

Verbatim Notes from Public Presentation

Proposed Royale Horizon Funeral Home,
Newark, Spur Tree, Manchester

July 28, 2011 @ 6:30pm

Presented by Environmental and Process
Engineering Services Ltd (EPES)



Minutes for public presentation Dated July 28, 2011

Public Presentation for the proposed Royale Horizon Funeral Home was held at Swaby's Hope, Spur Tree Manchester on July 28, 2011 at 6:30pm.

The head table consisted of Patrick Williams, House of Wills; Mr. and Mrs. Paul MacFarlane, Proprietors for Royale Horizon Funeral Home; Gregory Watson, Director, Royale Horizon Funeral Home; Kurt Noble and Michael Wilkinson, Directors of Environmental and Process Engineering Services Ltd. Paul Williams, Chairman for the evening.

There were 34 persons in attendance at the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to present on the technical report of the proposed Royale Horizon Funeral Home, Newark, Spur Tree, Manchester.

Meeting was called to order by Paul Williams.

Paul Williams: This evening we are here to have a presentation on the technical report for Royale Horizon funeral home. But before we get into any deeper activity, I'm going to ask that Rev Richards pray God's blessings on this presentation.

Rev Richards: I am going to invite you to stand. We will sing one verse of this song Guide me Great Jehovah. Guide me Oh thou Great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land, I am weak but thou are mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more, Bread of heaven, Bread of Heaven feed me 'til I want no more.

Thank you, could you bow your heads.

Paul Williams: Thank you Reverend Richards. I would just like to extend welcome to all the officials at the head table, to the members here from the regulatory authority; NEPA, Parish Council and most importantly the members of the community from Swaby's Hope and its surrounding communities. The purpose of the function this evening really is to look at the technical report for Royale Horizon Funeral home. I understand that they already have some amount of approval from the local planning authority Parish Council, so they are currently in operation with a showroom, a chapel and body storage, which will be extended, if and when this approval is granted.

The first order of business is to ask the representative from National Environment and planning agency to make a statement, Mr. Francis.

Leonard Francis: Thank you Mr. Chair. All protocols observed. This is the agency statement for the public presentation for the proposed change of use from offices to funeral home at Newark, Spur Tree, Manchester by Paul McFarlane. As the agency's practice, when we have E & A sessions, we actually issue a statement that actually outlines what the project is about; what is being done and then actually we will not take any further part in the discussion. I will now read the statement.

The date of the meeting 28th July 2011; venue, Swaby's Hope Apostolic Church, Spur Tree, Manchester. On the 16th of August 2010, The National Environment and Planning Agency received an application, application # 201012012BA00120. This application was for the proposed change of use from office to shop as a funeral home by Mr. Paul McFarlane. The application was forwarded to the agency from the Manchester Parish Council on the 2nd of September 2010. The agency received a letter from B Spur Development Company Ltd, objecting to the proposed development, which is sited immediately adjacent to their property. Based on the detailed internal assessment of the proposal, the nature of the development

being proposed and concerns expressed by B Spur Development Company Ltd, the applicant Mr. Paul McFarlane was instructed to undertake a public presentation.

On the 14th of December 2010, the agency sent a reminder letter to the applicant advising him of the requirement to undertake public presentation for this development. On 7th of July 2011, the applicant by way of their consultant, Environmental and Process Engineering Services Ltd, advise the agency of the proposed date to undertake the public presentation, which was the 28th of July 2011. Notices were published in the gleaner on the 6th of July 2011, 13th of July 2011 and 24th of July 2011. However, the agency wishes to highlight that while the notices made references to an Environmental Impact Assessment, an EIA was not requested for this development by the National Environment and Planning Agency, nor was one submitted by the applicant. This public presentation is therefore entirely outside of the EIA process administered by the agency. The applicant and his consultants have since, however, submitted the technical document intended to provide the requisite information on the technical aspect of the project with respect to planning regulations.

Please note that the agency will refrain from making any comments or answering any questions in relation to the development at this time as the application is currently being reviewed by the agency. This public meeting is a preliminary action and no final decision has been made as yet. Let me point out, the agency nor the Town and Country Planning Authority, who has responsibility for this development has not made a decision on the application. The agency is simply here to observe and note comments being made by all present. Please be reminded that the process with respect to the public presentation is as follows: a copy of the verbatim minutes of the public presentation is submitted to the agency within five days of the public presentation.

The public has up to 30 days of the date of the public presentation to provide written comments on the proposed development to the agency. So that's 30 days from now. Upon receipt of these comments, they will be collated and sent to the applicant for responses to be provided and 4, when the response is received a submission will be prepared to facilitate the discussions within NEPA. After the internal discussions, the application will be presented with a recommendation to a technical review committee, a sub-committee of the authority and then to the authority for a decision to be taken.

Please note the agency views the public presentation and public consultation process as extremely important in the processing and decision making process. It is the opinion of the agency that the public presentation will provide an additional opportunity for stakeholders to hear concerns, comment, and give your opinion or views on the development. It will also provide the applicant with the opportunity to address these concern, comments, opinions or views from the citizens. And please not carefully, comments can be sent to agency at 10

Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5 or via electronic mail the applications@nepa.gov.jm. Let me repeat, that's the National Environment and Planning Agency, 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5 or you can email it to us at application@nepa.gov.jm. Thank you.

Paul Williams: Thank you very much Mr. Francis.

We will go straight into the presentation of the technical report after which there will be a question and answer session. So we ask that you hold your questions and a panel has been provided that will be feeding the questions at the end of the presentation. Someone will be walking around with a microphone 1) so that the entire process can be recorded to be true and accurate and for there to be some order in how we ask the questions. I will facilitate the question asking session and the panel will do the answering. I will now hand over to Mr. Noble who will be doing the presentation of the report.

Kurt Noble: Good Afternoon all. My Name is Kurt Noble. I am from a small consultancy firm called Environmental and Process Engineering Services Ltd and we are undertaking this presentation on behalf of our client the proprietor for the proposed Royale Horizon Funeral Home.

This presentation as discussed earlier will not delve into some of the details of a full blown EIA. It will, however, address some of the issues re: the planning application as before NEPA and it will be fully conducted in line with the guidelines as presented to us. At the end of the presentation we do hope you will at least see the technical aspects that will all, once mined, not to drift but to garner the information as to the safety of the environment and the potential detriments as well. We will look at mitigating measures and see how this will impact the community and the wider scale.

This funeral home in its current set up has been operating with limited aspects of the funeral business. They have been storing bodies as they have the authority to do so. They can also conduct funeral services in their chapel, they can use their showroom, however, they cannot do any embalming, which is the actual treatment process for dead bodies. In short that is the reason we are here and we need to address that today. They have a mission statement, which is on screen, which is geared towards giving a different experience for the loved ones of deceased for those who has made the transition; their immediate relatives will be able to go through that traumatic period without being.... It is always a traumatic event when one dies. They are put in an environment which will in the healing process, the counseling process in getting the loved ones buried or cremated or treated as they would like to. They also want to

change the experience we have here locally, where funerals are just rushed and we not being focused on it in terms of planning for the event. We are changing, the intention is to change that whole set up in this environs and to give the people of Manchester and the wider Jamaica the opportunity to care for their relatives and friends in such an event.

The proposed development, though partially being operated, will be an environmentally friendly one. The intention is to have a facility that does not impact the immediate environment with any discharges. And certainly there will be no burials there. Only storing, creating an atmosphere for funerals, creating an atmosphere for the loved ones of the deceased without overly overbearing the environment.

What is being proposed is a spacious facility. It is approximately 4000f² there about. And it will, as discussed earlier, have a chapel, there will be a morgue, if approved, and there will be accommodations for persons involved in burial and funeral services. We will have three permanent staff on site and we intend to have a high level of professionalism in raising the bar from what we are accustomed to through the highly skilled and professional service.

The proprietor is driven to have a facility that is welcomed by all and one where they receive as well as give back to the community. The intention is to support activities that are deemed meaningful and to maintain good relations with neighbors. The strategic think plan of the Royale Horizon Funeral Home has look at examined some of the things they would like to do and accomplish. They are playing a key role and intend to be highly visible in community development projects, social activities that will heal a broken community and maintain what we consider proper relations with the neighbors.

We have a map here showing the location of the site and it is demarcated by that 'A' with the cursor pointing to it. As you can see it is thrust in the middle of Spur Tree on the main road between Gutters and Mandeville. We have another image here, that details the location in blue of where the facility will be housed. And it also shows adjoining lands and lands in the vicinity. As you can see the property is set back somewhat from the main road in that there is a long drive up to the gulf of that blue shaded area.

In looking at the location map, we went on to look at what the protected areas are within it locality and the wider Jamaica and we have this map here that shows that it's not located immediately on any of the areas deemed as protected by the National Environment and Planning Agency. The site is presently being used as approved by the local planning authority as an office building and it accommodates mechanical repairs and the rental of heavy equipment. We will discuss the embalming process a bit because this is a topical issue. There are a lot of stigmas about it and I would those of us here to have a good understanding of what

goes on in this process and be able to make their own judgment as to whether or not this is crippling for the local environment.

This process, which we are targeting the embalming process. That is what the facility needs to be a full service morgue. They can store bodies, they can show it, they can have funeral services in the chapel, however, they cannot do what is absolutely necessary to maintain a full service morgue in treating to bodies adequately that is to preserve them until they are buried. The morgue aspect of this will be conducted in a discreet manner, in that there will be the set back in the property. It will have gates, where bodies that are being brought in will enter that gate. The gate will be closed. There will be an obstacle in the form of the gate of the lower level to minimize the visual impacts of the neighboring properties. There will also be a high fence with galvanized roof covering that area to prevent the property from being viewed from above. So once a body goes to the facility, the hearse comes in and that's the last you will see of it from the outside, from the normal area. I will point out again that there will be no burning, there will be no burial. It is simply a treatment process to enable the bodies to be kept in a proper state until burial.

The facility will have the following areas: Reception area; a showroom where caskets can be viewed; a morgue where embalming will take place; a preparation room where final finishing of the bodies will take place in preparation for the actual funeral service; There will also be a view room and this is a room with a watch glass where you can actually see the preparation being done; there will be a refrigeration room to keep bodies at the proper temperature if so desired and there will be a chapel where funerals can be held. I will point out that the chapel is a soundproof building; the windows are double glazed and can be considered to reasonably well mitigate the sound impact coming from the building. It is in fact a full serviced air conditioned chapel.

As with all process there are variations, bodies where the cause of death is not known or not yet determined will be held for post mortem. Once it enters the facility they will immediately be refrigerated. The post mortem will be scheduled and conducted after which the normal of embalming bodies for proper storage will take place.

The embalming process involves the bathing of the body, shampooing, to clean it as well clipping the nails of the deceased. The right side of the neck is cut to give access to a vein and an artery and the embalming machine known as the Porti BoyR then applies the embalming fluid and that fluid is known as formaldehyde. I will point out that this machine is like the size of a blender, it is a very small machine. It operates with one moving part which is a magnetic pump and it simply pumps the fluid through the veins and expels the blood that's in the body. That fluid then takes up that space contained by the blood that is in the circulatory system and preserves the body thereafter.

Again this is further explaining the process but in a nutshell that little machine we just looked at will pump the blood out of the body and replaced with the formalin. The formalin is not applied to the external surfaces of the body. It is pumped into the circulatory system and it actually leaves the facility with the body. It is not maintained onsite. There may or may not be spillages or minor incidents, however, this proposal is not to have formalin being spilled at the facility or going to the environment at the facility.

When funeral arrangements have been finalized the body will be taken for finishing where its final preparation is done. That includes make-up, hairdo, and the general thing to improve the aesthetics of the body. It then goes to a hearse when leaving the facility. All of this will happen inside the facility. No caskets will be walked outside. It will happen behind closed doors and when the hearse leaves the facility it will leave through the side entrance and the visual impact will be minimal as it is a covered area leading towards the gate from the exit point.

Based on the nature of the embalming process, general cleanliness is maintained by what we do typically in household washing using general household chemicals: bleach, disinfectant. This is not a special project; it is just a body passing through the facility. It's nothing major that is being done to it. In terms of the chemicals to be used these are standard chemicals we have in our homes. I have them, you have them, and we all have them. The process will generate some degree of waste in that the body fluids expelled by the machine can be considered as medical waste. Some of it will be liquid medical waste and any contact with any solid element at all makes it solid medical waste and we will have it treated as per the regulations posed to us. Solid medical waste must be treated at a medical waste facility. This is how we always deal with it and my client is not opposing any as it will be treated in line with the norm. Liquid waste will be channeled to a storage tank that is fitted with a secondary containment. So in a nutshell it is a tank in a tank in a vault. It is a secondary storage actually. The level of the liquid in the tank will be monitored and will be shifted as per the operations of the facility to a receival facility that handles this type of waste.

Dialogue has been opened with the Waste Management Unit of the Ministry of Health for proper receival of the waste which will happen several years because this is a 37,000L tank and the waste coming from a single body is not expected to generate pass this. The blood content would be dependent and the size of the body and the blood content of that individual. As I said before the storage tank is almost a 38,000gal tank which is fitted with secondary containment. In saying that if there is a leak from the first tank there is a second barrier to hold that.

The main chemical to be used on site is formaldehyde. They will also use tin fluid at the facility It is used in the whole preparation of the body to maintain color. There is also a liquid spray sealer used to mask cracks and open wounds. We focus somewhat on formaldehyde since in the recent past we have heard the name several times and in talking to the general populous it

comes up as a topical issue. So we went on to view the chemical structure of the thing, it's really CH₂O and we looked at some of the exposure limits as prescribed by OSHA as prescribed by the EPA. We also went on to look at the material safety data sheet. In the embalming process, the formaldehyde that's used is about 37%. I will imagine you can get it at varying strengths but for this process it is a 37% solution of formaldehyde. It is an irritant if inhaled or exposed. It is also considered carcinogenic. Care must be taken when handling and dealing with it. Again, I will point out that my client has no intention to put formaldehyde to the environmental at the facility. Once bodies are treated, the formalin used will remain in the body and taken to the site of burial at the final resting place, wherever that is.

We will have a closer look at the instrument. It is a small instrument. I had it in mind to bring one here so we could see what we are talking about. It is equipped with safety features for automatic shut off. There are several versions of it. The client's intention is to get the best one available on the market.

In short, this application was circulated to several agencies as is the case. The application was made to the Parish Council. The agencies have commented. There is supporting document from the NWA and Ministry of Health for what is onsite what we are discussing now. Another point to make is that the Ministry of Health has also approved the tank in tank set up for the storing of the body fluid.

Death is something that will happen to all of us here. Every day we live longer we are one day closer to death. How we deal with it and how we leave our loved ones to handle our passing is something we all should take note of and do our best whilst alive to ensure that the transition to the next world is done professionally.

That brings us to the end and I hand over.

Paul Williams: We will now go into the question and answer session. This is how it will be facilitated, there will be a microphone at the head table and I will be walking around with another microphone for all those with questions and the people at the head table will then feed the questions.

Do we have our 1st question or any question?

Ricardo Powell: Yes my 1st question sir, why is this meeting not being held in the community itself where it's proposed to be, that is Newark Estates or somewhere there? Why is it been held three miles away from the location in the bush where nobody can find this place, tucked away in some little corner of Swaby's Hope? Can somebody answer that for me?

Paul Williams: For the records could you state your name.

Ricardo Powell: Yes I am Ricardo Powell of B Spur Development Company to which Mr. Francis made reference earlier in the document that he read. And I have some question for him but let them answer this one first.

Kurt Noble: Before we comment on the actual mileage as quoted by the gentleman, we would like to replete the 3 miles you quote as we did not measure the actual distance. On my maps, on a straight line to the facility this is not 3 miles. It is less than a mile. 2. We sought a neutral venue and we did advertise, not three times as outlined by the agency but four times to point out that this is been held. There was contact information in the notices for any comments including the location where the presentation will be held as well as direction if you would want. We were willing and waiting to respond to any feedbacks.

Paul Williams: Next Question?

Ricardo Powell: Yes sir I am not quite finished I have a few follow up questions really.

Paul Williams: I will be circulating the microphone in the entire crowd so it will come back to you.

Peynado Maxwell: My comment to that gentleman is that it is 1 1/2 miles from Spur Tree to here.

Paul Williams: Are there any questions?

Ricardo Powell: Question for Mr. Francis from NEPA. Mr. Francis, in your reading of that document, you made reference that you received objection from B Spur Development Ltd, which is true but no reference was made whatsoever to a meeting that was held in the community, adjacent to the proposed site. Where some 45 persons from the immediate community, who are affected by this thing was held. There were representatives there from your office and also the Parish Council. And I am certain if that document was circulated here today you would find the comments and how the people voted in that meeting and no reference was made to it. The 2nd thing for you Mr. Francis, you made reference to NEPA not requiring for such a request. You did not request an EIA nor did one propose to you. So I would like to know why is there not an EIA for such an important project as this? Bearing in mind the difficulty and problems with formaldehyde, which you have not really displayed to us today.

Paul Williams: At the beginning of the presentation Mr. Francis actually indicated that NEPA will be just observers at this function. SO I will suggest to you that you document within the 30 day period to NEPA.

Ricardo Powell: Fine but I would like to get the answer to the first part of the question in which I asked. Why was the meeting tucked away here and not being held in the immediate

community where the first meeting by Parish Council was drawn? There are dozens of persons there. That was an important meeting and the people had their votes and not one of them is here today. The immediate community is not represented and I want to make that very clear that I did not see the people here that I saw at that meeting in the community and all of the people were there. It is not adjacent it is a community not too far way, I agree with that but your concern may not be the same concern as the people who are right next door to it or who live in the community and have to live there. Completely different thing.

You said you had 45 persons at the first meeting

Ricardo Powell: I think it was in the region of 45. You weren't there Mr. McFarlane

Paul Macfarlane: I couldn't go there.

Ricardo Powell: Right

Paul MacFarlane: You know of the meeting?

Ricardo Powell: No as a matter of fact I wasn't aware of it until yesterday.

Paul MacFarlane: Oh so I guess you don't read the paper. I understand that but what I am saying is since you had brought the 45 people to that meeting

Ricardo Powell: I did not bring a soul there. No, no don't make that allegation Mr. McFarlane. I said I brought nobody there but my own body. You would like me to make the allegation that you brought all these people here which I don't think you did.

Paul Williams: Mr. MacFarlane and Mr. Powell, as the facilitator of this meeting, I was entrusted with the responsibility to conduct a meeting on the technical report.

Ricardo Powell: Could you ask him to withdraw that statement that I brought people there, I brought nobody there. That must be withdrawn.

Paul MacFarlane: I was just repeating what you said. You said about 45 people were there.

Ricardo Powell: But I did not say I brought anybody there but you are alleging that I did.

Paul MacFarlane: I withdraw it ok but follow up to same. 45 people were there at the time, now you just know about this yesterday.

Ricardo Powell: Only yesterday it was drawn to my attention. I was ill and I did not even know what's happening.

Paul MacFarlane: You know what is so funny, it has been advertised 4 times, but then the first time how many times it was advertised at that time and who did advertise it?

Ricardo Powell: So I understand. I don't know sir. I was informed by the Parish Council that the meeting will be held. I got a direct call from the Parish Council that there will be this meeting sir.

Paul MacFarlane: That's the first meeting or this one?

Ricardo Powell: That's the first meeting and only one that I knew of.

Paul MacFarlane: Funny enough this one was all over the Parish Council, the Library, at the Post Office and in the paper 4 times. It is very unfortunate that 4 times it had been advertised and nobody saw it and the time when it wasn't advertised we had 45.

Ricardo Powell: You know sir, to be frank with you, when it was brought to my attention by somebody who happens to be over there I had to read the paper and I did not see that ad. Secondly, when I look at it, it did not say who placed the ad so I called the office at NEPA to find out did you place this ad and they said no. But they told me that they were aware of it being published in the newspaper some three times before. They actually gave me the date, right, and they had in fact asked for a correction too. So that was all I knew. But listen I had to call in to find out the date of the ad and there was nothing there that said who did. There was nothing in the ad that said this ad was placed by John brown or any phone number or any address so I had to find out who the hell did this. I didn't know it was you until they told me it must be you.

Paul Williams: If I may, If I may, the process is not an individual process, but it's a documented process as to how you go about conducting when required by the National Environment and Planning Agency, there is actually a documented process that we go through from placing the ad to leaving copies of your documents at designated places such as the Library, Parish Council and the like. It is not a requirement that anyone put in the ad, this is something that is paid for. Because it's a requirement whoever paid for it is normally the client. It's a requirement of the National Environment and Planning Agency.

Ricardo Powell: But no reference was made sir as to who did, no number, no address of the person who sponsored that ad.

Kurt Noble: If I may, what's your name again sir?

Ricardo Powell: Ricardo Powell sir.

Kurt Noble: Mr. Powell, I like to address people by name.

Ricardo Powell: I have a strong voice you know sir so people can hear me easily.

Kurt Noble: Sir, with all due respect, there were contact information on the notices.

Ricardo Powell: Oh, including the one yesterday, sir?

Kurt Noble: The one yesterday was a correction.

Ricardo Powell: Ok

Kurt Noble: And that spoke to itself and made reference to three notices that were published on three separate occasions. So being the thorough person you are, if there are difficulties understanding a particular notice, there was reference there.

Ricardo Powell: Sir there was no, you see again you being insulting, you a talk bout listen, I did not misinterpret what was written in the paper. I explained it very clearly that I only saw yesterday of the 3 or 4 ads that you placed. I said that I was ill and I wasn't aware of it, but yesterday paper did not carry no telephone number.

Kurt Noble: Yesterday's paper, Mr. Powell, yesterday's paper was not a notice for the public presentation; it was an amendment to the notices published on three occasions.

Ricardo Powell: Anyway, reference was made to the public presentation to be made today so I can't understand.

Kurt Noble: It made reference to the public presentation as carried in the daily gleaner on 3 separate occasions.

Ricardo Powell: Yes, I saw that. But they can't be misconstrued. There was till nothing in there. I saw it for the first time and I would not have known who it was. So I had to call NEPA to find out if they did it. That's the point I am making. But you can't protest that so you can't object to that. You blaming us for not seeing the previous ones and I told you I was ill and I did not see them, clear.

Paul Williams: Is there any other issue anyone would like to raise, from the floor?

Gregory Watson: I can ask a question?

Paul Williams: Yes you can.

Gregory Watson: Good Evening everyone

Audience: Good Evening

Gregory Watson: And this question is directed to Mr. Powell. You are the owner of residential lots. Am I correct?

Ricardo Powell: A residential development, sir

Gregory Watson: A residential development. Mr. MacFarlane and you are the owners of commercial property. Can you propose to us what we should do with our commercial property?

Ricardo Powell: No, that's not my business to do but you have the Right of objection. But that's a stupid question.

Paul Williams: Can I say something?

Ricardo Powell: Yes, go ahead.

Paul Williams: The meeting is about the report on a technical presentation. Not about Mr. Powell's development nor Mr. and Mrs. MacFarlane development except as it relates to this presentation. So I am asking everybody to let us focus on this particular presentation and the issues arising from this particular presentation. I don't think this meeting will be able to solve some other issues.

Ricardo Powell: I have a question for Mr. Lawman from the Parish Council. Mr. Lawman, Manchester Parish Council, I have had several discussions with you regarding this proposed funeral home and every time we spoke about this you said to me, Mr. Powell, we believe that we can offer Mr. MacFarlane at that place what we call a display situation. And every time I speak to you, this is what I get from you including what I got when I spoke to you some three weeks ago that you're yet to grant a display. Now, my understanding of a display is that it will be a place that you can store caskets and other paraphernalia relating to a funeral home but not bodies. You have led me all the way to that, now I am hearing that there has been approval here and that the place is now partially in operation. Can you help me with that?

Paul Williams: Once more Mr. Powell, while you have a wealth of information, some of the questions that you are asking are not related to what I am asked to facilitate this evening.

Ricardo Powell: Yes

Paul Williams: Your discussions, to a great extent of a one-on-one nature with the Parish Council are not in the per view of this meeting.

Ricardo Powell: Aww, see.

Paul Williams: This meeting is a requirement of the National Environment and Planning Agency for presentation on the technical report.

Ricardo Powell: Ok. Can I ask a follow-up to that then? Will there be a meeting of this sort nearer to the community of Newark? And when will that be? Will there be a meeting similar to this near to the place where the people live around that place where this thing is going to be? 'Cause they want to be a part of this too and they are not here. They are not represented here.

Audience: Why aren't they here?

Ricardo Powell: Why aren't they here? I cannot answer that question for anyone but these people are not aware. Most of these people are poor people they don't read newspaper. If you want to hide anything from the Jamaican people, write it down.

Paul Williams: Mr. Powell, I am going to ask you to contain yourself.

Ricardo Powell: I am trying to get some facts and you are not answering the facts.

Paul Williams: Mr. Powell, just as I asked the people at the head table, when you requested that people not be insulting and demeaning, I will not facilitate that kind of behavior.

Ricardo Powell: Yes, I agree with you.

Courtney Dennis: Good Evening everybody. My name is Courtney Dennis. I would like to ask Mr. Powell a question. I was at the meeting, Mr. Powell and just like how you want to know when there will be a meeting. You are asking for another meeting that you keep at a rum bar?

Ricardo Powell: that I keep?

Courtney Dennis: yes

Ricardo Powell: I don't keep any meeting at rum bar, sir.

Courtney Dennis: I was at the meeting upstairs

Ricardo Powell: I didn't call the meeting, sir. I didn't call a location

Courtney Dennis: I wanna make the point here, meeting like this supposed to keep at a community center, school or church.

Ricardo Powell: Ok, well I did not call the meeting sir, I did not fix the location

Courtney Dennis: The meeting is held at a church so I don't think you should have a problem with it.

Ricardo Powell: He is saying that I called the meeting. That meeting was called by the Parish Council and they called me to this meeting. I attend it at a location which they gave me. I had nothing to do with the selection of the venue.

Courtney Dennis: So the Parish Council gave you the location for that meeting.

Ricardo Powell: Yes. Somebody had to tell me because I don't know anybody to ask.

Courtney Dennis: I was there and I was there representing Mr. MacFarlane, who did not know anything about the meeting and I did not object.

Ricardo Powell: But I did not call it and you are not going to tell this meeting tonight that I...

Courtney Dennis: What I want to ask is if you are going to ask for another meeting to be held somewhere in Spur Tree?

Ricardo Powell: Yes

Courtney Dennis: I think it would be very unfair for you to want another meeting.

Ricardo Powell: Why?

Courtney Dennis: 'Cause you get one already.

Ricardo Powell: But I don't represent all the community, sir. I represent myself. So you can't say that. What about the other people? They have no voice? I should have brought them?

Courtney Dennis: Mr. Powell, I know people of a fact that you personally come and ask to come to that meeting. Me Courtney Dennis know.

Ricardo Powell: You know that?

Courtney Dennis: Yes, of a fact.

Ricardo Powell: I don't know one because I didn't bring a soul there, not one.

Paul Williams: Can we get back on point?

Courtney Dennis: You had people all the way from Santa Cruz was there.

Ricardo Powell: But there were owners from Santa Cruz who were there. They purchasing the property so they have all right to be there.

Paul Williams: Folks, we trying to foster....

Ricardo Powell: Can I ask one question? The gentleman I saying that I brought people from Santa Cruz. I sold quite a number of lots to persons in Santa Cruz, business men of Santa Cruz and it happen that they knew of the meeting and they went to the meeting and they voiced their position very strongly and they had their right to do that. They are owners there. They are going to be living next door to this place and you are saying that I brought them. Listen, they are owners of properties, you can go and check the records, they have their title. And they have their right to speak just like how you and I have the right to speak.

Courtney Dennis: Everyone has their right to speak Mr. Powell

Ricardo Powell: Sure but you can't take away the right of the people of Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz people, who own land there and intend to live there has their right.

Courtney Dennis: Is Swaby's Hope a part of the Spur Tree, Mr. Powell?

Ricardo Powell: Saying?

Courtney Dennis: Is Swaby's Hope a part of Spur Tree?

Ricardo Powell: Yes, it is a part of Spur Tree.

Courtney Dennis: So why Swaby's Hope people can't have a say in this?

Ricardo Powell: I am not saying the people of Swaby's Hope does not have a right to this meeting, they do but what about the people who are living closer to it? They are not here.

Sophia Barnes: They are close to here. When I walk in the morning I can walk to here. It is 15 minutes to get here not driving but walking.

Owen Mullings: Ladies and gentleman my name is Owen and I happen to relate to that project that Mr. Powell is speaking. It is only reasonable that a presentation like this should involve the people that are neighbor to this thing. And if they are properly informed they might well be satisfied with what they see or hear. But I didn't know exactly where this location was and the first question I asked when I saw somebody else looking for the location. Why was it so far from the immediate situation? It's a first and if we are involved we are going to ask questions. And it is true that things posted in the observer should have been observed but we don't always search for those things in the papers. Having heard, having found out that this meeting will be taking place, I came with the intention that I would be supplied with information but I think it is reasonable that anyone who is investing around that location wants this information. Thank you.

Paul Williams: Are there any other questions? Any other comments? Just indicate by raising your hand if there are any other comments, questions or concerns. Because I would like for all to be recorded.

Ricardo Powell: I still have questions, sir. One of the implications that I heard today was that, and I think it was stated that the funeral home was in operation. The proposed operation is actually operating at the level of receiving and storing of bodies and display. You actually used those words but the embalming process you said has not yet began. Now, when did you receive approval from the Manchester Parish Council for the commencement of operation of that project and/or from NEPA or from both?

Kurt Noble: We can in fact supply you with the dates of the letter from the Parish Council. There is an approval for operating the chapel as it is and to have a scale down version of the funeral home facility to proceed.

Ricardo Powell: Scale down version. Can you amplify that? So what's the scale-down version?

Kurt Noble: Like I've said before, it is not yet a full service morgue and the intention is to make it a full service morgue. However, there are approvals in place for aspect of the overall development.

Ricardo Powell: Could you enumerate those aspects, sir, if you can from the letters you may have?

Kurt Noble: I don't have the documentation with me but we can supply it.

Ricardo Powell: Can you say what it is that you are approved to do right now then, by the Parish Council?

Dewaine Lawman: Good evening everyone. Name is Diwaine lawman from the Manchester Parish Council. I am here in the capacity as an Acting Director of Planning. I can recall some time ago, whereby, even it was stated by NEPA where the application was launch in September 2010. However I can recall, yes a meeting which was held among other things and the last thing that I can recall that was done by the Manchester Parish Council was to grant approval for showroom only. Now, I am really and truly I cannot sit here representing the Manchester Parish Council and hear that bodies are being stored at the facility. The impression given is that the Manchester gave approval for a showroom plus storage of body, however, the letter which we wrote in December states that it is for showroom only. And I don't know in terms of the definition of a showroom that that actually includes storage of bodies.

Ricardo Powell: What did you intend when you...

Diwaine Lawman: Showroom only, showroom only which would display caskets. Caskets for funeral purpose. That is what I know a showroom is, right?

Ricardo Powell: So are you saying there Mr. Lawman, that if he had gone to do what the gentleman had very well said that they had begun to do such storing bodies, that they are in breach. Are they in breach then Mr. Lawman if they are doing what they said they are doing? The gentle he said it, that they are currently in operations receiving and storing bodies. He said those words.

Paul Williams: Allow me to clarify Mr. Powell, and I will go and read again because you are misquoting me Mr. Powell. You are misquoting me in this instance.

Ricardo Powell: I wish to be corrected but point out to me the correction then.

Diwaine Lawman: May I? I am saying, if bodies are being stored there, then yes that would be a breach.

Ricardo Powell: Thank you, so the gentleman must now if he did say that.

Paul Williams: Let me add some clarity to that Mr. Powell.

Gregory Watson: Let me add to that.

Ricardo Powell: To his statement?

Paul Williams: Mr. Powell, I am going to ask you once more sir, while I am still facilitating this meeting. I have not yielded the chair to you sir so please act accordingly.

Ricardo Powell: Thank you.

Paul Williams: I will read showroom, chapel and facility for body storage. I did not at any point in time sir advise you or anyone else in this room that there are bodies being stored at this facility. So I will ask you at this point in time sir to retract you statement.

Ricardo Powell: I don't know what I heard you say here. You said, the consultant said funeral home is in operation partially. Those are the words, receiving and storing of bodies and proposed to store bodies. Those were the words you used the words and/or. I want to know exactly what is happening. Are you saying that there are no bodies?

Paul Williams: Sir, sir, you are now saying that I am the consultant.

Ricardo Powell: That's what I said.

Paul Williams: I already at the beginning and throughout this entire process advise all and I still remain only the chairman and facilitator of this meeting. And I will still ask you to retract the statement that you credited me with sir.

Ricardo Powell: Ok sir, I accept the fact that they are not storing bodies because you are not authorized to do so by the Parish Council and that you will not be doing so until you receive that authority, thank you.

Paul Williams: Mr. Powell, you have made a retraction and I won't ask you to retract it again. What I will do is clarify for the records that at no point in time did the chairman of this meeting, Paul Williams, state to anyone including Mr. Powell that there is body storage or any such thing occurring at the facility.

Ricardo Powell: Ok sir

Paul Williams: nor did I state that I am a consultant on this project

Ricardo Powell: Ok sir, I rebuke it.

Paul Williams: And I will go further Mr. Powell. When you got to this venue, you sir asked me, what is my association with this entire project and I answered you from then.

Ricardo Powell: Yes

Paul Williams: My answer has not changed.

Ricardo Powell: You are the facilitator, I remember that. That's clear. Ok sir I remove that from my notes

Gregory Watson: Ok Mr. Powell, just to add some clarity to your concern. Funerals are being conducted and this is how folks, we are not allowed to do any form of embalming or anything with the body unless the proper authority gives us the permission, however bodies are taken to May Pen at Mr. Williams facility, good. On the day of the funeral, our hearse goes to pick up that body. It will, however, depart through the outside up there until the time we depart. So we pick up our programs there and our flowers but the body does not actually go on the inside.

Ricardo Powell: Ok

Gregory Watson: This is Mr. Patrick Williams, House of Wills.

Ricardo Powell: Ok

Gregory Watson: Thank you.

Kurt Noble: I want us to be absolutely clear. Are we clear on the matter? Any further clarifications

Owen Mullings: Yes, because I have the same understanding.

Paul Williams: Are there any other questions, concerns or comments?

Owen Mullings: Yes, you have to excuse me. You mentioned a double chamber system. It was mentioned by the consultant, where solids and fluids....

Gregory Watson: Just Fluid, I know the question.

Owen Mullings: Good, that's good. And you mentioned about a disposal, collecting and disposal. Disposal by the ministry of health, you said?

Kurt noble: Can I respond to this?

Owen Mullings: Sure

Kurt Noble: I said, clearly that we have opened dialogue with the Waste Management Unit of the Ministry of Health of the reception of what we classify as medical waste at the facility.

Owen Mullings: Ok. Do you know how that is done? Can you tell us how that is done? Because what you are saying the thing is put into a container and it will be collected from your facility and dispose of. How is that done? I want knowledge of it. And the other people you know they will be drained from the underground source. So we all need to know how the thing is going to be disposed of, where it is going to be disposed. Can it by any chance at all get into the system? Assuredly, you don't want to invest and that happen either, so we should be informed. Thank you.

Kurt Noble: Alright. If I understand you clearly, you want to know what we do with the body fluids.

Owen Mullings: Yes

Kurt Noble: Are we clear?

Owen Mullings: Yes

Kurt Noble: We are speaking about body fluids extracted from the corpses. I want to make the point that we are not talking about what is called dangerous chemical formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is not compound in this, Formaldehyde would bankrupt the proprietor. We are talking about how it is disposed of in any other facility. We are not a disposal site for that but

it's treated and disposed of across Jamaica and across the world at accepted standards by NEPA.

Ricardo Powell: Can you be more direct, sir? No, no, are you going to put it in some soak away pit to soak in the underground? Because when that tank that you have there, at some point in time you are going to have to pump that material out and it's going to be taken to someplace on some cesspool truck somewhere in Jamaica and dump somewhere in some sewer system or in some pit or something. We want to know about that. Where is the plan for that to be disposed of?

Gregory Watson: Yes Mr. Powell, me again.

Ricardo Powell: Yes

Gregory Watson: Let me give you a breakdown of how the storage has been built, ok. We have a 18x20 tank built with 8 change blocks and steel floated. So that's a tankery, ok. Within that tank, we have placed a tank into which the body fluids will go. In case of any eventuality, for argument sake, let we say the tank burst, worst case.

Ricardo Powell: Yes, understand, understand.

Gregory Watson: There is a containment system for that.

Ricardo Powell: And that outer tank that concrete tank that is sealed, what about that? It has an opening anywhere in it at all?

Gregory Watson: There is an opening at the top to go to the metal tank.

Ricardo Powell: I am not talking about that metal tank I am talking about the tank that you are going to put the metal tank. So you putting a tank within a tank. You are putting a metal tank in a concrete tank.

Gregory Watson: Yes

Ricardo Powell: Ok I understand it so it's a double casing.

Gregory Watson: It's not a metal tank; it's a fiber glass tank.

Ricardo Powell: Fiber glass, ok

Gregory Watson: Yes, fiber glass. So it is the fiber glass tank that the fluid will be drawn from to be taken to Spanish Town Road at that treatment plant.

Ricardo Powell: Understand, Spanish Town Road

Gregory Watson: Now listen, funerals home in the corporate area, they are directly linked to the underground system in Kingston. Because of where we are, we have to dispose of it via transportation. Hope you get that.

Ricardo Powell: I understand that

Gregory Watson: So they don't have to build a tank in Kingston to contain their...

Ricardo Powell: They go with the public sewer system

Gregory Watson: Which goes directly to that big plant out by Spanish Town Road, if you know the area well.

Ricardo Powell: South Bed.

Gregory Watson: Yes. To add to that, we are in the process and if you wish to visit the site out by Sear, we are putting together a cesspool tank of our own purpose and to be directed by the agencies, which we know already, which will send us to the right places we spoke of.

Ricardo Powell: They will send you to the right place? Let me just...

Gregory Watson: Mr. Powell, I would hope that as open as I am to you, listening to you, you would do the same for me. Trust me, you think I would just stop and dispose of it.

Ricardo Powell: You would never do that.

Paul Williams: Mr. Watson, Mr. Watson I ask that we maintain the level of decorum that we have throughout the meeting.

Gregory Watson: I am asking to know that Mr. Chairman.

Owen Mullings: Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied, in the end I am properly informed.

Gregory Watson: And I am pleased with how you ask you questions with meaning

Paul Williams: Gentlemen, Gentlemen

Gregory Watson: They have substance

Owen Mullings: And the reason why I am asking the questions. Recently there has been over hundred ways disturbing diseases and the Mayor went on to say that their fear of disturbing old diseases like cholera and so forth, right and I'm saying something has gone wrong out there for some 100 years. Is this really a possibility? That's why I am asking these questions so that I can be satisfied that my grandchild and my wife is not screaming when I go home. Are you certain from what you have heard, are you satisfied that the water that will be pumped back and/or is

going off to Kingston is not going down to St Elizabeth or Porus, right. You understand? Because there are some frightening reports that come out of other systems from other parts of the world. And they are some of...and for this reason, every one of us needs to be satisfied that this thing is being handled properly. Thank you.

Samuel Roper: I need to direct a question. Can I ask you a direct question?

Paul Williams: Yes

Samuel Roper: In which community do you live?

Paul Williams: I live in St Catherine

Samuel Roper: How would you feel if somebody put a funeral home inna your residential area? Like in front a you yard or side a you yard. Now, how would you feel?

Paul Williams: I am going to answer your question. You asked me a personal question

Samuel Roper: Listen now, listen now. You bought a piece of property for such amount and when time come they build a funeral home directly in front of you or bury somebody in front of you. What impact would that have on you?

Paul Williams: You ask mi a very person direct question and I will share with you. I will share with the entire crowd. I live in a community by the name of Green Acres and I am sure most of you would have heard of Dovecot Memorial Park, far larger than any of the burial homes anywhere this side. I am sure you have all also heard of Meadowrest. My house is between the both and the value of my house is not impacted because of how we keep our community and our environment. It is considered to be one of the more prestigious areas so you can research Green Acres. In answer to your personal question, it is and can be sustainable residential development nestled within this kind of commercial properties.

Are there any other questions?

At this point in time I will ask Mr. Macfarlane, proprietor to make a statement.

Paul MacFarlane: I was just thinking, funny enough the important that will an environment is a great. For me, every environment is important. We are trying to go ever green with whatever we are doing next door there. But you know, one of the things I look at as well is, funny I am trying to do sumthing there and personally, no heart feelings. The questions don't have no emotions. I am a business man. That's what I am. I am an entrepreneur. I invest money and I heard you say in your investment network, I acknowledge your investment and I regard your investment but I would love you to do the same wid mine. But wa I'm saying we all Jamaican, everybody here. The way you guys look at environment as so thorough, you know some the

time I wish you would just look at the multinational. The people like the bauxite industry, big multinational that come to Jamaica and mine out all around here. I can remember you have some years ago, when we have the water running down in Porus. Anybody have any idea why the water was running for months?

Ricardo Powell: I know.

Paul MacFarlane: Ok great.

Ricardo Powell: But when you speak to the experts who say they know, they give you different answers because they don't want to take responsibility.

Paul MacFarlane: The mine out areas, the land is so filled with water because they have not reclaimed the land and process in time and that is what we get the impact on that. But come back to say, the multinational, I work with them for years, but not only I work for them for years, I am a mechanical engineer and I can tell you this. Anybody else ever take to note over by the site where they put all the mud right at the hill at Winston Jones and also in the back up there? Anybody ever just took the time out to just look and look at what is happening?

Ricardo Powell: Yes

Paul MacFarlane: If you know the environment, the water table right at down there, it's a vein of the water table down there enuh. It's a vein of the water table. Can anybody tell me? Spur Tree is not the vein of the water table. Secondly, Spur Tree if you look at how the whole environment of the water runs in Manchester and origins where the entire tie ins. Spur Tree is not tie in. I won't even go there, I'm saying to say this if we had just take the same interest on an over-the-board level in terms of the environmental wise and just go look at what the bauxite industry are doing with the caustic are leaking back into the environment, nobody take note on that you know.

Hold on, back up, when I finish you can go. When I say nobody, nobody take it as thorough as how you guys would take what I am saying. I personally go to Mr. Powell and showed him my plan. I showed him my tank within a tank and I explained to him in details of the tank how it will work. I showed him the plan. I went over his place, I sat with him, I even go further to purchase two lots of land from him and it was nothing to bribe him.

Paul Williams: Can we have some order here. This is not an argument. We are here for the presentation of the technical report on the proposed facility.

Do we have any final questions, comments or concerns?

Owen Mullings: We have to be careful with what is happening between Parish Council and other agencies based on what happened in Porus some years ago.

Paul Williams: Thank you. Well we have approached the end of the presentation and I must say you have been an attentive audience and a spirited audience. And just to summarize, let me remind you that you have 30 days in which to forward all written comments, concerns or questions to NEPA at applications@nepa.gov.jm.

The morgue showroom was approved in December 2010 but the body storage aspect of the facility has not been approved. The medical waste is to be contained in the double tanks and then transported by truck to the treatment plant on Spanish Town Road. Formaldehyde will be the most dangerous chemical used at the facility and care will be taken so none will remain on site after embalming of bodies when approved by the authorities.

Owen Mullings: There are two commercial properties beside each other, one residential and one other. They both impact each other, so is there room for discussion on this issue.

Paul Williams: Well let me just say that concerns, comments or questions can be forwarded to NEPA and they will be responded to. Also I think maybe we need to re-culture because there are potential economic benefits to having this facility in this area. I have travelled extensively and let me tell you, Burial facilities are tourist attractions in other countries. I remember I went to tour one of these facilities and I had to pay good money to go in. So let us think of some of the benefits this can really have on the community.

Patrick Williams: Can I say something.

Paul Williams: Sure

Patrick Williams: I just want to share with you about the embalming process. The chemical used is pumped in the body to preserve it. This chemical remains in the body. It basically displaces the blood. The formaldehyde is pumped into the veins in the direction of the heart.

Ricardo Powell: I did a little research here on the chemical formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is known to have both acute and chronic effects on human health. Acute health effects from exposure can include coughing, wheezing, chest pains, bronchitis, severe skin burns, contact dermatitis, and throat, nose, eye and skin irritation. The International Agency for Research on Cancer – IARC classifies formaldehyde in Group 1, carcinogenic to humans. Formaldehyde exposure is also associated with development of asthma.

Kurt Noble: Yes we did advise you of the effect of the chemical and we will definitely not store this chemical on site. We will try to minimize spillage at all times. Just also let me advise you that this formaldehyde is also in some of the shampoos and the lotions that we use.

Ricardo Powell: Ok

Paul Williams: Thank you all once more for being here. You have all been attentive and I hope that you are all well informed at this time.

The team did provide refreshment, which is located at the back of the room. Please partake of it. Also, please be reminded that we are in the house of the Lord so let us remain spiritual and orderly. Good night.

Aneka Newell



Secretary (EPES)

Michael Wilkinson



Director (EPES)