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**Local Government Humor**

Courtesy of Local Government Resources  
**The Problems With Bar Time**

City Council Member Smith lives on the west side of the river. To save time and avoid the hassles of fighting traffic he generally parks his car on the west side of the river and takes the ferry across, then walks to City Hall for his required meetings.

One day, a City Council meeting lasted longer than expected and Councilman Smith missed the 6PM ferry. Rather than sit at the ferry house and wait for the 8PM boat he decided to walk one block over to a little tavern and enjoy a quiet adult beverage. While at the tavern several locals wanted to talk about some of the issues affecting the City and begin to buy him drinks and before long time began to slip away. Councilmember Smith happened to notice the clock and saw that its 7:55PM and he realized he has to catch the last ferry at 8PM so he dashed out of tavern and ran all the way down to the dock.

Upon arriving at the dock, he saw the ferry about eight feet away from the dock and he knew he has to be on it; so without hesitation he took a running leap and literally flew over the water and barely landed on the deck of the boat. "Wow! That was a fantastic" one passenger said, "How'd you ever learn to jump like that " another asked? Even John the deck hand chimed in and said "I gotta tell you Mr. Smith I've been working on this ferry for nine years and never, ever have I ever seen anyone make a leap like that - that was incredible" Not wanting to admit he was late for the ferry Councilman Smith replied "Well it was really nothing - I work out and try to keep in shape." "Nothing it was awesome - but I gotta ask ya, Why'd you do it? We were just pulling in!"

**Do you have a Second.**

A question by Gabe Gabrielsen, OEO

The following reflects an actual event that took place in a community. Read the issue then discuss the options with a friend.

**Imagine you are a Local Public Official**

The administrative office complex of your local unit of government is old and outdated facility that is considered a historic landmark in the area. Built in the early 1950's current day offices are cramped and several offices have desks located in the hallways. Extension cords and electrical adapters are widely used and are in violation of the modern day fire and safety codes. Everyone on your public body has reluctantly agreed more space is needed. One of your colleagues has made a motion to build a new addition at the same location and have it designed so it matches the look of the historic facility. Another colleague has made a motion to just build a simple poured concrete addition and not waste money trying to make it match the old structure. Finally a third colleague makes a motion that the historic building be sold and with the proceeds build a totally new facility near the edge of town where land value is less and where contractors can build it cheaper.

*If you were a member of this government body what motion would you second?*

- A) Add an addition and have it resemble the current facility - approximate cost \$2.6 Million?
- B) Add an addition but not pay the extra cost to have it resemble the current structure - approximate cost \$1.5 million?
- C) Sell the downtown historic property - get a good price, then build a big new facility away from downtown - approximate cost \$2.9 million?
- D) Do nothing. Continue to operate as is for three months until a new board is elected and let them worry about this?

To cast your vote visit website [www.betterpublicofficials.com](http://www.betterpublicofficials.com) or call 800-274-7757 and leave a voice message. You can monitor the progress of this survey by visiting the "Reader Survey poll results" on [www.betterpublicofficials.com](http://www.betterpublicofficials.com).

*Last month's survey involved a motion to sell advertising in public facilities and on public vehicles to generate money and avoid raising taxes. In real life, no other elected official wanted to sell advertisements.. Taxes were ultimately raised.*

**Something of Interest**

Local historians are pretty common. Usually, they do books about ball sports, fishing and local characters. Milwaukee, notwithstanding, who ever heard of bikers being included in a local history book?

Guess what? As of 2009, there is at least one local history book that includes a significant chapter about bikers! Title: *"OSHKOSH, THE WAY WE WERE, REMEMBERING PEOPLE AND PLACES"* by Ron LaPoint. It was printed by Dog Ear Publishing out of Ind. Ind. ISBN 978-160844-311-6. The chapter of interest to bikers is: "Oshkosh Cracks the Throttle". It covers 3 1/2 pages and includes 2 photos. Mostly, it's the story of our local Harley Boys who hung around the old Joe Robl National Cycle and Repair shop at 355 Ohio Street (old numbers). It's a humorous look at the days when bikers were young and flatheads were fast, covering from early postwar to 1954 when this writer enlisted in the service. The rest of the book is what you'd expect, ball teams, locals, etc.

Moral of the story: Where ever you live, there may well be a local historian who would be interested in recording

what you and other local bikers did - if it is printable. Why not ask? You might be surprised. You don't have to be a writer, your local library probably knows someone who would work with you. You got no bitch coming when you, your club efforts or experiences are quickly forgotten - and they will be - if you make no record of what you did. Why not leave something for future riders?

P.S. Two funny typos someone put in to the article: 1. The Indian dealer, "Slim" Davis, got listed as a Harley rider! (Yes, he rolled over in his grave!) 2. The Harley dealer, Robl, got left out of the rider listing! Still, thankful to see a biker story.



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**SUNDAY JUNE 27 @ 11 AM**  
 - EAST SIDE MEMORIAL RUN -