I don't think we have to worry about enforcing now but we will have to get them back up.

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**T. TREHOS, MIDDLE AVENUE:** 124 Middle Avenue says on this paper high grass and weeds with a compliance date of 6-5. Is that the date it's supposed to be done because it's not.

**L. KIRK:** That's not a precious date, there's a process after that.

**T. TREHOS:** when you turn onto Middle Avenue from Patton there's a real bad bend there and a lot of kids are out playing. Is there any way we can get a sign up there that says Kids at play or Slow. Everyone flies around that bend, I'm afraid that kids are going to get hit.

**K. KLINE:** Police are driving fast without lights and sirens on and going down the wrong way

**S. SHURGOT:** The inspector will see you after. Thank You

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**T. FRYDRICH:** In relation to what you were talking about before with the Boom Boxes. Aside from the decibels there's something else involved. There are a couple individuals lately riding around with real filthy music on them. Can you dos something about that without worrying about decibels.

**P. SHURGOT:** Some music has swear words like every other songs, could you stop them for that.

**S. SMITH:** just before you answer that, I've given Officer Havens email with the attachment to the attorney.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** I think that would be the better way to handle it.

**S. SMITH:** Greg's going to review that and get back to us.

**T. FRYDRICH:** 2<sup>ND</sup> thing, I was promised by the council about a year and a half ago that the curb on Wood Street was going to be replaced. My hillsides being wash away. It was knocked out a couple years ago and nothings ever been done with it.

**S. SHURGOT:** is that coming down the hill where we had the ice problem?

**T. FRYDRICH:** 283 Wood Street, right across the street.

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**S. SHURGOT:** Thank you.

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**P. LIVERATTI, Airbrake Ave:** How long are we going to deal with that board up building on Middle Avenue?

**S. SHURGOT:** You're talking about 318 Middle? I asked the building Inspector because I figured it would come up tonight. 318 Middle, any idea when a wall might be going up? The last time he spoke with the architect who was retained by the insurance company they have not got an answer back from the architect. They are waiting on the architect to give them designs so they can tell them to go and this is as of June 5<sup>th</sup> there has been no answer back with the design and there's no time limit that we can force them to do that in

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**N. RONILLO:** can we have some trees on our side? You're putting all the nice trees over here what about the other side of the bridge?

S. SMITH: I can speak to that. We are not putting those trees in, Compass Bank is putting those trees in and they chose to put them there because the wells were already empty so I don't know if they have any plans to do anything more in the future but their fair. At this time I'm not sure there's anything in the works for that side but we'll keep that in mind.

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Received a Resignation letter: To Whom It May Concern, I'm resigning from the position of a member of the Zoning Board as of June 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Larry Sobek.

**S.SMITH / P. SHURGOT TO ACCEPT MR. SOBEKS RESIGNATION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

2. Resolution 2017-6 on an Alcosan Grow Program Grant.

**S. SMITH / P. SHURGOT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2017-6 IN SUPPORT OF THE GROW PROGRAM. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

3. An ordinance amending the Borough parking regulations, adding additional parking regulations, and Amending the penalties for violations of Borough parking ordinance. This ordinance was advertised.

**G.EVASHAVIK:** This was something that was previously if members of the public may have been here. Essentially what would happen is **the** Borough Council had become aware of a common occurrence where Vehicles are parking on the side of the road facing against the flow of traffic which creates a danger and Hazard to motorists and pedestrians when vehicles are trying to park and exit against the flow of traffic. This is currently prohibited by the Motor Vehicle Code and if passed by council this will be an ordinance And Regulation in this borough. Violations are established by a fine of \$50.00 plus costs. Does anyone in the Public have any question or comments about the ordinance before council votes on it. No questions

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or Comments so that ends the public hearing.

**S. SMITH / L. KIRK TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE ON PARKING REGULATION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

4. The Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County sent a letter informing that our applications for a Community Infrastructure a Tourism grant was approved. This is the grant for demolition of 6 houses

**P. SHURGOT / D. REEVES TO ACCEPT THE GRANT FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

5. Received a letter from Doris Killing showing an interest in joining the Planning Commission.

**S. SMITH / J. THOMAS TO APPOINT DORIS KILLING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – L. KIRK:** for the month of May Eastern Area Ambulance responded to 62 calls and had 39 transports. Their average response time for emergencies was 6.5 minutes and for non-emergencies it was 7.3 minutes.

The fire department responded to 37 calls, 15 were in town and 22 were out of town with 6 work details. There was engine washing, station clean up, breathing apparatus checks, attending the ground breaking for the Westinghouse school, a funeral and Memorial Day services in Wilmerding, Wall, and White Oak.

**INSPECTOR KEARNS:** for the month of May there were 419 events for the borough. A brief summary of the calls were as follows: 6 abandoned vehicles, 1 ammo recovery, 9 animal complaints, 4 assaults, 50 assists to other police departments, 7 criminal mischief, 2 curfew/loitering, 7 disorderly conduct, 14 domestics, 1 DUI, 2 fraud, 2 Megan's Law violations, 3 missing persons, 5 motor vehicle crashes, 4 overdoses, 2 PFS's, 1 public drunkenness, 13 suspicious persons, 10 thefts, 90 traffic stops, and 4 warrants. There were 32 arrests made, 1 for Megan's Law, 3 were for narcotics, 3 for simple assault, and 1 DUI. In addition to the 1 for scattering rubbish that was from the Orient Ave dump we've issued citations and just the last week we've had 2 more so that will be 4 in the last couple weeks.

**P. SHURGOT:** on the telephone poles there are still crime watch signs with North Versailles' phone number. Do you guys do crime watch?

**INSPECTOR KEARNS:** yes

**P. SHURGOT:** ok then I'm going to get those ones down so we can get new ones put up with your info.

**PUBLIC WORKS – P. SHURGOT:** They did their weekly and monthly check and pulled the camera cards out to recharge the batteries and change them. They put top soil and seed in the Westinghouse Park, removed leaves from Kings Way, helped set up for the festival, cut a strip of Card and also Sprague Street, one of those being a vacant lot. They are starting to do the vacant lots. They also helped set up for Election Day.

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I would like to make a motion to promote Chris Russo to the foreman position that's going to be vacated on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. His rate would be starting at \$16.00/hour. I don't believe he is going to take benefits; he's going to take \$1000.00 in lieu of the benefits.

**S. SMITH:** Is Chris off probation as a new hire yet?

**P. SHURGOT:** yes he has been off.

**D. REEVES / P. SHURGOT TO HIRE CHRIS RUSSO AS THE PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**P.SHURGOT:** That will make a vacancy for a laborer. I have some questions on that I thought we were going to take applications through the 14<sup>th</sup>. Apparently it was posted on social media and we're getting hearsay that there's people, Johnny just handed you one. Do we want to advertise in the paper? The cost of that would be roughly \$80-\$100.00 to do that. Or do we just want to go by word of mouth and social media?

**L. KIRK:** It is on the borough Facebook page.

**S. SMITH:** Greg isn't there something where we have to publicize an open position?

**P. SHURGOT:** I thought we did too.

**G. EVASHAVIC:** No. Sometimes that's a requirement if you dealing with collective bargaining agreement, union contracts, if it affects other union members, but here it wouldn't apply. You don't have to advertise anything.

**P. SHURGOT:** ok well Linda puts it on her social media page for the borough. Do we have actual applications?

**J. HARTZELL:** I have applications. Do you want a resume also?

**S. SHURGOT:** We have one letter of interest in a resume, as we advertised, on my desk tonight and I know there's 2 more coming. It's up to you what you want to do?

**P. SHURGOT:** That's my question 1<sup>st</sup> off before I continue with this. I think they should have to have an application

**S. SMITH:** My concern is not advertising. I think we should advertise it more so than just on social media.

**P.SHURGOT:** I agree with that to. So if I would make a motion that we hire a laborer by putting it in advertisement form and having an application

**J. HARTZELL:** my question with that is the deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> so by the time it makes it I the paper your only giving them a couple days.

**P. SHURGOT:** Your kids are going to be starting probably Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> because they graduate on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup>. So you will have 2 people with Michael for the rest of that week and also for Chris the following week. Michaels last day is the 16<sup>th</sup>. So actually Chris is not going to take his official position until Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**P. SHURGOT/ S. SMITH TO ADVERTISE FOR A FULL TIME LABORER WITH BENEFITS. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**P. SHUGOT:** OK then on the Boy Scout sign project, everyone should have got one in Joe's package today. He's only going to get 2 signs, there's not going to be any graphics on it. Just wording: Welcome to Wilmerding Borough and the established year. It's going to be a blue sign; the words are going to be carved out in in Gold. He is looking to put them at the bottom of the YMCA hill. They are a little bit bigger than the signs we have but me and Mike went around and measured today and they will still fit there. I would really like to have it over here in this triangle but we don't own that. It belongs to Allegheny County. I will contact them if you think that would be a better place. The other place would be coming onto Airbrake but where the existing sign is, that isn't our property so we would have to move that to right by the stop sign at the playground.

**ENGINEER – D. GILLILAND:**

1. CD 42 demolition project for 401 and 409 Welsh will begin after the asbestos reports are received.
2. Wall Street Porous Pavement Project is underway with the gas company replacing the lines; the water company should also replace their line before we begin the actual road work.
3. We received approval on May 25<sup>th</sup> a grant for \$80,000 for the demolition of 6 structures in the borough. 4 have already been selected and 2 are pending county approval. For the 4 already lined up I did get quotes to do an asbestos inspection. The lowest was from CMI and would cost \$2630.00. Motion would be in order to award the asbestos inspection for the CITF demolition to CMI for \$2630.00.

**P. SHURGOT / S. SMITH TO AWARD ASBESTOS PROJECT TO CMI. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**BOROUGH PROPERTY – S. SMITH:**

I spoke to the man who has done our stairwell twice before with the water damage and he is able to do that job within the next weeks at a cost of \$350.00. Waiting to hear back from him to see when we could get on his schedule.

Tony, pastor Reed, Dennis, and I finished up the trees on Westinghouse Ave. When I was coming here tonight they were putting the mulch in so by the time we leave here tonight the trees should be complete. Compass bank footed that bill that was over \$4500.00. A thank you note would be in good order to send to them.

**P. SHURGOT:** the borders you put around there do you think that those brick borders are going to be safe? You have people looking at their phone while their walking nowadays.

**S. SMITH:** I think they will be fine. It's not that far raised above the sidewalk.

**P. SHURGOT:** one more thing. Can you get the protectors for the new trees?

**S. SMITH:** I'm not sure. They will be adding the cords so I will have to look into that. One thing we will have to do, if we don't get rain, is to get public works to water them.

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**SOLICITOR – G. EVASHAVIK:** I received an inquiry and a letter from Gene Simpson 3 Miller St. Rear is requesting his property be rezoned from commercial to residential. He said at one time it was fisher tire service at the garage level and in 1988 a 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom house was built on top of the bay garage. At this time it is fully residential and hasn't been used as commercial for more than 25 years. I spoke with Joe and Joyce Tomasic about this and in order to do this we would have to change the zoning map to rezone any parcels even though this is a very small zoning. The process has to start with the planning commission. They review requests to change your zoning and start the process. They will have a hearing, have him come in and present and you decide. One concern I have is you have to make sure it's not spot zoning. I don't know what surrounds it but you can't just have an island zoned differently from everything else. The planning commission will review it. When their done they will make a recommendation to council and would have a public hearing and you could decide if you want to go through that. It's an expensive process and requires an ordinance that has to go to the county for approval.

**J. THOMAS:** When this building was out up 30 some years ago what if Fisher Tire applied for a variance that it was residential?

**G. EVASHAVIK:** the variance doesn't change the zoning, only council can change the zoning.

**J. THOMAS:** well according to the map it's residential. No there's another issue. When you go to the county website its commercial. Whether the county didn't change it or there was a variance I'm not sure but we ca go back in our records and find out.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** The only thing that would matter for the county is his assessment. I don't know that there's a difference in taxes. The zoning that matters is the zoning in this borough. We have sole authority to establish the zoning, enforce the zoning, and regulate the zoning so where it shows on the county site in my opinion in irrelevant. It's what we show it as that matters. In order to try to correct this we have to find someone at the county and say your listing is incorrect. We are the authority, we have our zoning map, and you should change this. You could try to do that to help the guy or have him call me and I'll explain this to him.

**FINANCE – J. THOMAS:**

**J. THOMAS / P. SHURGOT TO PAY ALL TH AUTHORIZED BILLE. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**

**J. THOMAS –** the 2% discount has expired. The borough taxes are now due at face value till the end of Augusts Out tax collector has turned in approximately 72% of what we have budgeted for real estate in the borough.

**PLANING – REV. D. REEVES:** NO REPORT.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**J. THOMAS:** Air for the vehicles in the road department. The foreman wants to get a compressor at Home Depot that tis approximately \$800.00. This should supply enough air for the fire vehicles and the road department use. Hopefully it will still activate the horn but we're not sure on that.

**J. THOMAS / L. KIRK. TO PURCHASE A GENERATOR FOR THE COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$800.00. MEMBERS VOTES APPROVA, 6-0**

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**S. SMITH:** the people from the 2nd citizens' police academy graduated on May 31<sup>st</sup>. That was the biggest class with 36 people. There is no talk at this time of a 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**S. SHURGOT:** Linda do you think you can work with the superintendent and get some people to get a crime watch up and running instead of just moving signs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**T.FRYDRYCH:** on the garbage bills for rentals. Is the bill sent to him or the tenant? Why are people getting bill for thousands of dollars that they never knew they had to pay?

**J. HARTZELL:** Mr. Kerrigan's giving the bill to his tenants now.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** They have a rental agreement that we're not a party to, and I don't know what their obligation is.

**T. FRYDRYCH:** there was nothing in the lease about garbage bills and they never received any bills but they went to the magistrate and lost.

**G. EVASHAVIK:** she can appeal that decision downtown within 30 days.

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**T. FRYDRYCH:** the compressor in the fire department may be able to be sold on eBay or craigslist. They are a collectable

**J. THOMAS:** How about the tank?

**T. FRYDRYCH:** I don't know about that.

**J. THOMAS:** We will have to look into it.

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**P. SHURGOT:** Linda who did the fireman collect for on the streets? A few of the resident asked me.

**L. KIRK:** I'm not sure.

**P. SHURGOT:** well going forward can you let them know that they need to let us know when and who it's for before going to the street.

Also, With Joe leaving and the new secretary coming in, the day before the meetings can the residents submit their questions so we can have the answer for that night?

**G. EVASHAVIK:** we can set up any procedure you want. So you want people to submit questions in advance of a meeting.

**P. SHURGOT / D. REEVES TO HAVE RESIDENT SUBMIT QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.**



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**S. SHURGOT:** I don't think that would take away from you asking a question but if you can get your question together that will give us some time so we don't have to say "let us check for you."

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**P. SHURGOT:** dealing with the garbage bills, I understand John and Steve met with COG and discussed them doing our garbage collection.

**J. THOMAS:** I could never open the attachment but it's the same thing you gave me. It's around \$5000.00/year to do all the current garbage billing and after 1 year it would be turned over to our delinquent garbage and real estate collector.

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**L. KIRK:** not sure how many people knew that we started a Wilmerding Facebook page and it will be to answer any question that I can publicly do for you to send me information that you would like posted.

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**S. SMITH:** Allegheny county police has teamed up with Wilmerding YMCA and PA west soccer association. They are going to do a free summer program for boys and girls ages 10-14. It will be held at the YMCA gym beginning June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. They will do an educational workshop, food, and a 45 minute program of soccer.

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**S. SMITH:** in light of Joe Hartzell retiring, which we keep postponing, we have conducted a serious of interview this past week. I would like to hire the candidate which we thought was the most qualified individual effective after her pre-employment clearance have been met at a rate of \$18.00/hr. plus single party benefits.

**S. SMITH / D. REEVES TO HIRE CAROLINE LANG AS THE NEW BOROUGH SECRETARY AT A PAY RATE OF \$18.00/ HOUR WITH SINGLE PARTY BENEFITS. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 5-1.**

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**D. REEVES:** the girl scouts will be back in Wilmerding the department downtown has already sent the packet to fill out. Also, the academy has volunteered to have the young boys be on the junior academy. I need volunteers to help. It will be on Friday evenings at Agape Fellowship. There is 2 hour training for anyone who is interested in helping.

**P. SHURGOT:** do you know what age group it is for the girls.

**D. REEVES:** It will be Brownies thru seniors. All 4 age groups will be on the same night.

**MAYOR'S REMARKS – G. JAKUB:** I would like to congratulate the 2<sup>nd</sup> class of the police academy.

We have formulated a group, myself, Mrs. Shurgot, and Ms. Peterson to establish permits. We know that movie companies like this area so we are putting together the permits that were not totally in sync with what we had in the past.

I'd like to thank our public works department for all the efforts getting the grounds ready for the ground breaking and the Memorial Day in the park. Working with John Graff and PSE for everyone who saw the castle light up that night, I've been approached by several different groups asking could we come up with sets

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of those pictures to sell. Also the PSE sent us a check for \$100.00 because of all the work from the help from the borough.

I also want to thank the District Attorney's office, COG, CEA, Craig McVickers the county police, and everyone involved with the closing of the Fuller Building and also for those who didn't know. Some of the people that were moved out of there were moved into a duplex on Middle Ave. that our inspectors went to right away. Those people had to relocate to another place. So we are staying hot and heavy on all these properties with issues.

I spoke with Inspector Kearns; we had talked at the last workshop about a permit for the street vendors. We have asked the county police to get involved and when they see them tell them they have to file for a permit so we can check these people out.

I just got involved with a new newspaper called the Valley Mirror newspaper located in Munhall and I will distribute some information to council.

Today I had a meeting with some individuals that at one time were involved with the town and want to bring business in and help get this town up again.

I've been working with Sal from the performing arts school and they are doing work in the building. Those 2 port-a-johns are actually for the building. They are drawing an agreement with the Mr. Johnson so he can go in with the girls.

**S. SMITH:** Joe did we ever get the drawing back related to the school? Greg if you talk to Tom can you ask for the drawing I loaned them months ago.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.