

Meeting, April 3rd 1900

A Meeting of the County Council was held in the Council Chamber on April 3rd 1900

Present Messrs C. H. Peacocke, Daniel Dempsey, John J. Walsh, Patrick Ryan, James Codd, James Donohoe, and Capt Walker.

Capt Pigott Secretary to the Council was also in attendance.

On the motion of Mr Dempsey, seconded by Mr Codd the chair was taken by Mr Peacocke

It was decided that various sums be paid to the guardians & District Councils in the County to carry them on till the quarterly meeting which will be held on the 1st May.

Poundage. On the motion of Mr Donohoe, seconded by Mr Walsh the following resolution was unanimously adopted.
"That we request the Local Government Board to vary the 'Poor Rate Collectors' Order Number 2. so as to enable the Council to pay the poor rate collectors the full amount of their poundage on all sums collected and lodged up to the 28th April inst"

Co. Surveyor's Salary

The question of the increase of salary proposed to be given Mr Webster, County Surveyor by the Local Government Board again came up for consideration, and with reference to the resolution of the 23rd February 1900. forwarded by the Committee appointed to consider this subject to which the Local Government Board, have up to the present given no answer the Council decided to submit the following supplementary list of reasons in support of the resolution of the Committee.

- 1.- Increased inspections due to quarterly payments to Contractors instead of half yearly as heretofore

Answer - In the ordinary course of his duty, the County Surveyor should inspect the roads quarterly.

We cannot see why the County Surveyor should be paid extra for carrying out his manifest duty.

- 2.- Preparation of four sets of certificates instead of two

Answer - The extra labour involved in this work is very small.

3. Attendance at quarterly meetings and adjourned meetings of District Councils instead of Baronial Sessions half yearly.

Answer - We refer the Local Government Board to No. 4 of the resolutions of the Committee appointed to consider this subject.

4. Attendance at quarterly and annual meetings and adjourned meetings of the County Council, instead of two grand jury meetings.

Answer - Beyond the quarterly meetings very few meetings of the County Council have been held, and Mr Webster has not been asked to attend any of them.

5. Quarterly reports to the County Council instead of two to Grand Jury as heretofore

Answer - Involves very little extra time and labour.

6. Applications for all roads and repairs instead of by two ratepayers as heretofore

Answer - See preceding answer.

7. Inspection of works proposed by Councillors and reports thereon. This necessitates visiting many Districts a second time after the ordinary inspections

Answer - Works reported on by Councillors do not show any increase from applications of a similar character under the old system

8. Increased mileage of roads, in the future. Since 1857, the mileage of roads has almost doubled. The Grand jury in 1896, almost unanimously approved of increased remuneration for the Surveyors in consequence of this increase, but were unable to give it on account of the statutory limitation as to salary.

Answer - Mr Webster states that the mileage of the County

has increased four miles since the Local Government Act came into operation. The Wexford Grand jury did not approve of increased remuneration of Surveyors which they were unable by statute to grant.

The County Wexford Grand jury in 1896 disapproved of salary of £600. a year to County Surveyor as higher than necessary but subsequently granted it on the lapsing of the pension to the former County Surveyor, Mr Farrell.

9. Increase of works on County Surveyor's hands.

Answer:- These are not increasing, and no proof to the contrary has been offered by the County Surveyor.

10. Increased work due to cutting the contract into smaller lengths

Answer.- Once the measurements have been carried out there can be no increase of duty

11 Attendance on Committee meetings

Answer - The Surveyor is not asked to attend Committee meetings

12. Reporting to each District Council four times ^{yearly} on conditions of works, payments, etc ten days before meetings

Answer - We admit this, but an average report before us consists only of one and a half sheets of foolscap.

13. Report on District Councillors proposals before meeting four times yearly

Answer - could be seen to, in the majority of instances by the Deputy Surveyors.

14. Acquisition of land for works, and attendance before judge of Assize

Answer - No land acquired. Has not attended before judge of Assize.

15. Acquisition of land for quarries etc. involving plans for provisional orders, and attendance at Local Government Board inquiries

Answer - No land acquired for quarries or likely to be. No provisional orders sought, no Local Government Board inquiries held.

16. Preparation of maps for new roads

Answer - No new Roads proposed.

17. Purchase or hire, maintenance and supervision of machinery.

Answer - No purchase, maintenance or supervision of machinery and none in contemplation.

18. Superintending the proper working of quarries acquired by the County Council

Answer - No quarries acquired, and consequently no supervision

19. Annual estimate of expenditure for each District Council

Answer - Only a matter of half an hour's calculation.

20. Report and certificate to County Council on each District Council's estimate

Answer - See answer to 19

21. Opposing Bills in Parliament

Answer - No Bills opposed in Parliament, or likely to be

22. Inspection of ancient monuments

Answer - No ancient monuments in charge of County Council

23. Periodical report on the revision of main roads.

Answer - Only required once every five years

24. Erection & maintenance of Council Halls and buildings

Answer - No new council halls to be erected or maintained

25. Extra clerical work owing to increased correspondence and more complicated system of accounts

Answer - County Council have provided a sum of £50. for clerical staff and a free office in the Court House. There does not appear to be any accounts to be kept by the County Surveyor

26. Modifications of Proposals for works

Answer - No modifications of proposals for works and no additional duties in this connection

27. Transfer of duties of Drainage boards

Answer - There are no such works under the Co. Council

28. Attendance at Local Government Board inquiries

Answer - No Local Government Board inquiries have been held under the County Council

29. Travelling expenses nearly doubled in making inspections for contractors' payments four times yearly instead of twice

Answer - Under the old system the Co. Surveyor had to attend as many meetings of the Baronial Sessions & Grand jury as he now has meetings of the District & County Councils, and as the latter are held in towns the travelling expenses of the Surveyor must show a decrease.

30. Expenses of attendance at meetings of the District Councils and adjournments eight annually for each District Council

Answer - See No. 29.

31. Increased expenses for inspections of works proposed by Councillors

Answer - No statement beyond a general observation made as regards this

No statement of extra travelling expenses submitted

No statement has been made to the County Council as to the extent and nature of County Surveyor's practice or its value or as to how it has been interfered with by the operation of the Local Government Act.

The County Council consider there has been no increase of work or of expenses to warrant an increase of the County Surveyor's already high salary. When increase of work or of expenses occurs the County Council will be prepared to consider them.

P. May 1900

W. H. Stanton, Chairman