

Local Government Humor

Courtesy of Local Government Resources

Could It Be?

Fifteen years ago, a young City Council member participated in a government exchange program and went to Africa for 30 days to study local government. Late one evening he took a hike in the bush and came across a young bull elephant standing with one leg raised. The elephant seemed distressed, so the young public official approached it carefully, got down on one knee and inspected its foot. He found a large piece of wood deeply embedded in it's foot. As gently as he could he worked the wood out then put down the foot down. The elephant turned, faced the young man and stared at him. It was a tense, as the City Council member thought he might be trampled; however the elephant trumpeted loudly, turned then walked away.

Years passed and that young City Council member was now the Mayor. One day while visiting the zoo with his daughter they walked passed the elephant enclosure. A large bull approached the fence and stared intently at the Mayor. It then trumpeted loudly and lifted its foot showing it to the Mayor. Remembering his encounter years ago the Mayor couldn't help but wonder if this was the same elephant he had helped in Africa.

Summoning up courage, he told his daughter to stay here as he walked over to the bars. The elephant poked its trunk through the bars and gently wrapped it around the Mayor. He gingerly picked him up then slammed him repeatedly to the ground killing the Mayor. Wasn't the same elephant ...

Do you have a Second.

A question by Gabe Gabrielsen, OEO

The following reflects an actual event that took place in a local community. Read the question and then discuss it with a friend.

Imagine you are a Local Public Official

Your local economy has taken a severe downturn, unemployment is high and local officials are reluctant to raise taxes. Revenues are desperately needed to prevent severe cuts in public services. One of your colleagues on the board makes a motion to "Sell advertising space to local businesses in all public buildings as well as on the doors and trunks of all vehicles {except police & fire vehicles} to generate funds".

What would you do?

- A) Second this motion
- B) Not second it
- C) Cut public Services
- D) Propose some other revenue source

** Please be specific

To cast your vote visiting website www.betterpublicofficials.com or call 800-274-7757 and leave a message.

Monitor the progress of this survey by visiting the survey poll results on www.betterpublicofficials.com.

Last month's survey involved a school board member's motion to "Ban faculty and staff from wearing blue jeans and T-shirts to school on workdays".

In real life, no other school board member seconded this motion and the motion died.

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