

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.
=====

M I N U T E S
=====

OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY, 1927.
=====

N. J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

=====

A special meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 14th February, 1927.

Present:- Mr. T. McCarthy Chairman (presiding) also Messrs William Boggan, Patrick Byrne, James Clince, Michael Cloney, Patrick Colfer, John Connors, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, Michael Doyle, James Gaul, Colonel C. M. Gibbon, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, David Kavanagh, Aidan Mernagh, Nicholas J. Murphy, John O'Byrne, John Pender, James Shannon, William Thorpe, James E. Walsh, John White and Colonel R. P. Wemyss Quin.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the County Surveyor, and the six Assistant Surveyors, with Mr. Elgee, Solicitor to the Council were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

AGREEING TO RATE FOR 1927-28.

=====

The meeting was specially summoned to consider the figures in Rate Estimate for next financial year and to agree to Rate for general and separate charges for this period.

In connection with this matter letter was read from Mr. P. Higgins, Secretary, Gorey District Executive of the Farmers' Union, asking that a deputation of members of the Farmers' Union of Gorey and other districts should be received by the County Council.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne, it was decided to receive the deputation and to limit it to two speakers as provided by the Standing Orders of the Council.

Mr. Higgins said that the deputation attended the meeting on the eve of the striking of the rate for 1927, to endeavour to persuade the Council to reduce the rates and strike the lowest rate possible. The farmers were not in a position to meet or pay a high rate for several reasons. Some years ago the British Government, through the exertions of the Irish Parliamentary Party, passed an Act which kept foreign cattle from coming into the British Isles

Such was not the case at present, and the British markets were flooded with cattle from all over the world. This considerably reduced the price of Irish cattle, and if a farmer took his stock to a fair he did not know whether he could dispose of them or not. If he had to dispose of them he would have to do so at a sacrifice price. The grain crop this year had been a failure. Oats opened at 9s a barrel and gradually increased by 3d and 6d but the highest price was only 10/6d per barrel, and the farmer had to have a very good sample to get that price. The farmers who were engaged in the production of oats were well aware of the cost of production. The barley crop was almost extinct, except something could be done by the Irish Government or the Chambers of Commerce. It opened at 19/6d per barrel and went down to 17/6d while some of the growers could not dispose of the crop and they had to sell it at 16/- a barrel to some of their better-off neighbours. Potatoes also fetched a very small price. In Gorey they were sold at 9/- a barrel of 24 stone and only a few weeks ago, when there was a big market, they were sold at 8/-, and in a number of cases the owners brought them home again. Unless some consideration was given to the rate-payers they would not be able to pay. The deputation did not come before the meeting to try to intimidate the Council in any way, or to say that they would not pay the rate when it was struck. There were, however, many persons who could not pay even though they were willing to do so. In conclusion he asked the meeting to consider carefully the rate they were going to strike, because every member of the Council knew well the position of the farmers and the ratepayers, and was aware of their inability to pay a high rate.

Mr. W. E. Poole, Ballyowen, Gorey, another member of the deputation said that Mr. Higgins omitted to mention one of the greatest losses of all in the North of the County - the fall in the price of sheep. They were down 15/- a head, and the only redeeming feature they had in the north of the county was the beet crop. They would be all grateful for a reduction as agriculture was very hard hit, and the farmer's purse was only a "clasp" at the present time. The labouring

man was as much affected as the farmer, and between Gorey and Craanford he could point out several farms upon which no men were kept, while the owners were trying to set the farms at a very low price.

The Chairman said he could assure the deputation that the Council was fully conscious of the necessity of keeping the rates as low as possible. The Council had always kept that fact before it. Last year they effected a reduction of $3\frac{1}{2}$ d in the £, and the Council also succeeded in reducing the overdraft in the bank by £10,000. He could assure the deputation that there would be a reduction this year, and as far as Gorey was concerned there would be a very substantial reduction.

Mr. Sean O'Byrne proposed:- "That as agreed to by the Co. Council last year, and as recommended by the Finance Committee, a rate representing one half-penny in the £ be adopted by the Council for tourist development in accordance with the provisions of Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1925".

Mr. P. Byrne seconded.

Mr. Doyle pointed out the Council had decided last year that they would agree to this rate if the finances of the Council would allow. It was plain that the finances of the County were not in a flourishing condition and the statement made by the deputation from the Farmers' Union proved that the Country was not in a position to bear any further impost.

Mr. Barry, of the Tourist Association, who was present, addressed the meeting, and answered various queries.

A letter under date 28th April, 1926, was read from the Co. Wexford Tourist Association suggesting that a Committee of four members from the Co. Wexford Executive of the Tourist Associations, representing the four districts of the County, meet four members of the Co. Council to discuss what form the advertising campaign should take when the rate was available.

Mr. Thorpe proposed as an amendment:- "That a rate of one-eighth of a penny in the £, representing a sum of £202: 15/-, be raised for the purpose of tourist development".

Mr. Murphy seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment:- Messrs Thorpe and Murphy - 2.

Against:- Messrs Boggan, P. Byrne, Clince, Cloney, Colfer, Connors, Cooney, Corish, Doyle, Gaul, Hayes, Jordan, Kavanagh, Mernagh, Sean O'Byrne, Pender, Shannon, Walsh, Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Quin and the Chairman - 21

Messrs Hall and Whyte did not vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

Mr. Cloney proposed, and Colonel Gibbon seconded the following amendment:-

"That a contribution of one farthing in the £ be made to the Tourist Development Association under the Health Resorts and Watering Places Act".

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment:- Messrs Boggan, Cloney, Hall, Jordan and Colonel Gibbon - 5.

Against:- Messrs P. Byrne, Clince, Colfer, Connors, Cooney, Corish, Doyle, Gaul, Hayes, Kavanagh, Mernagh, Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Pender, Shannon, Thorpe, Walsh, Colonel Quin and the Chairman - 19.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

The original resolution was then put to a poll with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Boggan, P. Byrne, Clince, Colfer, Connors, Cooney, Corish, Gaul, Hayes, Jordan, Mernagh, Sean O'Byrne, Pender, Shannon and the Chairman - 15

Against:- Messrs Cloney, Doyle, Kavanagh, Murphy, Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Quin, Thorpe, Walsh, Whyte and Hall - 10.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

On the motion of Mr. Gaul seconded by Mr. Connors the Chairman was appointed to represent the Wexford Co. Council on the Committee of the Tourist Association.

Colonel Quin proposed:- "That the penny rate for Irish be abolished. He said he did not suppose the motion would be seconded but he simply wanted to record his protest against the rate".

There was no seconder.

Under date 31st January, 1927, the following letter (P.H.786/27 Wexford Co) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"Adverting to the Minutes of Proceedings of the Wexford County Council on the 13th ultimo, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he considers that provision should be included in the Estimates for the coming financial year for the salary and travelling expenses of a County Medical Officer of Health, and he requests the County Council to specify the remuneration to be assigned to the office. He would, however, be prepared to acquiesce in a whole-time appointment combining the functions of a County Medical Officer and Chief School Medical Officer whereby a proportion of the aggregate salary and allowances would rank for recoupment from the Grant for School Medical Service, and thus diminish the charge falling upon the County rates!"

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne:-

"That the attention of the Department of Local Government be directed to the following resolutions which were recently adopted by the General Council of County Councils:-

(1) "That a deputation be appointed to wait on the Minister for Local Government and Public Health for the purpose of impressing upon him the grave financial necessity that exists for posponing the ~~and~~ the appointment of County Medical Officers of Health."

(2) "That it be an instruction to the deputation to direct the attention of the Minister to the fact that the scheme for the reform of Health Services (which included the creation of the appointments referred to) recommended by the Co. Council's General Council on July 12th; 1923, was based, as were the recommendations of the Irish Public Health Council in 1920, on the assumption that not less than 50 pc., of the net cost of all local health services would be borne by National Exchequer". "

In connection with proposed drainage rate for Kilmannock drainage system, Mr. Murphy, mentioned that the persons concerned were negotiating with the Land Commission to try and agree with the Board of Works to have the annuities ~~and~~ ^{for} repayment of the work in this case, extended over a further number of years.

Before the money was actually collected they might be able to do something with the Land Commission in the matter.

The following resolution was then proposed by Colonel Quin seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne:-

"That Rate for general charges for financial year 1927-28 (in conformity with particulars appearing on Form 42) be, and is hereby agreed to, at 8/8d in the £. That holders of agricultural land receive a rebate on valuation of said Land representing a poundage rate of 2/4d in the £, being the difference between the poundage rate represented by Agricultural Grant, viz., 3/3d and poundage rate for amount of repayment of instalment of loan under Relief of Rates on Agricultural Land Act., viz., 11d, leaving the net general rate payable on agricultural land at 6/4d in the £,"

"That rates for separate charges for financial year 1927-28, (in conformity with particulars appearing on Form 43) as presented to this meeting, be also agreed to.

"That the following amounts be fixed as the sums to be demanded from the three Urban Districts Councils of the County:-

Enniscorthy	£2676	:	8	:	5d
New Ross	£2527	:	4	:	8d
Wexford	£6091	:	1	:	10d.

That drainage rate for Kilmannock drainage district, as set out in Charging Order issued by the Office of Public Works, Dublin, and signed and sealed on behalf of that body by their Secretary on the 19th January, 1927, be agreed to, and that the several amounts be levied on the persons whose names are set out on schedule of said Charging Order, and that we hereby direct that said amounts be collected apart from the Poor Rate and independently of same".

Mr. P. Byrne proposed and Mr. Colfer seconded the following:-

"That the rate for the coming financial year be not adopted until the Council have had an opportunity of considering statements

to be submitted by deputation of hauliers as to their inability to continue working at the present rate allowed by the County Council.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment:- Messrs P. Byrne, Clince, Colfer, Connors, Cooney, Corish, Gaul, Hayes, Mernagh, Sean O'Byrne, Pender and Shannon - 12.

Against:- Messrs Boggan, Cloney, Doyle, Colonel Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Kavanagh, Murphy, Colonel Quin, Thorpe, Walsh, Whyte and the Chairman - 13.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost and the resolution on being put to the meeting was adopted nem.con.

In reply to the Chairman, the County Surveyor stated that he would have enough money in the Contingencies Fund to meet any extra payments which would be necessary to meet cases of hardship as regards haulage.

VOTES OF CONDOLENCE.

=====

On the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Doyle, votes of condolence were adopted to Mr. R. Malone, Veterinary Inspector of the Council and to Mr. Walter Cummins, Rate Collector, in the death of his father, and on the motion of Mr. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Gaul to Mr. Rossiter, County Council, on the death of his aunt, Miss Maddock, Dempsey's Terrace, Wexford.

TENDERS FOR RE-CONSTRUCTION OF WEXFORD-ENNISCORTHY ROAD.

In connection with the proposed work which is being carried out under the National Road Scheme, the following tenders were received:-

1. Messrs Grainger Bros., Holywood, Belfast	£35,481 : 12 : 0
2. Pioneer Road Construction Co., Dublin	£39,424 : 0 : 0
3. George Wimpey & Co. Hammersmith, London	£40,656 : 0 : 0
4. Messrs John Graham, Dromore, Co. Down	£40,820 : 5 : 4
5. Patrick Dillon, Limerick & Dublin	£44,680 : 13 : 0
6. Mulville Bros., London	£45,953 : 12 : 0

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 7. T. J. Moran & Co., Dublin | £46,323 : 0 : 0 |
| 8. Thomas Thompson & Son., Carlow | £48,951 : 9 : 4 |
| 9. South of Ireland Asphalt Co., Dublin | £50,594 : 2 : 8. |

Under date 1st February, 1927, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (SGN/32) that the successful contractor for the work should be informed that the acceptance of his tender by the Council was subject to the approval of the Department of Local Government. Tenders in connection with the work should be forwarded to the Department.

The Chairman proposed and Colonel Quin, seconded the following resolution:-

"That the lowest tender for reconstruction of the Road between Wexford and Enniscorthy, viz., Messrs Grainger Brothers, Holywood, Belfast, at £35,481 : 12/- be accepted. That the Department of Local Government be asked to approve of same and to provide the £1645 the amount by which this tender exceeds the estimate for the work!"

After considerable discussion this was withdrawn and the following resolution proposed by Mr. Corish and seconded by Mr. Gaul, was unanimously agreed to:-

"That, as the lowest tender for the reconstruction of the Wexford-Enniscorthy Road under National Road Scheme, viz., that of Messrs Grainger Brothers, Holywood, Belfast, exceeds the amount allowed for this work by the Department of Local Government (Roads), all tenders received for said work be forwarded to the said Department for their consideration".

"That a special meeting of the County Council be arranged to consider the decision of the Department in this matter."

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES.

Finance Committee.

Minutes of meetings of Finance Committee for 20th January, 1927, and 3rd February, 1927, were submitted as follows:-

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber Fortview, Wexford, on 20th January 1927.

Present:- Mr T. McCarthy (Chairman) presiding: also, Col Gibbon, Messrs Sean O'Byrne, Wm Thorpe, and Michael Jordan.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the Co. Surveyor and Mr Elgee, Solicitor were in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4103-13-0 was examined and signed.

RATE ESTIMATE 1927-28.

The figures for Rate Estimate 1927-28 were considered.

Mr Barry, Tourist Development Association, came before the meeting and urged that the resolution of the County Council passed last year to adopt ½d rate for Tourist Development should be put in force. The Contributing Bodies had now one representative on the Tourist Board so that they would be certain to be kept in touch with the work of the Association. The latter had put up to the Minister of Industry and Commerce a Scheme to cover a certain amount of National and local publicity for his approval. The Wexford County Council might make up their minds that the money would be well spent.

Mr Sean O'Byrne proposed and the Chairman seconded the following resolution:-

"That ½d rate for Tourist Development under the Health Resorts and Watering Places Act be included in the forthcoming Rate of the County Council."

On a show of hands, all present were in favour of the resolution with the exception of Mr Thorpe who dissented.

In connection with Road Rate, the following was read from the County Surveyor:-

"I have prepared my Estimate for Road Expenditure for year 1927-28, and as you requested, I am obtaining quotations for the printing of same, and shall have the Forms printed."

"It will be noted that my prices are considerably above those allowed by the County Council for the current year, but are approximately as regards maintenance, the figures submitted by me last Spring time. I do not believe that the roads could be maintained at a lesser expenditure than set out in my Estimate taking into account the present day traffic. With expenditure up to my figures, I am satisfied that the roads can be maintained to take modern traffic, including heavy lorries, unless, perhaps during particularly bad weather if the heavy lorry traffic be too congested. In such cases it may be necessary to do special repairs on short lengths of roads, but otherwise the roads can be maintained at this expenditure.

In Part 2 of the Estimate, I submit list of improvement works and these include removal, or easing off of a number dangerous corners. The repair work to bridges, etc. is essential and should be passed. There are some heavy items for special expenditure on rolling and tar work, and these I consider should be carried out in order, in some cases, to preserve what we have already done in improvement work, and in the case of Gorey-Courtown Road to meet the exceptional traffic.

I add to my Estimate also list of proposals for Public Works, that is, harbours, bridges, courthouses, etc., and of course these must be maintained."

The following resolution was received from the Hon. Secretary, Tara Hill Branch of the Farmers' Union:-

" This Branch of Farmers' Union asks the Wexford Co. Council to take very serious consideration of the heavy burden of rates which is a severe hindrance to the farmer in his efforts to develop his farm progressively, and that unless there is a substantial reduction this coming year, many farmers will be faced with bankruptcy."

As regards the overdraft of the County Council, the Treasurer wrote that when sanctioning the existing figures of the overdraft, his Board stated that at the expiration of same

they would expect a substantially reduced limit to suffice for the County Council's requirements.

After a considerable amount of discussion, the Finance Committee agreed to the following:-

Rate Estimate 1927-28 County Services General.

	1927-28	Decision of Finance Committee	Reduction by Finance Committee
	£	£	£
Salary County Secretary	400	400	-
Salaries Officials in Secretary's Office	1494	1494	-
Retiring Allowances and Gratuities	504	504	-
Cost of Rate Collection, Poundage and of Collectors and checking Collectors' A/cs	4209	4209	
Applotting Rates and Refund Rates on Vacant Buildings	2261	1555	706
Salaries Court Officials and other County Officers, viz, Analyst, Lamplighters, etc.	364	364	
Franchise and Jurors Lists	1975	1975	
Printing in connection with Registration Act.	443	443	
Valuation	208	208	
Salaries Veterinary and Sheep Dipping Inspectors	510	510	
Members' Travelling Expenses	270	270	
Legal Expenses	320	320	
Coroners' Salaries and Expenses of Inquests	255	255	
Postage and Office Requisites	275	275	
Printing and Stationery	300	300	
Advertising	212	212	
University Scholarships	630	630	
Primary Scholarships	570	570	
Contribution Co. Councils' General Council	20	20	
Contribution Chair Scientific Agriculture National University	20	20	
Courtown Harbour	85	85	
Rent Old Jail	207	207	
Conveyance of Prisoners	120	120	
Weights and Measures	50	50	
Food and Drugs	53	53	
Rents and Expenses of Courthouses	494	494	
Reformatories and Industrial Schools	4055	4055	
Refund to Wexford Urban District re adjustment Financial Relations	24	24	
Fee for Audit of County Accounts	85	85	
Diseases of Animals Acts	680	680	
Debit Interest	1200	1200	
Criminal Malicious Injuries Amendment Act	9882	9882	
Library Scheme	824	412	412
Co. Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction	2970	2970	
Contingencies	750	750	
Total	36719	35601	1118.

530 12

Rate Estimates - Amount Required for General and Separate
Charges (Excluding Roads).

	1927-28	Decision of Finance Committee	Reduction By Finance Committee	Increase by Finance Committee.
	£	£	£	£
County Services	36719	35601	1118	
Public Works (To be submitted by County Surveyor)	4900	3500 ✓	1400	
Mental Hospital	21045	20306 ✓	739	
Health Board	49500	49500 ✓	-	
Loans do	1812	1812 ✓	-	
Superannuation Ex-Union Officials	1710	1710 ✓	-	
Co. Health District Charges	3629	3629 ✓	-	
Tuberculosis Committee	1264	1264 ✓		
Part Repayment Loans R. Councils. County charge being amount represented by nett profit on Labourers' Cottage Rents for year	2746	2746 ✓		
Other Charges (Separate)	14707	14707		
Repayment Loans - Rates on Agricultural Land Act	13166	13166 ✓		
Rate Tourist Develop- ment	-	822 ✓		822
Totals		£147,941	£3257	£822

531 13

Estimated Receipts.

	£
Payments by Urban Councils	11253
Government Grants	6918
Separate Charges, Balances Other	
Receipts, viz., Fines Food & Drugs	
Act, Recoupment Diseases Animals Acts,	
Rents of Property, Recoupment	
Register of Electors, Harbour Dues,	
Kilkenny County Council-New Ross Bridge,	
Share Kilkenny and Carlow Super-	
annuation Ex-Union Officials.	1881
	<hr/>
	20302
Agricultural Grant (estimated)	48090
	<hr/>
Total	£68392
	<hr/>

It was suggested that the County Surveyor should, for comparative purposes, make out a Road Rate on a basis of 3/- in the £.

RATE COLLECTION.

The state of the Rate Collection was put before the meeting, and after discussion the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Rate Collectors of this Council be instructed that they must have at least 15 per cent of the second moiety of Rate for 1926-27 collected within a fortnight and an additional 10 per cent within a month from this date (20th January 1927), if not their services will be dispensed with."

Consideration of Circular letter from the Local Government Department under date 10th December 1926 (No 56951/1926. Mis.) suggesting alteration in the present method of payment of poundage to Rate Collectors was adjourned to next meeting of Finance Committee (e.)

OVERDRAFT.

Under date 31st December 1926 (G/6257/26 Wexford County) letter was read from the Department of Local Government conveying the sanction of the Minister to the continuance of overdraft of the Council not exceeding £30,000 to the 31st March next.

CLAIM OF MR GERALD FLOOD, ENGINEER.

In connection with claim for payment of £152-9-3 to Mr Gerald Flood, Engineer to County Board of Health, being 1½% on outlay on Schemes for Ferns Waterworks and Labourers' Cottages, letter was read from the Department of Local Government under date 1st December 1928 (P.H. 55708/25 Wexford B.H. & P.A.) stating that the terms of Mr Flood's appointment should be held to include payment for his services in connection with erection of Labourers' Cottages.

It was decided to adjourn consideration of this matter to next meeting of Finance Committee; in the meantime the Secretary to ask Mr A.A. Connolly, Clerk to late Enniscorthy Rural District Council, if approval had been previously received to the full amount claimed by Mr Gerald Flood.

INCOME TAX - CLAIM RESIDENCE OF SURGEON, COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council, wrote that in his opinion, the County Council was liable for £2-4-10 Income Tax under Schedule A in connection with the residence of Dr O'Brien, Surgeon, County Hospital at "Rose Park."

It was decided that the amount be paid.

INCOME TAX - COURTTOWN HARBOUR.

It was decided to pay Income Tax of 16/6 under Schedules A and B for Courtown Harbour on the advice of Mr Elgee, Solicitor.

INSPECTION OF FERRYCARRIG AND WEXFORD BRIDGES.

Mr Delap, Consulting Engineer (Delap & Waller, 115 Grafton Street, Dublin), wrote forwarding Account for £50-8-0 for examination and report on Wexford and Ferrycarrig Bridges.

It was agreed that the amount be paid.

COSTS OF MR WILLIAM CAULFIELD, SOLICITOR.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, reported under date 17th January 1927 that the costs of Mr Caulfield, Solicitor against the late Wexford District Council amounting to £901-17-3 had been taxed on the 13th of January and certified to £445-10-6.

In view of the fact that the taxed costs amount to less

than claim of Bank of Ireland against Mr. Caulfield and in respect of which the Bank had had a Receiver appointed over the costs, Mr. Elgee was of opinion that the County Council would be quite safe in paying the amount of the taxed costs to Mr. Lloyd, Agent Bank of Ireland, Wexford, who had been appointed Receiver over same by order of the Court.

There would be now no necessity to lodge the amount of the costs in Court as had been decided by the Council.

The Chairman proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded ~~by~~ the following resolution which was carried:-

"That the County Council be recommended to pay to Mr. Lloyd, Agent Bank of Ireland, Wexford, as Receiver appointed by the Court, £445: 10:6d taxed costs of Mr. William Caulfield, Solicitor."

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE.

A resolution was read from the County Library Committee under date 22nd December, 1926, acknowledging receipt of recommendations forwarded on 15th December, 1926, as to management of Library. They refused to accept these until they receive a reply to their resolutions of the 18th August last and the 9th October last.

It was pointed out that no meeting of the Committee had been held on the 18th August according to the return supplied by the County Librarian.

The Secretary stated that he had written to the Librarian that the resolution of the Library Committee had been postponed for consideration to next meeting of the Finance Committee.

The following resolution had since been received from the Library Committee:-

"That this Committee insist that correspondence hitherto sent be placed before a full meeting of the County Council and that they object to it being brought before the Finance Committee"

The following recommendation was agreed to:-

"That our Secretary communicate with the Department of Local Government and point out that it is understood unofficially that

a Deputation from the Library Committee interviewed Officials of the Department of Local Government recently and that an Enquiry had been ^cpromised to deal with the Administration of the Library service in the County. The Finance Committee welcome such Enquiry and will suspend any action they proposed taking pending the holding of this investigation. They hope the Enquiry will be held at the earliest possible moment".

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday 3rd February, 1927.

Present:- Mr. Thomas McCarthy, Chairman(Presiding).

Also Messrs Sean O'Byrne, Michael Jordan, Patrick Hayes and Aidan Mernagh.

The County Surveyor and Assistant Secretary were also in attendance.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed and signed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £3560: 14: 11d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION.

The Assistant Secretary submitted the state of Rate Collection showing the following percentages of second moiety lodged:-

E. J. Murphy 30.35; J. Quirke 25.27; Philip Furlong 24.17; B. Cleary 22.95; Sean Gannon 20.75; J. Curtis 20.62; M. M. Kelly 19.74; Joseph Cummins 17.94; C. McCarthy 17.37; M. Deegan 17.32; Thomas Rowe 15.71; W. Cummins 15.54; J. Doyle 14.02; J. J. O'Reilly 12.22; T. Sutton 13.80; P. Donohoe 11.62; J. J. Kelly 11.18; P. Fitzpatrick 10.56; J. J. Sinnott 8.43; P. Walsh 8.30; Patrick O'Byrne 8.20.

The average percentage lodged was 16.32, In reply to queries the Assistant Secretary stated that percentage collected at same date last year was 13.69.

The amount of first moiety rate at present outstanding was £3790: 13: 5d and second moiety £59827: 18: 11d. The sanctioned overdraft of the Council was £30,000. Last year it was £40,000.

It was decided that Collectors whose collections are backward be instructed to have at least 25% of second moiety lodged by next meeting.

Circular letter of the 10th December, 1926 (No. 56951/1926, Miscellaneous) from Local Government Department in connection with proposed new system of dealing with Rate Collection was read.

During the discussion the members present favoured the payment of at least reduced poundage after 31st July to any Collector who lodged an amount equal to the first moiety and arrears by 31st July and also a payment after 31st December to any Collector who lodged an amount equal to the full amount of first moiety and arrears together with one third of second moiety by 31st December.

The proposal to hold the personal sureties liable for the amount of their bonds in the first instance in cases of fraud was not approved by those present. Neither was the proposal to have the amount of personal bond increased to 10/6d of average annual warrant and Fidelity Guarantee Bond to 25% of average warrant.

In reply to queries the Assistant Secretary stated that the personal Bonds of Collectors at present were for £200 and Fidelity Guarantee Bonds £900. Under proposed new Scheme of Local Government Department the average Personal Bonds would be for £680, Fidelity Guarantee Bonds £1701. The average warrant of Collectors was £6807.

After discussion it was decided to give the Rate Collectors an opportunity of expressing their views on the Scheme to next Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Quirke, Secretary, Wexford Rate Collectors' Association to be notified that the next Finance Committee meeting are prepared to hear representatives of the Rate Collectors on the proposals.

CLAIM DARBY'S GAP.

Messrs John A. Sinnott & Co., Solicitors, Enniscorthy, wrote as follows:-

"We received your letter of the 24th instant in this matter and have seen our client who is agreeable to accept the amount of compensation provided his costs £1: 1: 0d will also be paid".

"Kindly, therefore, let us have Paying Order for £2: 11: 0d, to complete the matter and oblige.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Jordan, that application for payment of Solicitors' costs in the case be refused.

CLAIM DAMAGE TO LORRY.

The following letter under date 28th January was read from Mr. A. White, Duncannon:-

"I herewith submit to you a claim for £4: 16: 0d in respect of damages done to my lorry on January 26th caused by a broken shore at Porters Gate.

"I have been informed that this shore has been in this condition since Saturday 22nd instant. There was no mark or notice to show of the danger and I would not see it till I bounced into it. I would feel much obliged with you for settlement of claim at your earliest convenience.

The County Surveyor stated that in his opinion the Co. Council were not liable, However, he had forwarded claim to Insurance Co.

NEW BUILDINGS LIST.

On the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman, the following holding was added to New Buildings List:-

Electoral Division Courtown: Townland Ballinatray Lr.
Rated Occupier:- Kieran McNeill; Rating Number in present year No.51: Present Valuation £15: Previous valuation £8.
Valuation of New Building £7.
Reduction in valuation allowed by Council under Rating of New Buildings Order £4: 10: 0d.
Valuation of New Building for Rating purposes £2: 10: 0d.
Valuation of entire rating for rating purposes £10: 10: 0d.

APPOINTMENT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

The following letter from Department of Local Government & Public Health was read:-

"Adverting to the Minutes of Proceedings of Wexford County Council on the 13th ultimo, I am directed by the Minister for Local

Government and Public Health to state that he considers that provision should be included in the Estimates for the coming Financial year for the Salary and travelling Expenses of County Medical Officer of Health and he requests the County Council to specify the remuneration to be assigned to the office. He would, however, be prepared to acquiesce in a whole time appointment combining the functions of a County Medical Officer and Chief School Medical Officer whereby a proportion of the aggregate salary and allowances would rank for recoupment from the State Grant for School Medical Service, and thus diminish the charge falling upon the County Rates.

Order: Referred to County Council.

PRINTING RATE BOOKS.

The following tenders for printing 236 Rate Books were submitted:-

Reps Walter Hanrahan	£58.
The Free Press	£50.
John English & Co.	...	£27: 10: 0d
The People	£19: 10: 0d.

On the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Chairman it was decided to accept the tender of The People at £19: 10: 0d.

KILMANNOCK DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

The following letter under date 27th January (No.19186/1926) from the Office of Public Works Dublin, was read:-

"With reference to previous correspondence, we forward herewith one sealed and certified copy of our Charging Order in connection with the expenses incurred in the restoration of the above-named District under the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1924, together with a map showing the improved lands coloured green and the boundaries of the holdings, numbered to correspond with those as set forth in column 2 of the Schedule attached to the Order. The latter sets forth the names of the occupiers as the reputed proprietors of the various holdings, the amounts payable by them in repayment of the cost of the works by half-yearly instalments etc. It is to be understood that the names are those of the occupiers in each case and where

the occupier is not also the proprietor (See Section 7 (2) of the Act) the amount in question is collectable by the County Council from the occupier, who in turn may recover the amount from the proprietor by deducting it from the rent payable by him.

As you are aware the first instalment becomes due and payable by the proprietors or occupiers to the County Council on the 1st March next and by the Wexford County Council to us on the 1st May following. We shall be obliged if you will kindly acknowledge the receipt of the enclosures to this letter.

We are having the Charging Order printed and additional copies will be forwarded to you later.

The following Schedule to the Charging Order was submitted:-

			<u>Amount half yearly Instalment</u> <u>Principal and Interest payable</u>		
			£	s	d
John Stafford	Ballyedock	...	1	0	3
Julia Kavanagh	"	...		6	9
Martin Rossiter	"	...		7	9
John Kavanagh	"	...		15	5
J. J. O'Neill	Kilmannock	...	1	6	4
Colonel Ryan	"	...	4	14	8
Michael Corcoran	"	...	2	4	3
Captain Henahan	"	...	6	4	5
Matthew Harte	"	...	4	4	9
Captain Clancy	"	...	4	19	11
Major Barnwell	"	...	3	6	8
Great Southern Railways Co.	"	...		18	11
Martin Bryan	Greatisland	...		1	3
William Doherty	"	...	1	19	4
Patrick Connors	"	...	2	10	7
Patrick Connors	"	...		1	3
Martin Furlong (Senior)"		...		7	9
Martin Furlong (Junior)"		...		1	8
Martin Furlong (Junior)"		...			7

amount half yearly instalment
Principal & interest payable.

	£:	s:	d.
Martin Furlong(Junior) Greatisland	7:	6	
Patrick Connolly "	6	7	
Patrick Connolly "		4	
Patrick Connolly "	10:	1	
Daniel Dunne "		7	
Daniel Dunne "	10:	6	
Nicholas Murphy "	18:	2	
Anthony Stafford "		2	
Irish Land Commission "		2	
Great Southern Railways Co. "	2:	9	
Captain Henehan (formerly in Townland)	1:	8:	2:
Gt. Southern Railways (of Greatisland now)	1:	11	
Matthew Harte (in Kilmannock)	2:	3	
Matthew Harte (Formerly in Townland)			
(of Saltmills now in	1:	12:	3.
(Kilmannock)			

The Assistant Secretary stated provision was made in the Drainage Act for assessing the amounts payable by the various occupiers along with the Poor Rate for Collection with the latter. This was optional however and the Council could if they wished collect the Drainage rate independently of the Poor Rate. So long as the Council agreed to and struck the Drainage rate on the same dates as the Poor Rate.

It was decided on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman to recommend the County Council to collect the drainage rates independently of the Poor Rate.

The following amounts were approved on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne for inclusion in Rate Estimate, to be raised as part of Roads Account:-

Salary County Surveyor	...	£716
Postage	...	50
Salaries Assistant Surveyors	...	£1335
Travelling Expenses Assistant Surveyors	...	£1266
Clerks in Surveyor's Office	...	378
Retiring allowances	...	33
Printing and Stationery	...	350
Advertising	...	150
		<u>£4278</u>

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Sean O'Eyrne:-

"That the Minutes of meetings of Finance Committee for 20th January, 1927 and 3rd February, 1927, as submitted to this meeting, be and are hereby confirmed!"

In connection with Rate Collection, the following letter, under date 9th February, 1927, (G.5629/1927) from the Department of Local Government was read:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of Form 61 showing the position of the Rate Collection up to the 31st ultimo, and I am to point out that ^{Council} none of the Rate Collectors under the County have closed their first moiety. A sum of only £10,279 out of over £71,000 of the second moiety was collected at the end of January. In this connection, I am to draw attention to the Council's Minute of the 10th January last on the subject, and I am to state the time has come for the Council to act upon their resolutions".

It was decided that copy of this letter should be furnished the Rate Collectors and that the question of the state of the Collection would be dealt with specially by the Finance Committee at their meeting on the 17th February, 1927.

Roads Committee.

The Minutes of Roads Committee in respect of meeting held on 24th January, 1927, were submitted as follows:-

The monthly meeting of the Roads Committee of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on 24th January 1927.

Present:- Mr T. McCarthy, Chairman, County Council presiding, also; Col Gibbon, Col Quin, Messrs Patrick Colfer, Sean O'Byrne, James Hall, James Shannon, Michael Cloney, W. Boggan.

The Secretary, the County Surveyor and the following Assistant Surveyors were also in attendance Messrs T. Treanor, R.J. Ennis, John Kehoe, Thomas Cullen and Patrick O'Neill.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

REPORT OF COUNTY SURVEYOR.

The County Surveyor submitted the following report:-

"On the 11th inst, I accompanied Mr Quigley, Chief Engineer, Local Government Department, on inspection of Trunk Roads from Wexford to New Ross and from New Ross to Enniscorthy with reference to work already completed and the ^{further} ~~future~~ work to be done under future Grants. In Enniscorthy with the Town Surveyor we made thorough inspection of the National Route and laid out work to be immediately undertaken. I have now forwarded Mr Quigley full details and Estimate for the preliminary work in connection with this Urban job, and later on the surface work which will probably be of bitumenous macadam will be set by contract. The Local Government will require the preliminary work to be done by the County Surveyor's staff, and not by the Urban Council, and I am arranging to put the work in hands as soon as the job is sanctioned.

On the 13th and 14th inst, the Roads Inspection Committee consisting of Messrs Sean O'Byrne and James Hall, made inspections and I was in attendance. The local Assistant Surveyors accompanied the Committee through their districts generally. On the first day the Committee went to New Ross and thence southwards to Ballygeary where inspection was made of the proposed new road, and of the flooded section near that place. On the second day they inspected Brownswood and Bally-

"murray Quarries and the Blackwater area.

On the 17th inst, I inspected Gorey Courthouse with the Draughtsman whom I now have engaged making plans, and we measured up for the work. The plans are now well advanced.

During the week it was necessary to provide for (ed temporarily stopping traffic over Wexford Bridge and I publish notices in the local papers and also by handbill that the bascule would be raised and traffic stopped on the 19th, 20th, and 21st inst. between the hours of twelve and four so as not to interfere with traffic to trains. On the 19th inst, I got ~~one~~ one of the meeting rails in and on the 20th, I got the second in so that it was not necessary to interfere with traffic to any appreciable extent on the 21st. Final finishing off of the work is now approaching completion.

Some time ago I was authorised to have a couple of the roller wheels re-shod, and the work was carried out by Mr Davis, Enniscorthy in a very satisfactory manner. In this case, re-shoeing was by steel plates. Recently another of the roller wheels became damaged and I have arranged with Mr Davis to replace tyre with casting which he has at present in hands. On the other rollers the wheels are worn to such an extent that replacement is at once necessary and I propose getting these done if the work being done by Mr Davis proves satisfactory, as I fully expect it will.

I have application from Mr Frank Lacey, Sion, Kyle, for permission to lay pipes on the Wexford-Enniscorthy road for drainage purposes, and the matter will come before you for approval. I have authorised him to proceed with the work as it will be necessary to have the job satisfactorily completed before the special surfacing work is commenced. It may be necessary for the County Solicitor to draft some special agreement for Lacey."

Gorey Courthouse.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Col Quin:-

"That the County Surveyor be instructed to advertise

"for contractors for the reconstruction of Gorey Courthouse as soon as possible after plans have been prepared."

Wheels of Motor Lorries.

In reply to the Chairman, the County Surveyor said the work in question would cost about £60.

It was agreed that the work should be carried out, but that the Co. Surveyor should obtain quotations from the firm of Messrs Pierce & Co. Wexford for similar castings to those made by Messrs Davis, Enniscorthy.

Application - Laying Pipes on Wexford Enniscorthy Road.

In connection with this application, Col Gibbon stated that the Council should insist that pipes be laid in cement and that where the drain was an important one, a man-hole be provided, also that the person laying the pipes should be responsible for their condition for at least two or three months after the completion of the work.

The suggestion of Col Gibbon was agreed to.

FERRYCARRIG BRIDGE.

Mr A. D. Delap M. Inst. C.E (Messrs Delap & Waller, Consulting Engineers, 115 Grafton Street, Dublin) submitted important report with plan in connection with movement of bascule of Ferrycarrig Bridge. This would cost £500.

The following is the concluding paragraph of Mr Delap's report:-

"I would like to emphasise the fact that this work may prove to be only temporarily effective and that if any serious movement of the abutment develops in the near future, there will be nothing for it but complete reconstruction of so much of the bridge as lies to the north of the opening span."

The Chairman mentioned that this matter had been already fully discussed by the Finance Committee who thought that in view of the heavy expenditure which the Council would be under as regards public works and maintenance of roads, that it might be allowed to remain over for one year.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was

approved; in the meantime the Co. Surveyor to be instructed to make the most careful measurements possible as regards ~~any~~ any movement of the abutment and, should he consider it necessary, to call the immediate attention of the Council to any important alteration he may find in the bascule of the bridge.

PROPOSED ROAD TO CORRAMACORRA.

A Memorial signed by a large number of ratepayers asking for the reconstruction of the road at Corramacorra, Murrintown was submitted. This road was at present a private way.

Col Gibbon pointed out that although he was in sympathy with the application, if the County Council agreed to it, they should not forget that there was 100 miles of thoroughfares in the county in the same position and naturally if the present application was granted, it would be very difficult to refuse others of the same nature.

Mr Boggan proposed and Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor ascertain from those concerned in the application for repair of the road at Corramacorra, how far they would be prepared to go in the way of supplying free to the County Council material and labour for bottoming the road, and that the Co. Surveyor submit report on same to next meeting.

WEXFORD SLOB ROAD.

In reply to Mr Sean O'Byrne, the County Surveyor stated that he intended to finish the new road between South Slob, Wexford and Rosslare as soon as possible.

In the final settlement for Grants with the British Military authorities, a sum of about £400 had been paid to the Council, and it was suggested that this money should be applied to the completion of the road in question. The money, however, had gone into the General Fund and the only way the work could be done now would be through Road Grants.

REMOVAL OF ROAD MATERIAL FROM ROAD 342E.

The County Surveyor submitted report from Mr Thomas Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, regarding removal of material from this road by Denis Brennan, Larkfield, Killanne, who stated that

the contractor of the road, Martin Cullen had agreed to supply him (Brennan) with broken material on getting some rough stones in return. On the 19th December, Brennan got a verbal message from Cullen that the stones could be obtained and he drew them on the following day. He stated that he would pay the County Council the value of the stones. Cullen, the road contractor had been interviewed by Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, and denied giving any permission for the removal of the material.

Mr Shannon explained that this action of Brennan's arose out of a misunderstanding. He and his brother had supplied Cullen, the road contractor, with a quantity of field stones on the condition that two loads of broken stones should be given as compensation. These two loads of broken stones were at present lying on another road and could be seen by the Co. Surveyor or any of his Assistants. When Brennan got the message from Cullen he thought he was to take the stones from the depot and this was the cause of all the trouble.

The meeting having heard the statement of Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, concluded that a genuine mistake had been made by Mr Brennan and decided to take no action in the matter.

CLONROCHE WEIGHBRIDGE.

The County Surveyor submitted the following from Mr P. O'Doherty, Hon Treasurer, Clonroche Fairs Committee, under date January 18th 1927:-

"The Clonroche Fairs Committee propose erecting a Public Weighbridge in the village of Clonroche and the only suitable place in the village appears to be the unused green sward inside the channel between our premises and that occupied by Mr Duncan. This plot is unused by the public; it is inside the planted trees and channel and is opposite a garden bounded by a common fence inside of which there are some trees.

The weighbridge here would not be any obstruction while it would be a convenient place for weighing cattle, pigs, loads of hay, beet, etc.

The Committee would be obliged should you kindly give them permission to erect the weighbridge here, and as our time is short pending the holding of first fair next month we shall be obliged for your reply as early as possible."

Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor stated that the erection of a weighbridge would not in any way interfere with public convenience.

On the motion of Col Gibbon seconded by Col Quin,
the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the application of the Clonroche Fairs Committee (ee
for permission to erect a weighbridge on the public road at
Clonroche be agreed to, subject to Fairs Committee entering
into an Agreement with the Co. Council that the machine must
be erected to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor and
must, after due notice, be removed should the County Council
at any time decide that this be necessary."

TOOL HOUSE AT CARCUIR.

The Co. Surveyor submitted application from Michael
Allen, No. 1 Carcui Cottages, Wexford to rent the tool shed at
Carcui, the property of the Co. Council, and now vacant at £2
per annum.

It was decided that Mr Allen, Carcui, be informed that
the Roads Committee would recommend the County Council to let
him the tool house at Carcui at a rent of 1/- per week, the
tenancy to be determined by one week's previous notice in ~~not~~
writing on either side, and the premises not to be used as a
dwelling house.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO SECTION H WEXFORD.

The County Surveyor submitted application for ~~trans~~
transfer of £158-12-0 from Roads Contingencies Fund to
Section H Wexford.

He explained that this had been spent in rebuilding
Sleedagh wall which fell last summer.

Mr Sean O'Byrne proposed and Mr Cloney seconded
the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the amount of £158-12-0 be transferred from
~~from~~ Roads Contingencies Fund to Section H Wexford to cover
abnormal expenditure caused by the collapse of wall at
Sleedagh."

REPAIR OF ROAD TO COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Under date 21st January 1927, the Secretary, County
Board of Health, wrote that his Board accepted the decision
of the County Council to allow £50 from the Roads Contin-

-gencies Fund towards defraying the cost of raising the level of road leading to the County Hospital entrance. In order that the work might be done, the road between the cross at Tivoli Terrace and the cross at Park Cottage, Wexford should be closed for a period as from the 1st February next to 1st of June.

The meeting considered that the closing of the road for four months would lead to great public inconvenience and that the work should be completed in much less time than this period.

It was decided to apply to the Minister for Local Government for an Order to close the road in question from 14th February to 31st March next inclusive.

NOTICE BOARDS ON ROADSIDES.

Under date January 21st 1927, the Department of Local Government wrote (SR/1) that the Minister had decided that Notice Boards should be placed on roadsides indicating the works which were being carried out by Local Authorities under Road Fund Grants, the cost of same and of their erection to come from Grants.

Order- Referred to County Surveyor for his attention.

ROAD-BALLYNABANOUE CROSS TO POULMOUNTY.

Mr M. Roche, Merchant, Ballyanne, New Ross, wrote complaining of the condition of the above road. At the present time it was not safe for either lorry or car, and the Co. Council appeared to forget that it was on the main route from Ballyanne to Dublin via Carlow.

The County Surveyor stated that he had applied for £300 for the maintenance of this road last year but he only got £210 which was insufficient to keep it in proper condition. He had been obliged to apply for £60 from Contingencies Fund as a help. This year he applied for £400 and at the meeting of the County Council that day his estimate was reduced to £260. This was a particularly bad road owing to heavy lorry traffic and it was very difficult to get material for it. He was having some repairs carried out on it at present.

It was decided to inform Mr Roche that the County Surveyor was now carrying out work on the road.

WEXFORD COURTHOUSE.

Mrs McNally, Courtkeeper, Wexford wrote stating that she was prepared to carry out her duties as Courtkeeper in the temporary Courthouse in the Old Jail.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne:-

"That the attention of the Minister for Finance be called to the communication already sent him on behalf of this Council asking him to receive a Deputation relative to the reconstruction of the Wexford Courthouse and that he be requested to name a date on which the Deputation could attend.

NEW ROSS COURTHOUSE.

Under date 19th January 1927, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, wrote that he had received Lease of the premises of New Ross Courthouse for execution by the County Council. He was informed by Messrs Colfer & Son, Solicitors, that possession from the caretaker for that part of the building occupied by him had not yet been obtained as the caretaker had appealed against the Decree for possession given against him. In the circumstances, Mr Elgee advised the Council not to execute the Lease until they had obtained clear possession.

The following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Roads Committee recommend the County Council not to execute Lease relative to New Ross Courthouse until the Trustees of the Tottenham Estate are in a position to hand over clear possession of the premises."

MR FURLONG'S HOUSE AT KAAT'S STRAND.

In connection with the above, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, reported that in this house, which was the property of the Co. Council, the water tap should be removed from the W.C. to some other part of the premises, as the leakage from same was injuring the floor. He (Mr Elgee) had obtained an estimate for £10 for carrying out the work, but this appeared to be excessive.

Col Gibbon proposed and Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the necessary repairs to W.C. in house of Michael Furlong at Kaat's Strand, the property of the County Council, be carried out by the Co. Surveyor as economically as possible."

BALLYMURRAY QUARRY.

Mr William E. Godfrey, Solicitor, of Messrs Huggard, Brennan & Godfrey, appeared in support of the claim made on behalf of Thomas, Laurence and Patrick Whelan of Ballinagore, Blackwater, for payment of £22 value of 110 cubic yards of material taken from Ballymurray Quarry, and which, it was contended, by the Whelans, had not been allowed for in the measurement made by Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor.

Mr Godfrey mentioned that the claimants had been working in this quarry from August 1925 to some time in June 1926 when it was taken over by the County Council who were to pay for any material in the quarry at the rate of 4/- per cubic yard. They claimed that Mr Cullen did not supply them with his measurement until a considerable time after it had been made- in fact they did not obtain it until October.

Laurence Whelan contended that the Breaker was working for $7\frac{1}{2}$ days and therefore the material, calculating at $5\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yards per hour as the amount of output, would be 337 cubic yards. Mr Cullen had only allowed for 227 c. yards.

Laurence Whelan was examined by Mr Godfrey, and, after a further statement by Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That in connection with claim of Messrs Whelan for £22 for material taken out of Ballymurray Quarry, the Roads Committee see no reason why they should alter their decision accepting the measurement of Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor at 227 cubic yards."

GULLET AT CLONARD.

The following report was submitted by Mr William Boggan M.C.C.:-

"As requested by Roads Committee I inspected gullet at Clonard, Wexford, on 7th January 1927.

There are three methods by which flooding can be obviated:-

- (1) By reconstructing old gullet.
- (2) By cutting new gullet and laying 12 inch pipes, gullet to run parallel to that existing at present.
- (3) By laying open drain of concrete to run at side of road.

If proposal for dealing with the matter be entertained, No. 3 presents the most feasible and cheap means of procedure.

In view, however, of the fact that flooding only occurs in extremely abnormal times and can be dealt with expeditiously and also of the expense of proposed work, which from the circumstances must be considerable, I recommend that no action be taken - at least for the present."

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the report of Mr Boggan M.C.C. re gullet at Clonard be received and approved."

MAIN ROADS- URBAN DISTRICT, NEW ROSS.

Under date 12th January 1927, letter was read from New Ross Urban Council calling attention to the necessity of having the mud scraped off main roads in New Ross Urban District, particularly the approaches to New Ross Bridge.

It was decided to point out to the New Ross Urban Council that this was a matter of scavenging and not of road maintenance and as such it was the business of the Urban Council to attend to.

PETROL PUMP LICENCES.

The Chairman proposed, Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded and it was passed:- "That Petrol Pump Licence be granted to Michael Finn, 16 Main Street, Gorey."

James Doherty applied for licence for petrol pump at Main Street, Bunclody.

The Garda Siothchana reported in favour of application.

Order - Approved, provided satisfactory report be received from County Surveyor.

The following resolution was agreed to:-

"That Mr Elgee, Solicitor, be directed to proceed against persons who have erected petrol pumps on public roads and who have not obtained from the Co. Council licence for same."

LICENCES - CINEMATOGRAPH ACT.

Application was received from Marcus Presto, travelling showman, for licence for a Cinema Tent.

It was recommended by Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor and the Chief Superintendent, Garda Siothchana.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne, the issue of a licence was agreed to.

In connection with the application of John McDonald, Irish Street, Bunclody for Cinematograph Licence, communication was received from the Chief Superintendent, Garda Siothchana that the premises were suitable and complied with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act.

It was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne and carried:- "That licence for premises at Chapel Lane, Bunclody for Cinematograph purposes be issued to John McDonald on the condition that an outside exit be provided from the gallery of the building and that a written report be received from the County Surveyor that the premises comply with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act and Regulations thereunder.

Under date 17th January 1927, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, wrote advising that the County Council had full power to insert in any licence which they may issue under the Cinematograph Act, a condition that an outside exit should be provided from any gallery to which the licence applies, and that if such conditions

cannot be complied with, the County Council have power to refuse the licence.

It was decided that the advice of Mr Elgee apply to all appropriate cases and that no licence be issued for any Cinematograph premises with gallery unless an outside exit be provided.

ROAD 287R.

A largely signed Memorial from the Ratepayers of the district was ^{received} ~~sent~~ as to the erection of three gulleys on road 287R at Ballindoney, Ballywilliam, stating that at present the absence of these gulleys was a cause of danger to the public.

Order - Referred to County Surveyor for report.

ROAD AT BALLYGILLANE BIG.

The following was received from residents and ratepayers of Ballygillane Big, Kilrane:-

"We, the undersigned being some of the residents and ratepayers in the townland of Ballygillane Big, beg to bring the following to your notice. There is a road going by Ailsa Lodge and Mrs Barry's house, about 200 yards in length. It is a quarter of a mile from the Pier. There are eight houses on the road and all occupied by substantial ratepayers. There are no arrears of rates. At the present time the road is absolutely impassable and has not apparently been cared for by your Council at all. As ratepayers we feel we are absolutely entitled to have a properly maintained road by our houses and we would be glad if you would kindly see that the Council attend to the matter at once."

Order - Referred to County Surveyor for detailed report with estimate of cost, etc.

It was decided to adjourn ~~their~~ consideration until a deputation from Hauliers of Camolin and Ferns Districts would be heard.

Mr. James Kenny, Effernogue, Ferns, who acted as principal spokesman on behalf of the hauliers in attendance handed in the following on their behalf:-

"On behalf of the hauliers of the Enniscorthy district we beg to put our position before you as shortly and as **concisely** as possible. Take one mile at 10d per yard. We are hard pressed to run six journeys per day; No haulier is able to bring more than 5 yds in the six journeys that would work out at 4/2d per day. Now take 2 miles per day that would be four journeys each day. It is considered a good horse that will have 18 cwt's two miles four times in the day. That would work out at 5/- per day.

"Now for three miles: it must be admitted that three journeys per day would be a hard day's work for any horse. You will observe that would work out at 6/- per day.

"You will see by the above that our grievance is genuine and we hope that you will consider it favourably:

"Signed:- James Kenny, Effernogue; Robert Kinsella, Ferns, Patrick Nolan, Coolatore; Richard Sinnott, John Brien, Anthony Doyle; Andrew Redmond; John Doyle; ~~and~~ Andrew Doyle."

Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, stated that practically all the hauliers were in his district. He considered their average earnings would be from 6/6d to 7/6d per day. Laterly he found trouble in getting men to take haulage. Some of them had sold their horses and did not replace them.

Mr. P. Byrne said there were 13 or 14 of these hauliers in his district. He often saw them going to Clologue Quarry at 7.15 in the morning. They were in consequence of the distance they lived from their work only ^{able} ~~above~~ to cover 16 miles haulage in the day and were only able to earn at the outside 7/6d per day. Out of this they had to keep horse and cart and support their families. The Council could realise that the men had a real grievance.

The Chairman pointed out that there would be uneconomic journeys in haulage and these could be dealt with by the County Surveyor.

Mr. Thorpe held that at the rate allowed by the County Council a carter should be able to earn 8/- per day. A small concession might be given for first mile.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mr. Thorpe and seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That the question of amount paid hauliers by County Council be referred to the Roads Committee for examination and report".

On a show of hands seven were in favour of this proposal and nine against it.

The Chairman declared the resolution lost and stated that if anyone wishes to propose any variation in the terms of employment it would have to be by notice of motion.

In connection with the Minutes of Roads Committee the following resolution was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That the Minutes of Roads Committee in respect of meeting held on 24th January, 1927, be and are hereby confirmed".

Mr. Cooney called attention to the minute dealing with the condition of the main roads in New Ross District. He disagreed with the County Surveyor in his statement to the Roads Committee that it was scavenging work which was necessary on these highways.

It was decided that the County Surveyor obtain from Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor for the district, a special report in connection with the matter and that same be discussed at next meeting of Roads Committee.

Colonel Gibbon said he considered heaps of stones about two miles from Ballycanew on the Wexford side were dangerous.

Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, said he expected to have these rolled in on the 16th instant. There was 18 to 20 feet of a travelling surface available and he did not agree that the heaps of stones were in any way dangerous.

The resolution confirming the Minutes of the Committee was then put and passed.

COUNTY WEXFORD INSURANCE SOCIETY.
=====

The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr. Sean O'Byrne, and seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That the following resolution of the County Council, adopted at the meeting of the 11th April, 1912 be and is hereby rescinded:-

"That the Scheme as adopted by the Dublin Co. Council (with the necessary verbal alterations to make it applicable to this County) for the formation of an approved Society under the National Health Insurance Act, be adopted and submitted to the Irish Insurance Commissioners for approval".

With reference to this matter letter under date 18th January, 1927 (No.E.13953/26) was read from the National Health Insurance Commission pointing out that Co. Wexford Insurance Society had transferred its engagements to the Irish National Trade and Labour Benefit Society as from the 31st December, 1926, and this transfer had been sanctioned by the Commission. When the resolution of 11th April, 1912 (adopting a Scheme for the establishment of a Society) was rescinded the Commission would relieve the Council of its obligations under the Deed dated 12th February, 1913, as from 31st December last.

The resolution was then put and passed nem.con.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE.
=====

Under date 2nd February, 1927 (RGM/201) the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote that the Minister proposed to make grants for the up-keep of Main Roads, on the basis of 50 per cent in connection with the repair of trunk roads and 30 per cent in the case of other main roads. The amount to which the Wexford County Council would be entitled on their estimate for up-keep of these roads in 1926 was £6345.

The Secretary pointed out that for year 1927-28 the amount

proposed to be spent on trunk roads was £4594 and on other main roads £12,639. The grant for these would be £6,089 and the Finance Committee had decided to bring in this amount in relief of rates for the forthcoming financial year.

FISHERIES ACT 1925.

Circular letter No.1 under date 26th January, 1927, (3731/1927) relative to recoupment by the Minister of Fisheries in cases in which the amount of rate in an area was increased over a penny in the £ in consequence of loss of fishery rate by the County Council, was read.

The Secretary stated/^{that} ^{was} in no case the amount of rate increased by a penny in the £ owing to the loss of fishery rate and hence the County Council were not entitled to any refund.

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE.

Under date 7th February, 1927, the Department of Local Government wrote (G.3120/1927 Wexford County) that Mr. J. A. Gleeson, Local Government Inspector, had been instructed to hold an Inquiry into the administration of the Wexford County Library Scheme on 1st March, 1927, at 11 o'clock a.m., in the Book Repository, 74, North Main Street, Wexford.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne:-

"That communication from the Local Government Department in connection with proposed Inquiry into the administration of the County Library Service be referred to the Finance Committee and that this Committee be empowered to take any steps which they may consider necessary in the interests of the Council relative to said Inquiry"

COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT - TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

Proposed Agreement between the County Council, and the Co. Wexford Insurance Committee relative to the treatment of

of persons suffering from Tuberculosis and which was prepared by the Co. Wexford Board of Health was laid before the meeting.

The Department of Local Government wrote under date 4th February, 1927, (P.H.5051/1927 Wexford Bd of Hth and P.A) that the Minister for Local Government saw no objection to the adoption of this Agreement by the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Clince:-

"That we approve of comprehensive Agreement for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis between the Wexford Council and the County Insurance Committee, that the said agreement be signed by two members on behalf of the Council and that the seal of the Council be attached thereto."

ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETERY COMMITTEE, NEW ROSS.
=====

Under date 21st January, 1927, the Department of Local Government forwarded Auditor's report and Abstracts of Accounts for year ended 31st March, 1926, in connection with the above Committee.

Under date 2nd February, 1927, the Department of Local Government wrote (P.H.42803 Miscellaneous J.B.B.) that this Committee should now be constituted under the provisions of Section 5 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1925, and that the area of charge would be the County Health district.

The Secretary stated that after the abolition of the Rural Council of New Ross, the County Board of Health appointed three members of the Co. Council on this Committee.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Gaul, seconded by Mr. Colfer:-

"That County Councillors M. Cloney, W. Thorpe and J.E. Walsh be appointed Representatives of this Council on the St. Stephen's Cemetery Committee, as these members have been already appointed by the County Board of Health on said Committee"

TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ROAD.
=====

Sealed Order No.I.R/107/1/1927, relative to the closing of road from the Tivoli Terrace junction to Park Cottage, Wexford, from 14th February, to 31st March, 1927, (inclusive) to allow of level to be raised was read for the meeting.

RECONSTRUCTION OF WEXFORD COURTHOUSE.
=====

Under date 8th February, 1927, the following letter (297/25) was read from the Department of Justice:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Justice to refer to the question of the application by the Wexford County Council to the Minister for Finance for permission to utilise the award in respect of the destruction of the Wexford Courthouse towards the conversion of the Old Jail into a Courthouse rather than towards the rebuilding of the former Courthouse.

"The Minister has come to the conclusion, and has so informed the Minister for Finance, that he would not be justified in opposing the considered opinion of the County Council that the conversion of the Old Jail into a Courthouse will be more economical than the reconstruction of the former Courthouse and will provide ample suitable accommodation for the Courts of Justice and their officers.

"So far, therefore, as the Department of Justice is concerned, no further opposition will be offered to the County Council's proposal".

The following resolution was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr. Doyle:-

"That copy of letter from Department of Justice, under date 8th February, 1927 and No.297/25 be furnished to the Minister for Finance with a request that he will now agree to advance the amount of compensation awarded in this case"

A show of hands was taken with the result that 16 voted in favour of the resolution and five against it.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted.

42
610

RECONSTRUCTION GOREY COURTHOUSE.

Mr. Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, submitted copy letter from the Department of Finance under date 2nd February, 1927, 404/946 (2), explaining the manner in which payments to cover the cost of reconstruction of the Gorey Courthouse, would be made.

The County Surveyor stated that plans and specifications in this matter were now complete.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That advertisements be issued at once inviting tenders for the reconstruction of the Gorey Courthouse".

GOVERNMENT CAPITATION GRANTS - MENTAL HOSPITALS.

The following letter under date 21st January:1927,(F.62/10/26) was read from the Department of Finance:-

"With reference to your letter of the 14th instant transmitting a resolution, on the subject of the Capitation Grant for Mental Hospitals, which was adopted at a meeting of the Wexford County Council, I am directed by the Minister for Finance to state that, as you have already been informed, the claims of Wexford County Council, as well as those of other County Councils, for payment of Capitation Grant to the amount certified by the Local Government Auditor are abated by direction of the Minister for Finance in accordance with the terms of Section 58 (5) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, if the grant from which payment is made proves insufficient.

"I am to add that no change in the existing legislation is proposed by the Minister, and he regrets that he cannot make up from any source any deficit that may arise".

Mr. Doyle suggested that an agitation should be carried on by the ratepayers to secure payment of the full capitation grant. They appeared to be getting only 30 or 25 per cent of it at present.

The following resolution which was adopted by the General Councils of Co.Councils was proposed by Mr. Thorpe seconded by Colonel Quin and adopted:-

"That the Government be asked to reconsider the legal aspect of the Capitation Grant, as it is a serious handicap on the ratepayers to cover the difference between the amount allowed and the ordinary cost per head. That it is the opinion of the Joint Committee that a sum equivalent to fifty per cent be refunded to the ratepayers, as such was the principle originally intended towards the relief of the rates".

PRIMARY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.
=====

The following letter under date 21st January, 1927, (F.13080) was read from the Department of Education:-

"With reference to your communication dated 18th ultimo, enclosing tentative scheme under above, I am directed to inform you that this Department is of opinion that a valuation of £75 is at variance in the spirit and in the letter with the principle underlying the award of these Scholarships, which are intended primarily to benefit the children of parents of limited means. It is suggested therefore that your Council consider the propriety of reducing the valuation to £50. In the experience of the Department this figure would be regarded as the maximum for a fairly large family, with a graduated scale for smaller families.

It is noted (par 2.) that right of competition is confined to children of parents residing in the Rural Districts. In this connection, I am to enquire whether the rate for these Scholarships is levied over the entire County including the Urban Districts, and if so, in what circumstances your Council propose that their Scholarships and Bursaries under this Scheme shall be tenable only by pupils declared eligible under this head.

The proposal (par9) to refund expenses to all candidates who attend the examination is not in accordance with regulation 12(b) of the official scheme, and it is feared that the proposal might

612
FY

result in the wholesale presentation of candidates with no obvious chance of gaining an award".

"Regarding the proposal to adopt the 5th Standard in Irish, I am to say for your information that the revised syllabus (a copy of which was recently sent to you) is based on the new Primary Schools' Programme and has been adopted without modification by all Councils having Schemes operative in 1927. It is regretted that a lower standard in this subject cannot be accepted".

Proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr. Hall:-

"That the suggestions of the Department of Education contained in their letter No.F.13080 under date 21st January, 1927, re Primary Scholarship Scheme be adopted, with the exception of the suggestion relative to refund of expenditure in attending examination. In this matter the decision of this Council is that all candidates who secure not less than thirty-three and one third of total marks allotted to the six subjects in which they are examined be refunded the necessary expenditure incurred by them in attending the Examination".

Adopted.

DEATH OF CIVIC GUARD E. KAVANAGH.

The Secretary reported that writ had been served on him at the suit of the mother of E. Kavanagh, deceased Civic Guard, who died as result of a collision with a heap of stones on Wexford-Ross Road.

He had forwarded the document to the Insurance Brokers, Messrs McDonagh & Boland, who had acknowledged receipt.

CUTTING HEDGES.

The County Surveyor presented report from Mr. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, under date 12th February, 1927, that Edward Moran, Verneegley, Bannow, had refused to cut a hedge which shaded the road very badly.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Mernagh:-

"That Mr. Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council, be instructed to proceed against Edward Moran, Vernegley, Bannow, in order to compel him to have hedge, his property, and which is an injury to the road, properly cut".

INJURY TO OLD JAIL PREMISES.
=====

The following under date 11th February, 1927, was read from the County Surveyor:-

"The Caretaker of the old Jail Premises notified me that on Tuesday, 8th instant, three youths named Patrick Morris, Paddy Parle and Michael Murray, came into the back premises of old Jail and maliciously broke over sixty panes of glass in a building in which we have timber stored. The Caretaker at the time was in the main building attending to his duties, and of course, the main gate was open for access to the District Clerk's Offices, and also for car traffic to the back premises.

"I may note that Patrick Morris is a grandson of the Caretaker to the County Office Buildings and admitted participating in the damage. Murray's father is an engine driver on the Railway, and Parle's father lives in the small house adjoining the County Office buildings."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That parents of guardians of Patrick Parle, Patrick Morris and Patrick Murray, be called upon to pay cost of wilful damage done by them on the 8th February to Old Jail Premises, Wexford, and in the event of their refusal or neglect to do so they be prosecuted by this Council"

ROAD CONTINGENCIES FUND.
=====

Under date 27th January, 1927, Mr. Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, wrote that road 11W between Larkin's Corss and Knockeen Cross required strengthening very badly, the cost would be about £100.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Murphy:-

"That a sum of £100 be transferred from Road Contingencies Fund to Account No.11W in order to provide for the improvement of this road between Larkin's Cross and Knockeen Cross"

CARRIGANEAGH QUARRY.

The following letter under date 25th January, 1927, re above was read from the County Surveyor:-

"I have been in treaty with Lord Courtown in regard to the leasing of Carriganeagh Quarry, and have provisionally agreed with him to take the quarry at a yearly rent of £6. I have not dealt with him for material taken since April, 1924, and it will be necessary to have this period covered also. I shall be obliged if you will bring the matter before the County Council for their approval."

The County Surveyor also submitted letter from Mr. Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, that there was nothing to prevent lease in this matter being taken out as from 1st April, 1924, and the rent to run from that date.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Hall:-

"That a lease of Carriganeagh Quarry be entered into between the Co. Council and Lord Courtown for Carriganeagh Quarry at £6 per annum as from 1st April, 1924. "

SHANNON ELECTRICITY ACT 1925.
=====

Notice was read from the Secretary, Ministry of Industry & Commerce, as to proposed erection of poles for carrying transmission lines for above Scheme in the townland of Camolin and for maintenance of same etc.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hall:-

"That so far as the Council are empowered they grant permission to Ministry of Industry and Commerce to erect poles etc., in connection

615 47

with the Shannon Electricity Act 1925 over any roads or lands in the control of the Council"

DRAINAGE OF FORD OF LYNNG.

Counsel's opinion in connection with above was submitted.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne:-

"That in connection with the flooding of the Ford of Lyng, this Council decides to act on the advice of Counsel, and direct Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, to take whatever steps may be necessary to put this advice into effect."

ANALYST'S REPORT.

Report of Analyst for quarter ended 31st December, 1926, was submitted to the meeting.

In connection with this matter letter was read from the Department of Local Government under date 9th February, 1927 (P.J.3868/27 Wexford County) suggesting that the sampling Officers might be advised to make a more varied selection of articles for examination by the Analyst, e.g., Sausages, Vinegar, Jam, Coffee.

It was decided that the attention of the Chief Superintendent, Garda Siothchana, be called to the letter of the Department of Local Government and that he be requested to ask the Ex-Officio Inspectors appointed under Food and Drugs Acts to adopt the suggestion of the Department of Local Government.

CORRAMACORRA ROAD.

Before the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Hayes said that the condition in which the people of Corramacorra were living was intolerable and to carry out anything in the nature of what was suggested by the Roads Committee was beyond their power. They were only small holders in a miserable condition. To his mind it was impossible for the people there to do what was recommended by the

Committee, and he proposed that the Council take the necessary steps to have the road constructed.

The Chairman said they could not do as Mr. Hayes proposed. It would not be regular. The resolution adopted by the Roads Committee asked the people concerned how far they were prepared to go to meet the Council in the matter, and he thought they should await a reply to that.

Mr. Boggan said that the people could do a considerable amount of the rough work at very little expense.

The discussion ended.

Wm. Carthy
March 14th 1927

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 28TH. 1927.

MINUTES.

N. J. FRIZELLE

FORTVIEW

SECRETARY

WEXFORD.

A special meeting of the above County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on February 28th 1927.

Col C. M. Gibbon (Vice-Chairman) presided. Also present, Messrs M. Doyle, N. J. Murphy, J. White, Sean O'Byrne, P. Byrne, J. Pender, J. Gaul, M. Jordan, Wm. Thorpe, J. Shannon, J. Clince, James Hall, M. Cloney, P. Colfer, and M.M. O'Donohoe.

The Secretary, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, the County Surveyor and the six Assistant Surveyors of the County Council were in attendance.

SYMPATHY WITH MR CORISH T.D.

The Chairman proposed the following resolution:-

"That we desire to express our deep regret at the loss sustained by our esteemed colleague, Mr R. Corish T.D. in the death of Miss Murphy, his aunt. We offer him our sincere sympathy in his bereavement."

Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded.

The Secretary also expressed his sympathy and that of his staff with Mr Corish as did also Mr Shannon and Mr Doyle.

The resolution was put and passed in silence.

ENNISCORTHY-WEXFORD ROAD.

The special business of the meeting was to reconsider tenders for the reconstruction of the Enniscorthy-Wexford Road, as the Roads Section of the Local Government Department recommend^(ed) that the second lowest tender be accepted.

Mr Quigley, Chief Roads Engineer of the Department was present at the meeting.

The Secretary read a letter under date 24th February 1927 from Mr Quigley stating he had notified Messrs Grainger Bros that he could not approve of their tender being accepted on account of unsatisfactory work done by them elsewhere.

In reply to a query, the Secretary the Secretary said that the lowest tender was that of Messrs Grainger Bros at £35481-12-0 and the Pioneer Road Construction Company, Dublin came next at £39424.

Mr Quigley said that with regard to the lowest tender he had already written to the Secretary that he would have to bar it out, as that particular firm had not been satisfactory in work they had carried out for the Local Government Department. The three tenders immediately in proximity to the lowest were very close, and he suggested that the Council should accept the next lowest tender. If they postponed the work in seeking an alternative to his suggestion, they would cause considerable delay and as there would be other large sums available for road work in the county in connection with the £2,000,000 Grant, it was very desirable to proceed with the Enniscorthy-Wexford Road as soon as possible.

The Chairman said they wished to be quite clear on the question as to where the difference between the amount of money available and the figure of the tender would come from.

Mr Quigley said that the Department of Local Government would put up the difference. The work was all under the distribution of the £2,000,000 for roads. Large sums of money would be coming into various counties under that Scheme and the Local Government Department would undoubtedly put up the difference. Something near £60,000 in addition would be coming to the County Wexford for road-making.

In reply to Mr Thorpe, Mr Quigley said the Pioneer Co. were a Dublin Company and had done very satisfactory work for the Department and also for the Dublin County Council.

The Chairman said if they accepted the second lowest tender as suggested, the money would be forthcoming from the Department and the acceptance of the tender would not throw any expense on the rates. Apparently there were two courses open to them. One was to accept the Government's instruction on the matter, and the other was to turn it down and start a discussion over again, with the result that they would possibly postpone the work until it was too late in the season to carry it on advantageously.

Mr Doyle asked if Mr Quigley was of the opinion that the sum mentioned in the tender recommended was reasonable and

the original Grant would come off other works in the County. If that additional money was not given for the Enniscorthy-Wexford Road it would go towards other works. They were getting no more than was due to them out of the Grant and the best thing they could do was to accept the tender.

Mr Quigley said the first proposal was to put down tar macadam on the Wexford-Enniscorthy Road, but undoubtedly such roads were very slippery and their life was not so long as that of concrete roads. They would not have a slippery road with concrete. It might not be so good a road for horses as a properly steam-rolled road of the old shape, but in all countries nowadays roadmakers found out unfortunately that they were not able to cater with complete satisfaction for both motor and horse traffic. Comparing the two surfacings, the concrete would undoubtedly give a better foothold for horses than tar macadam. In Dublin County instructions had been given to "grit" the tar macadam roads, but this had been done to the great injury of the surface. The concrete while not ideal for horses was very much better than tar macadam.

Mr Hall said they would have the horse drawn vehicles and women with asses' cars on the sides of the road and the motors ^{in the centre}. If it had been proposed to have the concrete sixteen or eighteen feet in width he would be more in favour of it.

Mr Quigley said the reason why they could not have a sixteen or eighteen foot width of concrete was the tremendous cost. They were putting down concrete to the width of twelve feet and that would be sufficient for both horse and motor traffic.

Mr Jordan suggested that it would be better to have the tar macadam in the centre instead of at the sides of the road as a concrete road gave a better footing for horses than tar macadam.

Mr Quigley said that something like that had been done in England, but it was only a narrow strip of concrete to keep the tar macadam together.

The Chairman said he agreed with Mr Doyle regarding the commencing of the work late. There was an enormous amount of work to be got through during the summer, and roadwork which was not done at the best time was never as satisfactory as when done in the proper period.

In reply to Mr Sean O'Byrne, Mr Quigley said that three - fourths of the work on this road should be done by the beginning of next winter but it was possible that it would be entirely completed by that time.

A poll was taken on Mr Hall's proposition and it resulted as follows:-

For:- Messrs Hall and White 2.

Against:- Messrs Gloney, O'Donoghue, Murphy, Thorpe, Jordan, Doyle, Shannon, Gaul, Pender, Colfer, Cline, P. Byrne, Sean O'Byrne, and the Chairman. 14.

Mr Sean O'Byrne then proposed and Mr P. Byrne seconded the following:-

"That the tender of the Pioneer Roads Construction Co. East Wall, Drumcondra, Dublin at £39,424 for reconstruction of Wexford-Enniscorthy Road be accepted, subject to the approval of Department of Local Government and Public Health and to the contractors entering into the necessary bonds to provide that they will carry out the work on said road in accordance with specification and conditions of contract."

This resolution was then put and passed nem.con.

In reply to Mr Gaul, Mr Quigley said it should be possible to have the work started immediately. It was in the Council's hands to have the Bonds signed.

WEXFORD-ROSSLARE ROAD.

The Chairman asked if the Department of Local Government would do anything to help the Council towards having the Slob Road from Wexford to Rosslare completed.

The Secretary said that the Railway Company had made certain claims in connection with the construction of the road and the Roads Committee of the Council decided to get Counsel's opinion on the matter. In addition to that the Committee asked if it were possible to get a Grant from the Department of Local Government to finish the road.

The Co. Surveyor said it would require about £600 to finish the road.

Mr Quigley explained that there would be additional Grants coming to the County Wexford and the County Council could apply the necessary money to finish the work on the Rosslare Road.

The Secretary inquired if the Local Government Department could help the Council in any way with regard to the claims of the Railway Company. There was a level crossing and the point was who was to be responsible for the wages of a man there, or

whether the Railway Company could prevent the Council from going ahead with the work on the road.

It was decided to submit Counsel's opinion to the Local Government Department and request their assistance in the matter.

RATE FOR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr P. Byrne:-

"That the 3d Rate for Tourist Development be raised under Section 67 of Local Government Act 1925."

NEW ROSS COURTHOUSE.

Under date 26th February 1927, Messrs Colfer & Son, Solicitors, New Ross, wrote that the Tottenham Trustees were now in a position to hand over clear possession of New Ross Courthouse.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr Murphy:-

"That Lease from Trustees of Tottenham Estate to the Wexford County Council in connection with tenancy of Courthouse, New Ross be hereby signed and sealed on behalf of the Council."

Wm Colfer
March 14th 1927