

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING 14TH. MARCH 1927.

MINUTES.

N. J. FRIZELLE

FORTVIEW

SECRETARY

WEXFORD.

The monthly meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on 14th March 1927.

Present:-Mr T. McCarthy(Chairman)presiding: Also Messrs William Boggan,Patrick Byrne,James Glince,Michael Cloney,P. Colfer, John Connors,Thomas Cooney,Richard Corish,Michael Doyle,J. Gaul, James Hall,Patrick Hayes,Michael Jordan,David Kavanagh,A. Mernagh, Sean O'Byrne,M.M. O'Donoghue,J. Pender,T. Rossiter, Jas. Shannon, William Thorpe,James E. Walsh,John White,Col Gibbon and Col Quin.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

REPLIES TO VOTES OF CONDOLENCE.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne, it was decided that the following replies to Votes of Condolence adopted by the Council should be inserted on the Minutes:-

"Mr Michael Hassett and Family return sincere thanks for kind sympathy in their recent sad bereavement."

Mr Walter Cummins,Rate Collector wrote:-

"Please convey to the members of your County Council my sincere thanks for their kind expression of sympathy with me in my recent bereavement,which was most appreciated.

I also wish to thank yourself and the members of your staff-for your message of sympathy on the occasion."

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES.

The following Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 17th February 1927 were submitted:-

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on 17th, February 1927.

Mr T. McCarthy, Chairman of the County Council presided. Also present, Messrs Sean O'Byrne, Michael Jordan, P. Hayes, William Thorpe and A. Mernagh.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £6016-19-5 was examined and signed.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS' (COMPENSATION) ORDER.

Under date 13th January 1927, the Department of Local Government (G.60463/27) wrote relative to above.

The scale fixed by the Order is as follows:-

1. The compensation payable to the officers of School Attendance Committees who have been removed from office in pursuance of sub-section(4) of section 26 of the School Attendance Act of 1926, shall be in accordance with the following scale, namely, one-tenth of the annual salary of each officer for every completed year of his service ending on the 31st day of December 1926; such salary being calculated at the rate of salary of which such officer was in receipt on the 1st day of November 1925.
2. In computing for the purposes of this Order the annual salary of an officer, the value of any bonus or addition to salary granted to him to meet the increased cost of living shall be included but only to the extent of 75% of the actual amount thereof of which the officer was in receipt on the 1st day of November 1925, and the value of any allowances in money or in kind of which the officer was in receipt shall be excluded.

The following are the particulars of salaries, etc. of the officers concerned:-

New Ross District.

P. Kehoe, School Attendance Officer, Salary £36:Service

10 years: Compensation proposed £36.

P. Stafford, School Attendance Officer, Salary £36:

Service 6 years: Compensation proposed £21-12-0.

J.J. Rochford, Secretary, Salary £12: Service 24 years:

Compensation proposed £28-16-0.

Enniscorthy District.

Miss Kelly, School Attendance Officer, Salary £35: Service

13 years: Compensation proposed £45-10-0.

P. Murphy, School Attendance Officer, Salary £35: Service

5 years: Compensation proposed £17-10-0.

Jasper Whitty, Secretary, Salary £15: Service 14 years:

Compensation proposed £21.

Gorey District.

John Stedmond, School Attendance Officer, Salary £35:

Service 11 years: Compensation proposed £38-10-0.

Catherine O'Brien, School Attendance Officer, Salary £35:

Service 6 years: Compensation proposed £21.

Myles Byrne, Secretary, Salary £35: Service 13 years:

Compensation proposed £45-10-0.

The Secretary read letter under date 29th January 1927 from Mr J. J. Rochford, Secretary, School Attendance Committee, New Ross, stating that as regards his own appointment, he was unable to furnish extract from Minutes of the Committee. The Minute Book was either sent to Wexford or sold during the Great War. If it were necessary, he would send on the "Register of Legal Proceedings" which would give a certain amount of information as regards the date of his appointment.

The Secretary mentioned that the Minute Book referred to had not been received by the Wexford County Council.

It was proposed by Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hayes and carried:-

"That compensation in accordance with particulars submitted to this meeting by our Secretary be paid to the following officers of School Attendance Committees in the County (whose offices have been abolished):-

P. Kehoe £36: P. Stafford £21-12-0: Miss Kelly £45-10-0:

P. Murphy £17-10-0: Jasper Whitty £21: John Stedmond £38-10-0:
Catherine O'Brien £21: Myles Byrne £45-10-0.

In the case of Mr Rochford, a sum of ~~£28~~^{£16/-} to be paid as compensation on production of further evidence as to date of his appointment."

RATE COLLECTION.

The following is the state of the Rate Collection for second moiety 1927 Rate up to 16th February 1927:-

E. J. Murphy 39.24: B. Cleary 37: J. Quirke 35.11:
C. McCarthy 33.31: P. Furlong 32.94: S. Gannon 31.90: J. Curtis 30.72:
M. Deegan 28.29: J.J. O'Reilly 25.18: J.J. Kelly 24.45:
T. Rowe 24.18: P. Donohoe 24.30: J. Cummins 23.94: T. Sutton 22.43:
J.J. Sinnott 23.12: M. Kelly 21.49: J. Doyle 21.28: W. Cummins 20.59:
P. Fitzpatrick 19.34: P. Walsh 17.22: P. O'Byrne 9.16.

The following resolution was adopted as regards collection of Mr P. O'Byrne:-

"That Mr Patrick O'Byrne, Rate Collector for No. 9 Collection District be directed to attend next Finance Committee meeting to be held on 3rd March 1927 in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford at 2 p.m. with all his collecting books. That if it be then found he has not at least 30 per cent of second moiety of his collection lodged, he be suspended from office."

Under date 16th February 1927, the following was read from Mr P. J. Fitzpatrick, Collector of No. 15 District:-

"Not having 25% of current half-year's rate collected by the 17th inst, as directed by the Finance Committee, I beg to state my reason. In December last, I wrote to the principal rate-payers in my district asking them for payment. Since January 1st, I have travelled almost every day, and have called (twice in a great many cases) to all the ratepayers in my district but with poor results. All those who did not pay me promised payment in March."

Circular letter from the Department of Local Government under date 10th December 1926 (No. 56951/1926/Mis) was considered by the Committee.

The following Rate Collectors on behalf of all the Rate

Collectors of the County Council were in attendance:-

Messrs Joseph Cummins(Enniscorthy), J.J. O'Reilly(Gorey), John Curtis(New Ross) and James Quirke(Wexford).

The Chairman explained that the Circular letter from the Local Government Department was before last meeting of the Committee when it was decided to defer action until the Committee had before them the views of the Collectors relative to the changes proposed by the Local Government Department.

Mr Cummins said that in the present state of the country it would be an impossibility for the Rate Collectors to close their collections, even if allowed 9d, 8d and 7d in the £, instead of 7d, 6d and 5d as suggested by the Circular.

According to the Department's Circular, if Rate Collectors did not close at the specified period, it was a doubtful matter if they would be entitled to any poundage at all. The County Wexford Collectors were unanimously against the proposed change.

After considerable discussion, the following resolution was adopted:-

"The Finance Committee do not see their way to recommend the County Council to put into force for the present, the suggestions outlined in the Circular letter from the Department of Local Government under date 10th December 1926(56951/Mis)

It was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne and carried:-

"That the Department of Local Government be requested to agree to the payment of poundage to all Rate Collectors of the Wexford County Council in respect of lodgments made by them to the end of January 1927 and that in future payments on lodgments be made quarterly."

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE.

The following letter was read from the Department of Local Government under date 7th February 1927(G.3120/1927/Wexford County):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he has instructed his Inspector, Mr

J.A. Gleeson to hold an Inquiry into the administration of the Wexford County Library Scheme on Tuesday the 1st March 1927, at 11 o'clock a.m. in the Book Repository 74 North Main St. Wexford."

This communication was before the County Council meeting on the 14th February 1927, when the following resolution was adopted:-

"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."

It was decided that the Chairman, the Secretary and Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council attend the Inquiry, and that the two former should give evidence, if, in the interests of the Council, they considered this course necessary.

ADMINISTRATION FOOD & DRUGS ACTS.

Under date 15th February 1927, the following was read from the Chief Superintendent, Garda Síochána re above:-

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th inst and enclosure relative to above, and to inform you that the Food and Drugs Inspectors have been instructed accordingly.

With reference to the matter of purchasing these samples by the Food & Drugs Inspectors themselves, I would thank you for your observations on the suggestion that you advance a certain sum of money to each of my four District Officers to meet the expenses of the purchasing of samples by the Inspectors.

As you are aware, the system presently obtaining is that they purchase the samples themselves and afterwards reclaim the amount from you through our Accounts Branch. I am of opinion that this system is not satisfactory in so far as that the Gardai who are acting in the capacity of Inspectors have often to wait a considerable period - one and two months - for the refund.

This is a considerable hardship upon them and, I am sure, is responsible for the work not being carried out as satisfactorily

"as it might otherwise be done.

I understand that the scheme referred to by me above is working satisfactorily with other County Councils. It will be understood, I am sure, that if you decide on issuing an advance that the Superintendents concerned will be held strictly responsible for the disposal of the money. The claims duly vouched would be sent direct to you through them."

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

"That a sum of £20 be given as Imprest A/c to the Chief Superintendent, Garda Siothchana for distribution to District Superintendents to enable Inspectors under Food and Drugs Acts to purchase samples. That accounts in connection with this Act be submitted as heretofore, through the Accounts Branch of Garda Siothchana Department. The proposal in this resolution relative to the advance, is subject to the approval of the County Council and the Local Government Department."

RATE BOOKS - TEMPORARY STAFF.

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

"That our Secretary be empowered to employ the necessary clerical assistance to write up Rate Books, Collectors' Receipt and Demand Notes and that the approximate cost of this work be submitted to the Department of Local Government for their approval."

PROSECUTORS' AND WITNESSES' EXPENSES.

Under date 22nd ~~February~~ December 1926, the following letter (F.115/113/25) was read from the Department of Finance:-

"With reference to your letter of the 19th May last, and previous correspondence, relative to a claim by your Council in respect of Prosecutors' and Witnesses' expenses for the period ended 30th September 1925, I am directed by the Minister for RIX Finance to transmit herewith a Payable Order for £277-16-10 in recoupment of the expenses of prosecutors and witnesses paid by your Council in the period 1st April 1923 to 30th September 1925.

"I am to add that the Local Government Auditor was unable to certify for your claim in respect of the half-year ended 30th September 1920 in the absence of satisfactory documentary evidence.

I am to inquire whether any further documentary evidence in support of the claim can be furnished by you to enable the Auditor to give the certificate which is required to enable this Department to recoup your Council.

The claim for the half-year ended 30th September 1920 with the Certificate of the Treasurer to your Council attached is returned herewith."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Jordan seconded by Mr Hayes:-

"That copy of letter from the Finance Department under date December 22nd 1926(F 115/113/25)as to refund of prosecutors' and witnesses' expensesfor half year ended 30th September 1920 be furnished to Mr J.T. Healy,Local Government Auditor,and that he be informed the Council are prepared to produce any reasonable evidence which he may require. It is impossible for them to produce original vouchers as these were destroyed during an armed raid on the County Council Offices in October 1922."

GOREY COURTHOUSE.

Mr Elgee,Solicitor submitted letter from the Department of Finance under date 16thFebruary 1927(404/946)(2) forwarding Paying Order fro £84-12-0,being £76 compensation for furniture destroyed in Gorey Courthouse,and £8-12-0 for Costs. He applied for payment of the latter sum to himself.

The following resolution was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr Thorpe and carried:-

"That a sum of £8-12-0 recovered as Costs in connection with the claim of the County Council for Award for the destruction of Gorey Courthouse be paid over to Mr Elgee,Solicitor to the County Council."

In connection with this claim which has been before meetings of the Finance Committee on several occasions, it was decided to postpone further consideration as Mr Flood desired to make further representations to the Council in the matter.

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of a meeting held on 17th February 1927 be and are hereby adopted."

The following Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 3rd March 1927 were submitted:-

The fortnightly meeting of the above Committee was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on 3rd March 1927.

The Thomas McCarthy (Chairman) presided: Also present Messrs A. Mernagh, and Patrick Hayes.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4709-9-3 was examined and signed.

STATE OF RATE COLLECTION.

State of Rate Collection to 3rd March 1927 was submitted as follows:-

Second Moiety.

E. J. Murphy 48.53: B. Cleary 46.21: S. Gammon 42.30:
J. Quirke 41.53: P. Furlong 39.07: J. Curtis 35.08: C. McCarthy 33.3
J. Cummins 33.59: M. Deegan 33.18: T. Rowe 31 47: P. Donohoe 30 72
P. O'Byrne: M.M. Kelly 28.99: J.J. O'Reilly 27 97: J.J. Kelly 27.28:
W. Cummins 26.41: J.J. Sinnott 24.99: T. Sutton 23.94: J. Doyle
23.89: P.J. Fitzpatrick 23.01: P. Walsh 21.62.

It was decided to again strongly recommend to the Rate Collectors the necessity of pushing forward their collections with all possible despatch.

At the last meeting of the Finance Committee, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Mr Patrick O'Byrne, Rate Collector for No. 9/^{Collection} District be directed to attend next Finance Committee meeting to be held on 3rd March 1927 in Co. Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, at 2 p.m. with all his collecting books. That if it then be found he has not at least 30 per cent of second moiety of his collection lodged he be suspended from office."

Mr Patrick O'Byrne, Rate Collector was in attendance.

The Secretary stated that after that meeting of the Finance Committee, he forwarded copy of the resolution then adopted to Mr O'Byrne, to the personal sureties of this Collector and also to the Guaranteeing Society.

It was found that Mr O'Byrne had now lodged over 32% of the second moiety of his collection.

The Chairman pointed out to Mr O'Byrne that the Finance Committee were pleased to know it would not be necessary for them to suspend him from office. He impressed on Mr O'Byrne the absolute necessity of always keeping up a good average in his collection. The Finance Committee did not intend to be unduly harsh, but in the interests of the public and the ratepayers, they had very important duties to perform and it would be impossible to carry out those duties without the help of the Collectors.

Unless the Rate Collectors of the county took every possible step necessary to secure payment of the rates, the County Council would be unable to function. He (Chairman) understood that for some time recently, Mr O'Byrne had been in bad health, but he should have furnished a doctor's certificate and recommended to the Council the appointment of a Deputy Collector during his period of illness instead of holding up the collection. The Committee found that where a District was allowed to get into arrears it was very difficult to pull it up again.

The Chairman then proposed :- "That as Mr O'Byrne has complied with the instructions of the Finance Committee given at their meeting on the 17th February 1927, no further action be taken as regards his position as Rate Collector, that his collecting books be returned to him. The Finance Committee hope that he will leave no room for complaint in the future."

Mr Hayes seconded this resolution which was passed.

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QUARTERLY PAYMENT OF RATE COLLECTORS.

Under date 19th February 1927, the Rate Collectors of the County forwarded the following copy of letter which they had ~~forwarded~~ addressed to the Minister for Local Government:-

"WE, the undersigned Rate Collectors for Wexford County Council, respectfully ask your sanction for quarterly payment of poundage of all rates lodged by us to date. The County Council are, we believe, anxious to help us with regard to poundage. The Rate Collectors' position to-day is one of extreme difficulty, as a big percentage of the Ratepayers are not able to pay their rates within the period set down, with the result that Collectors' poundage is held back owing to their Warrants not being closed.

Most of the Collectors are solely depending on their position as Rate Collectors for their means of livelihood and they find it almost impossible to carry on if the poundage is not paid, as they have their own liabilities to meet. It would be a gib inducement to us to work even harder than at present if we were assured of quarterly payments, and would thus be able to pay our way.

The ratepayers in general are working very hard to pay their rates and if collectors are compelled to take drastic measures against decent men, it would work out very bad from every point of view, as when you take a man's stock you are taking his capital and you put him in a much worse position to pay future rates. Owing to the times the present system of payment to Collectors is unsatisfactory and we would ask you to give sanction to our request. It would help us to meet our demands and it would work out more satisfactory in the interests of Collectors and Ratepayers alike. "Signed:- James Quirke, Thomas Sutton, Patrick Walsh, M. M. Kelly, P. J. Furlong, C. McCarthy M. Deegan, Joseph Cummins, Patrick Donohoe, Patrick O'Byrne, Sean Gannon, Walter Cummins, John O'Reilly, Patrick J. Fitzpatrick, John J. Sinnott, John J. Kelly, John Curtis, Bernard Cleary, E. J. Murphy, Thomas Rowe, John Doyle.

It was decided to point out that the Finance Committee had already approved of the Collectors being paid on a quarterly basis as this would be a great incentive to them to discharge their duties in a really efficient manner.

INSURANCE.

It was decided that renewals of Insurance Policies for Public Liability and Employers' Liability be effected with the Hibernian Fire and General Insurance Company.

COMBINED PURCHASING.

Under date 26th February, 1927 (S.8760/1927 Gen) the Department of Local Government wrote relative to Section 10(2) and (3) of the Local Authorities (Combined Purchasing) Act 1925 that the amount payable in respect of financial year ended 31st March, 1926 as assessed by Order under said sections on the Wexford County Council was £108 : 14 : 5d.

Paying Order for this amount should be made out in favour of the Minister for Finance and forwarded to the Local Government Department.

A recommendation was adopted that the Council should discharge the amount in question.

CLAIM - MR GERALD FLOOD, ENGINEER.

In connection with the above, the following was read from Mr Gerald Flood:-

"I would be much obliged if you would ask the Finance Committee to request the Minister for Local Government to reconsider his decision with reference to above.

The following is a brief history of how matters arose. In 1921 the Enniscorthy District Council undertook the repair of cottages on a large scale by direct labour, under which system about 150 cottages were repaired at a cost of £2500. To compensate me for the extra work and travelling the Scheme involved, they gave me £60 per year. The Department sanctioned it from year to year. In 1923 the Council borrowed £6000 for erection of 18 cottages and approved of a scheme of direct labour by piecework. The estimate for the houses was £350 each. We built them for £322 each, and in recognition of this achievement the Council unanimously voted me 1½% on the outlay. Later the Board of Health unanimously agreed that this money should be paid to me. The same applies to Ferns

Waterworks which I understand the Minister has not any objection to being paid. I may say that the Engineers in the other three districts ~~with~~ in the County got fees of 5% on the total outlay and with the exception of Gorey (where the cottages cost even less than ours) the cottages in the other districts cost considerably more than in Enniscorthy. In strict justice I hold I am entitled to this money."

It was proposed by Mr Hayes seconded by Mr Mernagh and carried:- "That the Department of Local Government be asked to agree to claim made by Mr Flood in connection with payment of percentage for work at Labourers' cottages in Enniscorthy District which were erected by Direct Labour. The Finance Committee are convinced that this recognition should be made to Mr Flood in view of the great saving effected by him in the cost of cottages through close supervision and attention to detail during the course of construction."

MALICIOUS INJURY DECREES.

Under date 28th February 1927, (F 25/1/27) the Department of Finance referred to items which were still outstanding in connection with payment of Malicious Injury Decrees. There appeared to be a sum of £5-10-0 due to Wexford Co. Council and due by them to the Department of Finance £140-18-2 and £258-4-0 in respect of Decrees for damage to property and conveyance of prisoners, expenses. The Department of Finance asked for payment of the amount ~~of the~~ now due.

It was decided to request the Department of Finance to furnish particulars of the amounts in question giving the names of the persons to whom decrees had been given for malicious injury and the decrees given under this head as apart from the details of account for conveyance of prisoners' expenses, etc.

RECOUPMENT PROSECUTORS AND WITNESSES' EXPENSES.

In connection with the refusal of the Department of Finance to refund amount spent by the Co. Council for prosecutors and witnesses expenses in reference to the half-year ended 30th September 1920, Mr Sean T Healy, Local Government Auditor, wrote under date 25th February 1927 stating that he was prepared to re-open the matter at his next audit of the County Council's accounts if the necessary documentary evidence was then available.

NEW ROSS ~~Rural~~ COUNCIL AND COSTS OF MORTGAGE.

Under date 24th February 1927, the Manager National Bank New Ross wrote asking for payment of £12-19-0, costs of Mortgage to secure an advance of £6000 to the late New Ross Rural District Council for housing purposes.

Mr John J. Rochford ex-Clerk to late New Ross Rural ~~MIXED~~ District Council (to whom the matter had been referred) wrote under date 28th February 1927 that when the Loan in question was obtained from the National Bank for the erection of Labourers' Cottages, the District Council unanimously refused to pay the amount claimed holding that the mortgage was for the protection of the Bank. He could not remember the amount then claimed but he did not think it was as much as £12-19-0.

It was decided that the correspondence be furnished to the ~~Local Government Department~~ to advise as to what steps the County Council should take in the matter.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr Cline and adopted:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 3rd March be and are hereby confirmed."

With reference to the resolution of the Finance Committee that the policies of Insurance for Public Liability and Employers' Liability be renewed with Hibernian Insurance Company, the Chairman stated that letters were received on 8th and 12th March from Irish Public Bodies' Mutual Insurances Limited that although their Company did not issue Policies for Workmen's Compensation and Public Liability Insurances, they could arrange such Insurances for the County Council and would submit quotations therefor if required. He further stated that notification had not been received at Finance Committee on 3rd March that the "Irish Mutual" were arranging such Insurances for Public Bodies with other Companies.

The Chairman also mentioned that if the Finance Committee had had these letters of the 8th and 12th March in time, they might have made a different recommendation to the one which had been agreed to. But in view of the fact that the Finance Committee had recommended the Policies to be renewed with the Hibernian Company and through same Brokers as last year, Messrs McDonagh & Boland, he did not think the Council should dissent from the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Next year, however, he hoped they would have information in good time from the Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Company to enable them to have the policies effected through this Company.

The meeting fell in with the Chairman's suggestion and the resolution to confirm the Minutes of the meeting of Finance Committee was then put and passed nem. con.

ROADS COMMITTEE.

The following Minutes of Roads Committee in respect of meeting held on 28th February 1927 were submitted:-

The monthly meeting of the Roads' Committee of the Wexford County Council was held on 28th February 1927.

Present.:—Col Gibbon (Vice-Chairman) presiding: also, Messrs James Hall, Sean O'Byrne, James Shannon, Patrick Colfer, and Michael Cloney.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The County Surveyor presented the following report for the month of February:—

"The plans for the reconstruction of Gorey Courthouse are now completed, and I have put advertisements in the local papers inviting tenders to be considered by the County Council at the meeting on the 14th proximo.

At a recent meeting of the Council, reference was made to the completion of the Slob Road to Rosslare, and I propose with your approval, making application to the Local Government Department for a Grant to complete the road. Before any further work be done, however, I think it would be well if we had some definite understanding with the Railway Company in regard to the level crossing, and I suggest that the Solicitor be directed to obtain Counsel's opinion regarding our rights in the matter.

I submit reports from the Assistant Surveyors on the following matters referred to at recent meetings:—

1. Ballywilliam-Poulmounty Road.
2. Ballygilliane Big Road.
3. New Ross Urban scavenging.

I have application from the Wexford Urban Council for further instalment on the maintenance contract on Main Roads in the Urban Area, and I recommend that payment be made.

The area under quarry at Dunanore is now nearly worked out, unless we break into another owner's land, and this will also

entail stripping work. I recommend that another quarry be opened further along the road if it be possible to arrange with the owner, and I ask for instructions to make arrangements.

We have great difficulty in carrying out our quarry work in a satisfactory manner owing to the restrictions that are put upon the use of gelignite. We are not allowed to hold gelignite ourselves and use it in small occasional blasts, with the result that the work is retarded and extra expense incurred. I believe in other counties there is more liberty allowed in the use of explosives, and recently I wrote to General O'Duffy, Chief of Civic Guards, but have not heard from in reply yet. I think it would be advisable for the County Council to take up the matter and ask the T.D.'s to bring it forward in the Dail.

This year we will require a very large quantity of gauge chippings for tar spraying, and I am ordering a special jaw stock for one of our Goodwin Barsby Breakers to prepare this material. At the present time, one of these machines is fitted with a steel jaw stock, and another with cast iron jaw stock, and I propose replacing the steel stock with a new one, which will leave us with a spare steel jaw stock for replacement in case the cast iron one gives way. I have carefully considered the whole of our machinery outfit in connection with the heavy Grant work which will be in hands during the next year or two, and consider that changes or additions must be made. The frame of the Baxter Breaker at Ballybrennan is at present cracked, and may give way at any time. To replace this would entail a cost of £300, and I consider it much more advisable to purchase a new Goodwin Barsby Breaker instead. I have quotations, and will discuss the matter more fully at the meeting. At present we own six tar sprayers, but in view of the very extensive work contemplated in connection with Grant work this year I believe it will be necessary to purchase more of these machines. Our Drill work, carried out by steam pressure is very unsatisfactory and expensive. Moreover, the Makers are not now keeping spares for the small drill, and in future contemplate changing the large drills, with the result that spares will have to be specially ordered. Some time ago we had a demonstration at Ballybrennan Quarry of an air pressure drill and I believe that this system is the only

satisfactory method of working. The saving in cost of drilling would in a very short time cover the initial cost of the pressur plant. I suggest that a small SubCommittee be formed to go into the matter of our machinery and make recommendations to the Council.

The Insurance Company is disputing claim in connection with the death of Civic Guard Kavanagh at Ballyvergin Cross, and have placed the matter in the hands of Messrs Huggard, Brenna and Godfrey, Solicitors to act for them. During the week I went out with Mr Brennan inspecting the site and interviewing witnesses, and the case will probably be heard during the coming Sessions.

There was ~~xx~~ a proposal passed for relaying gullet at Rocklands for the sum of £45 and I ask for authority to transfer this amount to the Wexford-Ferryarrig Road. During the past Summer and Autumn we had ~~to carry out further work~~ repair work done to the gullet, and now I think it would be inadvisable to carry out further work as possibly the existing gullet will stand for some time to come, and I propose using the money to remove a very dangerous corner at Park Cross.

Out of the Contingencies Fund some time ago, you authorised an expenditure of £500 on the Rosslare Road for tar work but owing to weather and other conditions I was unable to have the work carried out. I now propose preparing a large quantity of material for the work and obtaining tar. The actual labour, spreading and hauling could be dealt with out of the maintenance proposals for the coming year.

I beg to apply for a proposal for £50 in connection with repairs to County Buildings as the money at present in hands is nearly expended.

It has been reported to me that interference is being made with old drains on the Burrow at Rosslare immediately opposite Mr Walshe's at end of Station Road, and possibly in the future this may lead to trouble with the road drainage. I recommend that the matter be referred jointly to Mr Elgee and myself to deal with, and in the event of a nuisance occurring the Public Health Board should be notified."

Gorey Courthouse.

The meeting agreed to the action of the Co Surveyor in advertising the reconstruction of the Gorey Courthouse.

Slob Road -Rosslare-Wexford.

It was decided that Counsel's opinion be taken in this case.

The Chairman suggested that in addition, the Co. Surveyor would have for next meeting of the Roads Committee a rough drawing showing the existing position at the railway level crossing.

Payment Main Roads Wexford Urban District.

The recommendation of the County Surveyor was approved, and it was also decided that Wexford Urban District Council be requested to pay off outstanding amount of the demand they owe the County Council as soon as possible.

Dunanore Quarry.

A recommendation was adopted that the County Surveyor report to next meeting of the Committee what arrangements he proposed making in this matter and that he report to next meeting of the Roads' Committee.

Gelignite.

The County Surveyor stated that if the present restrictions were removed, they would be able to use a few pounds of gelignite for squibbing purposes. This would reduce the cost of quarrying very considerably and also the cost of drilling, as they could not get down to solid rock without squibbing.

It was decided that the County Council be recommended to erect in the towns of Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey, a small magazine to keep in each about 10lbs of gelignite, which could be distributed to the Assistant Surveyors by the District Superintendents of the Garda Siothchana; also to ask other County Councils what arrangements they had made for the distribution of small quantities of gelignite for squibbing purposes.

Machinery.

It was decided that the Co. Surveyor be empowered to purchase a spare steel jaw stock, and that he submit a list of

the machinery which the County Council had on hands at present.

The County Surveyor submitted quotation for Goodwin-Barsby stonebreaker at £344.

After some discussion Mr Sean O'Byrne proppsed and Mr and Mr Cloney seconded:-

"That the County Council be recommended to purchase new Goodwin Barsby Stonebreaker and utilise the parts of the Baxter Breaker for repairs to Baxter Breaker at Tara Hill Quarry when same would be required. The repair of Baxter breaker at Ballybrennan would be too expensive for result effected.

The County Surveyor stated that he would require six tar spraying machines which would cost £120 each.

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

"That we approve of the purchase of six tar spraying machines provided the necessary amount required to purchase same viz, £720 can be taken from Government Grant for roads."

In connection with compressor plant, the County Surveyor pointed out that roughly drilling with steam engine accounted for 150 days last year costing £99-2-0, which was roughly £6-10-0 per day. The average depth of hole was 16 feet. With the compress^{(or} plant the wages would be £3 per week. Experts were able to get up to 60 foot holes with this plant, but it was expected that in Wexford they should be able to get 40 foot per day. The installation would save more than 25 per cent of the total cost of drilling.

The County Surveyor stated that the installation would cost in or about £1500.

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

"That the County Council be recommended to purchase a compressor plant for drilling work in quarries."

Dangerous Corner at Park.

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

"That a sum of £45 be transferred from Contingencies Fund to Wexford-Ferry carrig Road for the purpose of easing dangerous corner at Park Cross."

Rosslare-Wexford Road.

The proposal of the County Surveyor to provide material and tar for this road was approved.

County Buildings.

Mr Hall proposed and Mr Cloney seconded the following which was adopted:-

"That a sum of £50 be placed in charge of the County Surveyor to carry out essential repairs to the County Buildings."

Drains at Rosslare.

The Chairman proposed and Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded:-

"That the matter be left in the hands of Mr Elgee, Solicr. to report to next meeting of the Council." Passed.

It was also decided that the County Surveyor should examine the project of the proposed new road from Rosslare Railway Station to Kelly's Hotel, make a preliminary survey of same and put plans and Estimates before the Roads Committee as an alternative to the widening of the existing roads from Station.

ROAD - BALLYGILLIANE BIG.

The County Surveyor submitted report from Mr Birthistle Assistant Surveyor, stating that it would cost £54-10-0 to put this road into fair condition and if it were proposed to raise the footpath also, an additional sum of about £20 would be necessary.

It was decided that consideration of this matter be adjourned: in the meantime, Mr Elgee, Solicitor to advise as to the legality of the Council repairing a thoroughfare which is not a through road.

MAIN ROADS - NEW ROSS URBAN.

The County Surveyor submitted the following report from Mr Patrick O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor:-

"The Main Roads in the New Ross Urban area have been

"rolled and sprayed within the past two years. On one Section, Cherry's Road -leading from the town towards Mountgarrett, the tarred material has come away and the amount of mud that accumulates is negligible and is frequently removed. A section, 22 perches long that was rolled after the County Council took over the roads has not been sprayed, as it was impossible to get favourable weather. This section has been cleaned occasionally, as mud appears on the surface, and it will shortly be sprayed. The bridge and its approaches are not surface-sprayed and there is a tendency for mud to accumulate on and near the bridge. The rest of the Main Roads are tar-surfaced and after continuous wet weather the surface becomes soft, but I would not regard the soft material as mud, as the surface becomes dry and clean in a very short time."

The following resolution was adopted:-

"That, as in the opinion of the County Surveyor, the cleaning of the Main Roads complained of by New Ross Urban Council is a matter of scavenging, the County ~~Surveyor~~ Council is not concerned therewith; the ^{Roads} Finance Committee would, however, recommend that the Urban Council should make some effort to enter into an agreement with the County Council for the maintenance of the Main Roads in the Urban District of New Ross on the same lines as the present existing agreements between the Urban Districts of Enniscorthy and Wexford."

ROADS 83R AND 81R.

In connection with these roads, Mr P. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, submitted the following report:-

81R. -(3rd Class Road from Ballywilliam to Poulmounty)

"The tonnage allowed for this road was 60 cubic yards from Poulmounty Quarry, which is, considering the nature of the material, far from sufficient. I have recently got out and spread 27 cubic yards extra material, but the road is still bad. The travelling surface is only 12' to 14' and most of the traffic from County Carlow to New Ross comes over this road now, in order to avoid 83R. This road, (81R) suffered a good deal from timber traffic and beet haulage. According to returns published, 700 tons

"of best were sent from Ballywilliam Station and I believe most of this came from County Carlow over this road."

Road 83R. (Main Road from Ballynabanogue to Poulmounty).

"The tonnage got out on this road was 80 cubic yards of Poulmounty Quarry and the cost on the road was £39-5-3. I have also got out 42 cubic yards extra material and the cost of this is £21-13-6, the total for haulage and material being, £60-18-9. The cost of labour up to the present is about £15. It will be impossible to make this road with the material that is at present going on it; the nearest good quarry is 8 miles distant, and haulage by horses is almost impossible and is becoming very difficult to obtain.

The Chairman mentioned that he had not for a very considerable time been on as bad a road as Road 83R. He brought up in connection with it some points in which he considered money had been wasted. One or two men had been engaged in scraping mud off it when the road was covered with pot-holes and no metal-ling was available to cover the holes when the mud was scraped off.

Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor said that the mud had been scraped off owing to numerous complaints that had been made to him.

Mr Shannon thought the County and Assistant Surveyors might make an inspection of the adjoining mountain and see if it was possible to procure material there for this and the adjoining roads.

Mr Sean O'Byrne proposed, Mr James Hall seconded and it was passed:-

"That a sum of £50 be transferred from Contingencies Fund to Road 83R, County Surveyor to expend this money to the best advantage."

GOREY HILL QUARRY.

The County Surveyor submitted the following report from Mr T. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, Gorey:-

"As the quarry in Gorey Hill is now run out, it will be necessary to open another place convenient to existing quarry

There is a good stone available at a short distance from the public road, but the owner of the land from road to the rock has refused permission to allow a way to be made, and I would recommend that proceedings be taken to obtain right to

enter and make roadway to rock.

The owner above referred to is Harriet Palmer, Gorey Hill, Gorey.

I may mention the person on whose land rock is, has intimated his willingness to lease rock on usual terms to Co Council.

The area of ground proposed to be taken is in or about 30 statute perches."

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

"That Mr Elgee, Solicitor be instructed to communicate with Miss Palmer, Gorey Hill as to the right of way to proposed new site for quarry at Gorey Hill and to ask her if she is prepared to take a reasonable sum for the easement in question, In the event of her refusing, Mr Elgee to be instructed to take proceedings to allow the County Council to obtain said easement."

WHEELS ON COUNTY ROLLERS.

The County Surveyor stated that he had received under date 21st January 1927, letter from Messrs Philip Pierce & Co, Wexford stating that they had not the proper facilities for carrying out the work of re-shoeing the County lorries.

Under date 26th February 1927, Corramacorra Road Patrick O'Reilly, Corramacorra, Murrintown wrote giving names of a number of residents, the amount of work they proposed to do in connection with the repair of this road, and also the amount of material in each case which they were agreeable to supply.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne it was decided that the matter be left in the hands of the County Surveyor to report to Roads Committee in a month's time as to what amount of work had been performed by the persons mentioned in Mr O'Reilly's letter, also that he furnish the Roads Committee with Estimate as to what it would ^{then} cost to put the road into fair condition, over and above what had been done by the local people.

GOREY UNION BUILDINGS.

Under date 23rd February 1927, the following report was submitted by Mr T. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor:-

"As result of recent storms damage as under has been done to Gorey Union Buildings:-

Board Room. 3 slates broken and 1 length of 5" gutter.

Stable Buildings. 100 slates - 12 ridge tiles down down unbroken.

Master's Store. Four wooden skylights broken.

"Female Hospital. Four Slates off.

Laundry. Six lengths of 5" eave gutter and hopper head off and
and 5 slates broken.

West Wing. 36 - 14"x8"slates off and broken.

It would be well to get above matter attended to, and I
will put work in hands when directed."

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

"That the County Surveyor be instructed to have the
necessary repairs to Gorey Union Buildings carried out as soon
as possible."

APPLICATION-FOR-RECREATION-GROUNDS.

APPLICATION FOR RECREATION GROUNDS.

Under date, 12th February 1927, the following letter was
read from Miss Eibhlis Travers, Secretary, Gorey Branch, Gaelic League

"At a meeting of Gorey Branch of Gaelic League mention
was made of the desire to provide Gaels with suitable out-door
amusements.

Adjoining the Union Buildings at Gorey is a plot of
ground marked as Tennis Court and also a Handball Court which
could be utilised in the summer months, if the County Council is
willing, as we understand the matter lies in your hands. At present
these grounds are idle.

We are quite willing to fall in with any reasonable
suggestions or ~~early~~ comply with regulations. We wish to secure
this as a recreation centre for local Gaels, same being much
desired and not otherwise procurable."

Mr Sean O'Byrne mentioned that the tennis grounds and
handball court at Gorey Workhouse premises had been laid out by
the Military while in occupation of the place. He proposed that
the application of the Gorey Branch, Gaelic League for use of the
tennis ground and handball court at Gorey Workhouse premises be
agreed to- rent to be 5/- per year, agreement to be entered into
by the Gaelic League to keep the premises in proper order, to be
responsible for any damage while in their possession and to vacate
the premises on a month's notice in writing from the Co. Council.

Mr Hall seconded the resolution which was carried.

CINEMA AT BUNCLODY.

Report under date 26th January 1927 was submitted by Mr R. J. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, relative to application of John McDonald, Irish Street, Buncloody for premises at Chapel Lane, Buncloody to be licensed for Cinematograph purposes.

Mr Ennis stated that he was not in favour of the gallery in this premises being allowed to be used by the audience, as he considered it dangerous in case of fire.

DANGEROUS CORNER AT DARBY'S GAP.

Under date 22nd February 1927, Mr T. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, wrote relative to claim for compensation made by John Redmond re above.

The latter was prepared to sign receipt in full settlement of his claim, together with Solicitor's costs for £2-10-0.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cloney seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That the County Council be recommended to give £2-10-0 in settlement of claim of John Redmond in connection with land taken from him for the purpose of easing dangerous corner at Darby's Gap."

CONDITION OF FERNS STREETS.

Mr John Connors M.C.C. wrote under date 25th February 1927 complaining of the condition of foot-paths in the street of Ferns leading from the National Bank to the Catholic Church. It would not cost a very large sum to make a concrete foot-path at the place.

The County Surveyor explained that Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, had this matter in hands at the moment.

ENNISCORTHY POUND.

Mr F. W. Davis and Miss Katie O'Flaherty, Hon Secretaries Enniscorthy and District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals wrote as follows under date February 14th 1927:-

"Acting in our capacity as Hon. Secs. to the S.P.C. to Animals, we, the undersigned, wish to bring to your notice the very unsatisfactory arrangement existing here regarding the impounding

of stray animals.

Mr Tom Brien, Duffry Gate, was appointed in charge of the Pound two years ago. He has never received any remuneration, and no provision is made for the upkeep of stray animals therein impounded.

In the case of seizures made by the Bailiff he makes provision, but not otherwise, consequently great and quite unnecessary hardship is inflicted on animals run in by the Guards, etc., for being on the roads without any ostensible owner."

The Secretary stated that he had referred this communication to Mr Elgee, Solicitor, who on the 16th February 1927 wrote that the County Council had nothing to say to the payment of the wages of a Poundkeeper, but were, on the other hand, entitled to receive from him an annual rent not exceeding £2.

It was decided that the correspondence be referred to Mr Fahy D.J. for his observations.

PROPOSED ROAD - BURROW, ROSSLARE.

James Bent, Burrow, Rosslare, wrote in connection with encroachment of the sea at Burrow and asked to have sea wall erected to prevent his house from being flooded.

This matter had been several times before the Roads Committee.

It was decided to inform Mr Bent that in view of the report of the County Surveyor it was impossible for the Roads Committee to comply with his request.

ENNISCORTHY COURTHOUSE.

Under date 24th February 1927, the following was read from Mr Elgee, Solicitor:-

"In this case, Mr Williamson of Enniscorthy estimated the cost of reconstruction at £3389-11-7.

I submitted this Estimate to the Board of Works, as requested by the State Solicitor, and I have now heard from him that the Board's Valuer reports that a sum of £2901 is sufficient to cover the cost of reconstruction, and if the Council are satisfied with this amount they are prepared to consent to a Decree for that sum. There is a difference of £488 between the two sums, and I think the Judge would be more likely to accept the Board's figures than ours, and accordingly I will be glad if you bring the matter before Roads Committee so that I can get directions from them and if possible

-ible get the matter disposed of at the Circuit Court which sits next week."

It was proposed by Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr James Hall and carried:-

"That the Roads Committee recommend the County Council to accept the amount proposed as compensation by Office of Public Works for rebuilding of Enniscorthy Courthouse, viz, £2901."

CINEMATOGRAH ACT.

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

"That Sergt. D.J. O'Donnell (1934) Garda Siothchana be appointed Inspector under Cinematograph Act for Castlebridge Sub-District and that Sergt. Patrick Barrett (4090) be appointed Inspector of Ballinabola Sub-District."

CONSIDERATION OF ROAD TENDERS.

It was unanimously agreed that the following be constituted Tenders Committee to act in the Electoral Areas which they represent:-

Enniscorthy.-- Messrs Cline, Mernagh, McCarthy, Jordan, Kavanagh and Shannon. - 6.

Gorey.-- Byrne Patrick, Hall, O'Donoghue, Quin, O'Byrne (Sean), Pender and Connors - 7.

New Ross.-- Cloney, Murphy, Thorpe, Walsh, White, Cooney and Colfer - 7

Wexford.-- Messrs Doyle, Col Gibbon, Boggan, Rossiter, Corish, Hayes and Gaul - 7.

Tenders Committee meet as follows:-

Enniscorthy. On 16th March 1927 at Board Room, County Home. 1 o'clock

Gorey. On 26th March 1927 at Town Hall at 12-30 p.m.

New Ross. On 23rd March 1927 at Courthouse at 12 o'clock.

Wexford on 19th March, 1927 at Co. Council Chamber, at 12 o'clock Noon
CLAIM - BROWNSWOOD QUARRY.

Under date 21st February 1927, James Brien, Glenteigue Edermine wrote as follows:-

"Having on previous occasions applied for payment for opening and stripping Quarry at Brownswood, the reply I received was that quarry was not being worked at place opened by me. The quarry is now being worked at the very place where it cost me a considerable amount to strip and open. I hope you will recompense me for my work."

This letter had been referred to the County Surveyor who had obtained report from Mr T. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor that in July 1923 he met O'Brien at Brownswood. The latter stated that he entered the quarry in 1898 or 1899 after Court proceedings which cost him £17-13-6. Mr Webster, the then Co. Surveyor agreed verbally with O'Brien that he would be refunded this cost amount if at any time he was removed from the quarry.

Claim was also made for opening and stripping, and £35 was mentioned as a reasonable figure for a settlement.

In conclusion, Mr Cullen mentioned that the whole matter had been discussed by the County Council at the time.

O'Brien came before the meeting and stated that he had not got any written agreement with anybody. In fact he had no legal right to get the money at all.

It was decided to adjourn the matter, O'Brien in the mean time to furnish the Council with the particulars of the contract referred to, and the specification as having been entered into from April 1920.

BALLYBAWN MILLS ROAD.

Mr Shannon called attention to a very dangerous turn on the road from Tomahine to Ballybawn Mills (57R).

The owner of the land was willing to allow the County Council to take what land was necessary to widen the road. He proposed that this work be done.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Cloney it was agreed that the County Surveyor should submit report to next meeting of the Roads Committee.

Mr Sean O'Byrne proposed and Mr Cline seconded the following resolution:- "That the Minutes of Roads Committee in respect of meeting held on 28th February 1927 be received and considered." Passed.

Compressor Plant.

In connection with this matter, the County Surveyor submitted Estimate at £1650. He held that by utilising this plant the Council would save 60% of the cost of drilling. They paid about £1000 for this work, so that in three years they would save the cost of the entire plant.

It was decided that the County Surveyor submit estimates to next meeting of the Roads Committee with full particulars as to cost and running of paraffin and petrol engine for comparison, the meeting holding that while a paraffin engine was much cheaper to purchase and to run, it was quite as satisfactory as a petrol engine. Road at Ballygilliane Big.

Mr Doyle mentioned that when the Council were considering Mr Elgee's opinion in this matter, he would be prepared (if it could be done legally) to move that a certain sum should be expended on this road, but nothing like the amount mentioned in the report of the County Surveyor, viz, £74-10-0.

CAMBLIN - NEW ROSS ROAD.

Mr Cooney called attention to the present condition of this road which he described as "a disgrace to civilization."

On the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr Cline it was decided that the County Surveyor should make a report to next meeting of the Roads Committee as to what could be done to put this road into fair order.

TARA HILL QUARRY.

Mr P. Byrne considered that something should be done to re-open this Quarry which gave the very best stone in the County.

The County Surveyor said the quarry was "much out of the way." He would get what material he possibly could from it during the coming year.

CAMOLIN PARK ROAD.

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

"That the attention of the Department of Agriculture be again called to the condition of road in Camolin Park on the Department's Forestry property. At present it is impassable- so bad-in fact - that the corpse of a member of a family living on the road could not be brought home to be waked.

We consider the Department should proceed at once to put this thoroughfare into such a condition as will allow of its use by the persons living on it."

ILLNESS OF MACHINERY OVERSEER.

The County Surveyor submitted the following certificate from Dr P. D. Murphy, Enniscorthy, under date 10th March 1927:-

"This is to certify that William Murphy is suffering from Tonsillitis and is at present unable to work."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That the necessary leave of absence on full pay be granted Mr William Murphy, Machinery Overseer, during his illness."

ENNISCORTHY-WEXFORD ROAD.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, wrote that the Contract and Bond for above road had now been executed by the Pioneer Road Construction Company and their Sureties.

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

"That contract and bond with the Pioneer Road Construction Company in connection with reconstruction of road between Enniscorthy and Wexford be signed and sealed on behalf of the Wexford County Council."

Col Quin proposed and Mr Gaul seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor request the Contractors for reconstruction of Enniscorthy-Wexford Road to utilise material from Kerlogue Quarry as well as from Brownswood Quarry."

SPARROWSLAND RAILWAY BRIDGE.

The County Surveyor submitted the following letter under date 11th March 1927 from Mr R. D. Patterson, District Engineer, Great Southern Railways:-

"All the materials are now ready for the renewal of this Bridge, and I propose taking down the old one on Saturday, 2nd April, and erecting the new one on Sunday, 3rd prox.

Before removing the old Bridge it will be necessary to strip off all the road metal, and to enable this work to be carried out, the bridge should be closed on and from 31st inst.

The work will be completed and the bridge again open for traffic on the 10th April, and I shall be glad to know if this meets with your approval."

Col Quin proposed and the Chairman seconded the following resolution:-

"That application be made to the Minister for Local Government for permission to close road over Sparrowsland Bridge from 31st March 1927 to 10th April 1927 (inclusive) to allow of necessary repairs to said road being carried out."

SEWERAGE OF BALLYGEARY.

Under date 10th March 1927, the following was submitted from the County Surveyor:-

"I have application from Mr John Browne, Contractor for carrying out the new buildings in connection with the Lifeboat at Ballygeary, for permission to open the county road and lay sewerage pipes in connection with the drainage of same. The plans have been lodged with me, and I am satisfied that permission should be granted, subject to the proper restoration of the road, and such conditions as may be necessary to safeguard us in the future.

I shall be glad if you will bring the matter before the Council for their approval."

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

"That the necessary permission be granted Mr John Browne, Contractor, Wexford, to enable sewerage pipes to be laid in connection with drainage for new buildings for Lifeboat at Ballygeary."

TRANSFER OF ROAD ACCOUNTS.

549

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

"That a sum of £46 be transferred ^{to} ~~from~~ Road Section I (Gorey) from the following road A/cs in the district:-

From B £5: C £10: D £6: E £12: F £5: and G £8."

TENDERS FOR ERECTION OF GOREY COURTHOUSE.

Mr John Browne, Henrietta Street, Wexford, tendered for erection of Gorey Courthouse at £2497 mentioning as his sureties Messrs Philip Cowman, Grocer, North Main Street, Wexford and James James Kelly, Baker, do.

Mr James Doyle, The Bridge, Gorey, tendered at £2775.

In reply to a query, the Co. Surveyor stated that Mr Browne had done satisfactory work in the past for the Council. Mr Doyle had given evidence in Court as regards compensation claim for this particular Courthouse in a satisfactory manner.

Col Quin proposed and Mr Gaul seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the tender of Mr John Browne, Henrietta Street, Wexford, for erection of Courthouse at Gorey at £2497 be accepted subject to Mr Browne executing Contract and Bond prepared by the Solicitor to the County Council for the due and faithful performance of the work."

ENNISCORTHY COURTHOUSE.

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

"That the County Surveyor be empowered to employ draughtsman for preparation of plans, etc. in connection with the re-erection of Enniscorthy Courthouse."

SCHEME FOR TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

Under date 28th February 1927, the following letter, (P.H. 4159/1927 Wexford Co.) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"With reference to the entry in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Wexford County Council on the 10th ultimo, relative to the Scheme proposed to be adopted for the treatment

of Venereal Disease in the County, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he will be prepared to approve of the general outlines of the scheme.

As a preliminary to its final adoption it will be necessary for the County Council to pass a formal resolution consenting in pursuance of Section 1 of the Public Health (Prevention and Treatment of Disease) (I) Act, 1917, to be declared by the Minister an authority for the execution and enforcement of regulations made under Section 148 of the Public Health (I) Act, 1878, for the treatment of Venereal Disease.

As regards the question of the Medical Officer to be placed in charge of the Scheme, I am to suggest that this Office might be most suitably entrusted to the Surgeon of the County Hospital, Wexford, in connection with which institution an out-patient clinic might be established."

The following letter under date 11th March 1927 (P.H. 10885/1927 Wexford Bd of Hth. & P.A.) was also read from the Department of Local Government:-

"In reply to your letter of the 9th inst, relative to the proposed adoption of a Scheme for the treatment of Venereal Disease in Wexford County, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to point out that as the powers and duties of the Wexford County Council under the Public Health, (Prevention and Treatment of Disease) (I) Act, 1917, are being transferred as from the 1st. proximo to the Board of Health and Public Assistance in pursuance of Section 3 of the Local Government Act, 1927, it might be advisable for the County Council to refer the question of the appointment of a Medical Officer in charge of that Scheme to the Board of Health and Public Assistance when they assume their functions under the Act. It would, however, facilitate the carrying into operation of the Scheme, if the Council will in the meantime pass the formal resolution referred to in the Minister's letter of the 28th ultimo consenting to be declared an authority for the enforcement of regulations made for the above-mentioned purpose under Section 148 of the Public Health (I) Act, 1878."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Col Quin:-

"That the Minister for Local Government be requested under Section 1 of Public Health(Prevention and Treatment of Disease) (Ireland)Act,1917 - 7 & 8 George. 5 cap.40 - to declare Wexford County Council as an authority to execute and enforce regulations made under Section 148 of the Public Health(Ireland) Act 1878,with a view to the treatment of persons affected with Venereal Disease."

The following Notice of Motion stood in the name of Mr Rossiter:-

"That on receipt of approval of Department of Local Government of Scheme for the treatment of Venereal Disease,the Wexford County Council appoint Dr S.V. O'Connor as Medical Officer under the Scheme as Dr O'Connor has at present only a superannuation allowance under the Scheme for Amalgamation of Unions."

In moving his motion,Mr Rossiter pointed out that Dr O'Connor was not fairly treated under the Amalgamation Scheme. He was the only Medical Officer who was not transferred under the Scheme and whose place was filled.

Mr Hall seconded.

Col Quin proposed as an amendment,-"That the question of appointment of Medical Officer under Scheme for treatment of Venereal Disease be referred to the County Board of Health.

Mr Cooney seconded.

After further discussion,a poll was taken with the following result:-

For the Amendment,-Messrs Cooney,Sean O'Byrne,Thorpe,Walsh and Col Quin. ----- 5.

Against,- Messrs Boggan,P. Byrne,Glince,Cloney,Colfer,Connors, Corish,Doyle,Gaul,Hall,Hayes,Jordan,Kavanagh,Mernagh,Pender, O'Donoghue,Rossiter,Shannon,J.White and Col Gibbon-----20.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

Before further discussing the Notice of Motion of Mr Rossiter,it was decided to send for Mr Elgee,Solicitor, and ascertain from him the powers of the Council in respect of the Notice of Motion.

The Chairman stated that the salary attached to the

position was £52 per annum.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, in reply to the point raised by Mr Cooney, ~~said~~ that the appointment could not be filled without advertising, said that in his opinion this was not necessary. The County Council had the power to make the appointment, but the Local Government Department pointed out in their letter that the powers of the Council as regards the administration of the Scheme would be taken over by the County Board of Health as from the 1st April. In view of that, it might be advisable if the Co. Council allowed the County Board of Health to make the appointment. From the suggestion of the Department of Local Government that the Council might appoint the Surgeon to the County Hospital as Medical Officer under the Scheme, he (Mr Elgee) thought they concluded inferentially that no advertisement was required, and neither was it necessary to report the matter to the Appointments Commission as Dr O'Connor was an existing Officer.

The Chairman asked could the Council legally adopt Mr Rossiter's motion at the present meeting.

In reply, Mr Elgee stated the Council could legally do so.

After further discussion, a poll was taken on the Notice of Motion, remuneration ~~to~~ to be £52 per year, with the following result:-

For:-Messrs Boggan, P. Byrne, Clinice, Cloney, Colfer, Connors, Corish, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, Jordan, Marmagh, O'Donoghue, Pender, Rossiter, Shannon, White, Col Gibbon and the Chairman.-----19

Against:-Messrs Cooney, Sean O'Byrne and Col Quin.----- 3.

Did not vote:-Messrs Walsh and Thorpe.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

REMUNERATION TO CARTERS.

The following motion of which he had given previous ~~xxx~~ notice was moved by Mr Hayes:-

"That the resolution fixing the rate for carters ~~at~~ at 10d per cubic yard be rescinded and that a new rate be fixed."

Mr Hayes in moving his motion said that the present rate of 10d did not give a living wage to the carters who derived

their means of living through cartage.

Mr P. Byrne seconded the motion.

In the course of a long discussion, the County Surveyor stated that the wages earned by carters at the 10d rate was from 5/- to 8/- per day, the average rate being 7/6.

Col Gibbon pointed out that if the same amount spent for haulage last year were to be spent this year, an increase of 2d per cubic yard on haulage rates would mean an increased expenditure of £1875.

The Chairman said it was very difficult to fix a uniform rate of haulage for the whole county. In his opinion, the 10d rate per cubic yard, which was a minimum figure, should be allowed to stand. In many cases, carters were quite satisfied with the figure and were able to earn a fair wage. There were others, however, who ~~for~~ uneconomic distance for haulage were in a worse position. He suggested that in these exceptional cases the men concerned should send in their applications for increase to the Roads Committee and they would be dealt with by that Committee each on its own merits.

After prolonged discussion, the following was moved by Mr Corish and seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne:-

"That the County Surveyor be directed to submit figures showing the earnings of whole time carters for a definite period for consideration by next meeting of the Roads Committee.

Mr Hayes withdrew his motion in favour of this proposal of Mr Corish.

A show of hands was then taken on the resolution of Mr Corish when it was found that 13 were in favour and 5 against.

The other Councillors present did not vote.

The Chairman declared the proposal of Mr Corish carried.

DELAY OF APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION.

Mr Doyle called the attention of the meeting to the delay of the Appointments Commission in filling the vacancies for the two Medical Officerships of Buncloody and Carrigbyrne in the County. This delay had cost the county double the amount for payment of locum tenens than would have been the case if the appointments had been made within a reasonable time. He was sure

that the delay had cost the ratepayers between £30 and £40 which could have been avoided.

If the Appointment Commissioners were engaged in County administration they would find themselves in similar circumstances surcharged by the Auditor of the Local Government Department. But there was no redress against their action in putting extra cost on the ratepayers. He (Mr Doyle) had raised the question in An Dail last week but received the most unsatisfactory answer it was possible to conceive. He then put down as a supplementary question the query, "If those who were administering the County Board of Health were guilty of such foolish and ignorant expenditure would they be surcharged?", and the Minister said that that would all depend upon the Auditor.

ST. STEPHEN'S CEMETRY COMMITTEE.

Mr P. Byrne proposed and Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which passed nem. con.

"That, as recommended by County Board of Health, Mr Thomas Cooney M.C.C. be appointed a member of St. Stephen's Cemetery Committee, New Ross, vice Mr Michael Cloney M.C.C. resigned."

IRISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

Under date 9th March 1927, letter was read from the Secretary, Irish Tourist Association, Dublin, inviting the Council to nominate a representative to the Board of the Association.

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

"That Mr Thomas McCarthy, 11 Rafter Street, Enniscorthy, and Chairman of Wexford County Council, be nominated as the representative of this County Council for year 1927 on the Board of the Irish Tourist Association and that said appointment issue to Mr McCarthy under the Seal of the County Council."

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE.

Consideration of report from Mr Elgee, Solicitor, relative to sworn Enquiry into administration of County Library Scheme was adjourned pending report from Local Government Department as to result of Enquiry.

SEALED ORDER GALBALLY WATER SUPPLY.

Under date 3rd March 1927 Sealed Order(6722-27)fixing the area of charge for Galbally Watersupply(County Health Division of Ballyhogue) ~~on~~ on Clonroche Dispensary District was received from the Department of Local Government.

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS GRANT.

Under date 4th March 1927, the Department of Local Government wrote(P.H. 8843/27 Wexford B.H. & P.A.) stating that the Minister had authorised the issue to the Wexford County Council, ^{of} a Paying Order for £53 as a second instalment of recoupment from the National Tuberculosis Grant in respect of the current financial year.

PRIMARY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

Under date 24th February 1927, the Secretary, Office of National Education, wrote approving of Scheme of Scholarships from Primary Schools for 1927 as submitted by Wexford Co. Council.

TELEGRAPH LINES.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col Quin seconded by Mr Thorpe:-

"That this County Council agrees to erection of an overground telegraphic line along Spawell Road, Wexford, from the Urban boundary to junction of Spawell and Union Roads, Wexford, and also to the erection of an overground telegraphic line from New Ross Borough boundary to Ashton, near New Ross, as requested by the Post Office authorities.

IRISH INDUSTRIES LEAGUE.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion suggestion of the Enniscorthy Branch of the Irish Industries League, on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr Rossiter:-

That the Wexford County Council are prepared to co-operate in every way in the very necessary work of promoting Irish Industries, and would be glad to see branches of the Irish Industries League established in all centres for the furtherance of this National project.

TOWN TENANTS COMMISSION.

Circular was read from the above Commission that their first sitting had been held on 19th February 1927 and they were prepared to receive suggestions, representations, memoranda, statements

and evidence from representative bodies and individuals who should wherever possible be prepared to appear before the Commission on a date to be arranged through the Secretary to the Commission.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

Under date 25th February 1927, letter was read from the Hon. Secretary of above, pointing out that there was a widespread demand on the part of librarians and of the general reading public for some trustworthy guidance towards the stocking of Irish Libraries with the best books available in every department of literature.

The Society had made a special study of the subject and were therefore in a position to make the following proposal:-
to compile and publish a series of lists of books as per attached syllabus with a view to placing their services at the disposal of those concerned in the library movement throughout Ireland, provided they were willing to subscribe the necessary funds for the printing and publishing of these lists. The Society had calculated that the required expenses could be met if a minimum of ten library authorities would each contribute the sum of £5.

The Council expressed themselves as strongly in favour of the proposal of the Society and will consider the proposal after the receipt of result of Enquiry by Local Government Department into the administration of the County Library Service.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolution from Kildare County Council was adopted on the motion of Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr Thorpe:-

"That we, the members of the Kildare County Council thoroughly endorse the resolution recently adopted by the Irish County Council's General Council, expressing the opinion that the time has now arrived for the immediate repeal of existing enactments holding County Councils responsible for the non-payment of Land Purchase Annuities."

"That having carefully considered the matter, this Council is of opinion that defaulting Land Purchase Annuitants should be dealt with directly by the Land Commission, and that the Land Commission should be solely responsible for the collection of these Annuities."

"That the Government be called upon to introduce legislation forthwith giving effect to the terms of this resolution."

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Cosgrave, to each Deputy for Co. Kildare, and to each County Council in the Saorstát, and also to the Council of General Councils."

The following resolution from Dublin Co. Council was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr Walsh:-

"That this Council respectfully requests the Government to devise some scheme by which Farmers will be enabled to obtain loans at low interest to purchase stock and seeds for their lands so that they may be enabled to pay their rates and Land Commission Annuities for the coming year, and to keep many farms from lying derelict."

The following resolution from Dublin Co. Council was marked "read" on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Col Quin:-

That this Council requests the Land Commission to stay all legal proceedings for the present, now pending against farmers in this country for the recovery of arrears of Land Purchase Annuities."

THE LANE PICTURES.

Col Gibbon moved:- "That standing orders be suspended to enable a resolution in connection with the Lane pictures to be moved."

The Chairman seconded and the motion was adopted.

The following resolution was then moved by Col Gibbon and seconded by Mr Rossiter:-

"That this Co. Council expresses its disappointment that the desire of the late Sir Hugh Lane that his collection of pictures should be given to Ireland has not been carried into effect, and urge upon the Government of the Saorstát the necessity of taking steps by diplomatic action ~~on~~ to effect the return of these pictures. This County Council are prepared to give any assistance which is within their power to the "Friends of the National Collections" in the endeavour which is being made to secure these pictures for their rightful home."

The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr Hayes:-

"That the County Council consider the present position in regard to the planting of the Mountain of Forth.

Mr Hayes said that his idea in proposing the motion was to obtain from the Government a definite official statement of how the proposal to plant the mountain stood. There was a great deal of mistrust as to the sincerity of the Government in the matter. Mr Forbes, head of the Forestry Branch, inspected the mountain and reported favourably on the possibilities of planting it; an Inspector of the Land Commission also came there and some questions as to title were raised. He (Mr Hayes) did not mean to cast any slur on their Deputies in the Dail but he wished to obtain from the Minister of Agriculture definite information as to whether he intended to go on with this Scheme or not. If nothing stood in the way but the question of title he would like to ask their Deputies, Mr Doyle and Mr Corish, what procedure should be adopted and how long it might take to get the necessary legislation through the Dail so that the obstacles against the Scheme might be dealt with.

Col Gibbon seconded the motion. He said that suggestions had been made outside the Council that there was laxity on the part of Messrs Doyle and Corish in this matter. On the other hand he was personally aware that their Deputies never lost a single opportunity which presented itself to try and get the mountain of Forth planted. The Government should communicate in writing to the Council if they wanted any particular steps taken in connection with the matter. The Council would also like to have from Messrs Doyle and Corish the information Mr Hayes had asked for.

Col Quin said he had been speaking to Mr Forbes, Inspector, from whom he understood that the whole question involved was one of title. The place was a sort of commons that anyone could go in on, and nothing could be done until there was an Act ^{of Parliament} passed dealing with it.

Mr M. Doyle said that from the commencement of this project Mr Corish and himself had done their very best to get it through and they approached both Mr Forbes and the Minister of

Agriculture on the matter. At first there appeared to be no ~~con~~ whatever but subsequently Mr Forbes informed him that the Scheme had to be turned down as they had no title to the mountain. They could not therefore go on with the planting. Some time after that the Minister of Agriculture told him in the Dail casually that it was the intention of the Government to plant the mountain but he did not mention anything at the time about legislation. Last week when the vote for Forestry came before the Dail, he (Mr Doyle) asked the Minister if he was going to spend the £20,000 which had been asked for, on the planting of Forth Mountain, and he replied that they would certainly plant it, but they had first to get the necessary legislation passed in order to surmount the obstacles regarding the title. He then asked him if it was his intention to seek the necessary legislation before the General Election, but he replied that that would be impossible. The Scheme therefore had to be unavoidably postponed but only for a while, and he would suggest to the promoters to have a Deputation appointed to wait on Mr Forbes, Inspector and the Minister of Agriculture at once. Mr Corish and himself would make the necessary arrangements for the interview to be held. The promoters and others would then be satisfied as to whether Mr Corish and himself had done their part in the matter or not.

Mr Corish said that Mr Doyle and he had approached both individually and jointly the Forestry Department, the Land Commission and the Minister of Agriculture on the question of the planting of Forth Mountain. On some of these occasions it appeared to them as if the Scheme was to go right ahead, but after certain reports had appeared in the Press he showed them to the Minister and the latter merely said that he would see what could be done. He (Mr Corish) pointed out to the Minister that now the people who had been claiming certain rights on the Forth Mountain were agreeable to waive them. The Minister said that was all very fine, but he knew that ^{if} the Government commenced the planting there, they would have all classes of claims coming in unless their action was properly safeguarded.

by legislation. The opinion of the Government's legal adviser was that the Forth Mountain could not be planted until an Act for that purpose had been passed in the Dail. He (Mr Corish) personally did not see much prospect of getting such an Act passed before the General Election, but he agreed with Mr Doyle that it would be a good thing to have a Deputation appointed to wait on the Minister and Mr Forbes and arrangements could be made for that interview to take place.

The Chairman stated that as the County Council were involved in the matter to some extent, he had made inquiries about the planting of the mountain and he could bear out what Col Gibbon had said about the action taken by Messrs Doyle and Corish. The information he had received himself exactly corroborated the statements just now made by Messrs Doyle and Corish, namely that the Government could not plant the mountain until they had title established by legislation. The Government would not be foolish enough to embark on the planting until without having proper title. As far as he could gather, the Government were very anxious to bring in the necessary Bill to establish title to the Mountain of Forth and other such places. They were unable to proceed with this Bill just at present owing to the great rush of other very important business.

Mr Hayes said that no one meant to cast any slur whatever on their Deputies. These Deputies had done all that was possible, but all parties would be better pleased if they could succeed in getting a clear definite and official statement which would let the people know the attitude of the Government, and whether it was their intention to bring in the necessary legislation to put the Scheme into operation.

After further discussion the matter dropped.

Wm J. G. Carter
Apr 11th 1927