

Special Meeting- 12<sup>th</sup> December 1905.

A special meeting of the County Council was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford; on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1905.

Present Mr. M. A. Ennis (Vice Chairman) presiding.  
Other councillors- Messrs C. H. Peacocke, T. Bolger, Matthew Doyle, J. A. Doyle, M. Hickey, John Bolger, D. Dempsey, J. B. Hearn, P. Cleary, J. Donohoe, J. Cummins, J. E. Mayler, James Codd, John Sinnott, D. Kavanagh, A. C. Murphy, Edmond Hore, Mark Codd, John J. Kehoe, J. Asple, A. Kinsella, and M. Browne.

The County Secretary, the County Surveyor, and Mr. R. W. Elger Solicitor, were also in attendance.

Roads' Maintenance

The Chairman moved :- "That the Council resolve themselves into a Roads Committee of the Council, for the purpose of considering the report of the sub-committee of the Roads Committee. Mr. Kehoe seconded. Passed.

The report of the sub-committee as appearing on the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> November 1905 was then considered, a printed copy having been supplied to each member of the Council, the County and Assistant Surveyors, and Mr. Elger.

The Chairman moved :- "That the report of the Roads Committee be adopted, and that a copy thereof be sent to the Local Government Board for Ireland, and that the Board be requested to hold a sworn inquiry forthwith, in order (on the facts disclosed in the report) to fix responsibility for the heavy loss of the Ratepayers' money, which has occurred, and to take such steps in reference thereto as the circumstances of the case may demand, the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898, having omitted to



provide to councils with adequate powers of control in this respect. The scope of the inquiry to cover the entire present system of road maintenance in this county, with a view to the adoption of such <sup>scheme</sup> (if any) as may seem desirable and likely to conduce towards efficiency."

Mr. Peacocke seconded.

Mr. Browne moved as an amendment:- "That this Council adopt the report of the Roads Committee and, with a view of taking measures to enforce the proper management of the roads, we hereby resolve to direct Mr. Webster to (before next summer) have the depots and receptacles for stones properly and perfectly levelled. That for the future the contractors be requested to have the amount of the specifications in the depots by the 15<sup>th</sup> August. That next year our Roads Committee be requested to measure some of the heaps of stones, and if they are of opinion that the Surveyors have made a mistake, an independent Engineer be called in, and if he agree with the Committee we then proceed as we may be advised, against the Surveyors. That the Surveyors be allowed two months from August 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> to measure the stones, and that we recommend the Council to rescind the resolution which states that the stones should be in the depots by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Mr. Kinsella seconded.

Mr. Hore as a further amendment, moved:- "That the Officers implicated in the Report of the Roads Committee should be afforded an opportunity of making any explanation they desire in connection with the report.

Mr. Cummins seconded.

The Chairman on a show of hands declared this amendment carried.

Mr. A. B. Murphy demanded a poll, which was taken with the following result:- For - Messrs Browne, Hearn, Hore, M. Codd, Peacocke, Mayler, Dempsey.



Kinsella, John Sinnott, Asple, J. A. Doyle, Kavanagh, Cummins, Hickey, M. Doyle, and Cleary. - 16.

Against:- Messrs J. Codd, J. Bolger, Kehoe, Murphy, Donohoe, J. Bolger, and the Chairman - 7.

The Chairman then declared the amendment carried.

Statements were then made by the County and Assistant Surveyors.

Mr. Webster (County Surveyor) said in the course of his remarks - "I may say out boldly and straight to your face, that as I have already stated - I was with the Committee when they made these measurements and I am satisfied they acted fairly in the matter, and I am not going to go behind their figures. And no matter who is holding the inquiry, I will stick to that. You may be sure of that. But, I will not say that in addition to the discrepancies shown in some of these measurements that the Contractors have been given about 15 per cent benefit of the doubt. I don't agree with that, and we went very carefully into the measurements. There are only two cases perhaps where there was some little doubt about stones having been taken out as to what the proper measurement would be.

After discussion a vote was taken on the resolution in favour of a sworn inquiry by the Local Government Board with the following result.

For:- Messrs Hearn, Hore, J. Codd, M. Codd, J. Bolger, Piacocke, Kehoe, Mayler, Murphy, Donohoe, John Sinnott, Asple, J. A. Doyle, J. Bolger, and the Chairman - 15.

Against:- Messrs Browne, Dempsey, Kinsella, Cummins, Hickey, Kavanagh, M. Doyle, and Cleary. - 8.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

#### Rate Collectors' Remuneration

The memorial of the Rate Collectors, as appearing on the minutes of the Council for 27<sup>th</sup> November 1905, was then read for the meeting.



Each member of the council had been supplied with a copy of a Return moved for by Sir Thomas Esmonde, Chairman of the council, and giving the following information - amount of collection, amount of remuneration, amount of Guarantee payment, amount out of pocket each year, Gross cost of collection to the county, Amount proposed to be paid for collectors, Amount of Irrecoverable Rates.

"Under date 11<sup>th</sup> December 1905 (letter No. 69031-1905 Wexford Co.) the Local Government Board wrote forwarding for the information of the council, copy of letter addressed by the Board to the collectors in last June in regard to their remuneration and security. The Local Government Board pointed out that the terms of their letter had been inaccurately described by the collectors in the memorial presented by them to the Wexford county council."

"The statement in the memorial was as follows :- "Besides this, the Local Government Board informed the collectors that in every county in Ireland, except this, the county council have paid the Guarantee Society's expenses, or otherwise recouped the collectors for this expense."

"The statement of the Local Government Board in their letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1905 (No 36,085-1905 Wexford county) was as follows:-

"I am to add that in some counties, the council pay the premiums on collectors' bonds while in others they make a contribution towards the cost."

Mr. Donohoe moved:- "That the Rate collectors be called upon to provide Guarantee Society bonds, and that this council pay for same."

Mr. Dempsey seconded.

Mr. Browne proposed that the council pay the Guarantee payment for the five Rate collectors



giving security by Guarantee Society.

Mr. Kehoe seconded.

Mr. Browne subsequently withdrew his amendment and Mr. Peacocke moved the following:-

"That subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board the Rate collectors who have given the security of a Guarantee Society be paid the difference between the rate at which they agreed in the first instance with the Guarantee Societies, viz:- 6/- per cent in the £100, and 15/- per cent the premium charged now."

Mr. Browne seconded.

On a show of hands there voted:- Three in favour of the amendment, and ten against.

A vote was taken on Mr. Donohoe's motion by a show of hands, but a poll was demanded which resulted as follows:-

For Mr. Donohoe's motion:- Messrs Dempsey, Kehoe, Kinsella, Kavanagh, Hickey, Cummins, and Matthew Doyle. - 7.

Against:- Messrs Browne, Hearn, Hore, J. Bodd, M. Bodd, John Bolger, Peacocke, Kehoe, Murphy, Mayler, John Sinnott, Asple, J. A. Doyle, T. Bolger, Cleary and the Chairman. - 16.

The Chairman declared the resolution lost.

### Road Contracts.

The Secretary reported that James Brien, Glenties who had been accepted contractor at the meeting of the Council on November 7<sup>th</sup> for the maintenance of Road No 38. (Enniscorthy District) 600 perches between the bounds of the baronies of Ballaghkeen North, Ballaghkeen South, and Scarawalsh, had refused to sign his bond.

When the tender was accepted by the Co. Council the contractor stated that his sureties could not attend and in order to facilitate him, it was decided by the Council that he should be allowed to perfect his bond before Mr. Connolly, Clerk of the Enniscorthy



District Council."

"On the motion of the chairman the following order was made:-

That the tender of James Bruen, Glenteigue, for Road No. 33. in Enniscorthy District be cancelled and that the road be placed in charge of the County Surveyor for six months - from 31<sup>st</sup> March 1906 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1906. the limit of expenditure to be £30."

### Gorey Road Contractors.

The following was laid before the meeting from the Gorey Road Contractors' Association:- Resolved - That in view of the treatment that myself and other contractors have received from the County Council, and their Surveyor. I propose to hand over my road to the County Council, if they pay me a reasonable price for the breaking and carting of the stone. In order to facilitate the Co. Council if the Council prefer steamrolling.

Signed. James Murphy

Seconded. John Ouley.

The resolution was unanimously adopted. The following is a list of the contractors who attended the meeting in question:- Joseph Woodlyne, Lacken; Thomas Redmond, Barnland; John Byrne, Ballyart; William Pierce, Ballycale; P. Kane, M. Spencer, Tarahill; P. Brislawn, Sherebawn; J. Kavanagh, M. Staunton, J. Leary, Thomas Conroy, J. Dunne, J. Ouley, J. Murphy, and Patrick O'Neill. (Hon Sec)."

Mr. Elger (Solicitor) recommended that in these cases the County Council should not entertain the proposal to break the contract, and the document was marked, "Read."

### Unemployed Workmen Act 1905.

The terms of the Unemployed Workmen Act 1905 were



explained to the meeting and it was decided that the consideration of the matter be adjourned."

Wexford jail.

Mr. Kehoe proposed - "That the County Surveyor be requested to have the paling in front of Wexford prison, and the down spout at the Governor's residence properly secured."

Mr. Peacocke seconded. Passed.

County Council Offices.

"On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed:-

"That Mr. Webster County Surveyor be instructed to have the large book press at the jail removed to the Co. Council Offices, and the smaller one to the County Surveyor's Office."

Wild Birds Protection

"On the motion of Mr. Ennis seconded by Mr. Hearn the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Lord Lieutenant be requested (owing to the damage caused by tourist parties to the eggs and young of the rare species of wild birds which breed on the Salted Islands and the Keuragh Islands) to make an order under the Wild Birds Protection Act 1894, prohibiting for five years the taking or destroying of the eggs of wild birds of any sort on these Islands, and to declare the said Islands to be a protected area within the meaning of the said act."

Advertising.

The following Notice of Motion stood in the name of Councillor J. Bolger:-

"I hereby give notice of my intention to move at next meeting of the County Council of the County of Wexford - Special meeting or otherwise - that the



resolution of the Proposal Committee, confirmed by the county council as regards application No. 17. advertising for county council, committees of council, county surveyors and clerk of the Peace offices, in so far as same deals with the insertion of these advertisements in one local paper only, be rescinded, and that the county council enter into a contract for the insertion of the advertisements in said application No. 17. with "The People" "The Echo" "The Free Press" and "Wexford Independent" at £90 per annum in the cases of the three first mentioned papers, and £70 per annum in the case of the "Wexford Independent".

contracts to be from 31<sup>st</sup> March 1906 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1908.

Mr. Bolger asked the permission of the meeting to alter his notice of motion, so that it would read as follows:-

"That the resolution of the Proposal Committee confirmed by the county council as regards application No. 17. advertising for county council, committees of council, county surveyors and clerk of the Peace offices; in so far as same deals with the insertion of these advertisements in one local paper only, be rescinded. and that the county council in addition to its contract with the Wexford Independent at £70 per annum for the aforesaid work, enter into a contract for the insertion of the advertisements in said application No. 17. with "The People" "The Echo" and "The Free Press" at £90 per annum; contracts to be from 31<sup>st</sup> March 1906 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1908."

Mr. Kinsella seconded.

"Mr. Elger in reply to the chairman, said he considered the question of the advertising contract should be dealt with by application and Proposal at Proposal meetings"

"Mr. Hore as an amendment, proposed - That we agree to a resolution to accept tenders from "The



"People", "Free Press" and "Echo" at next Proposal Committee at £70 per annum in each case, from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1906, to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1908."

Mr. Kehoe seconded.

Mr. Howe subsequently withdrew his motion.

after discussion, Mr. J. Bolger agreed that his motion should read as follows for the present:-

"That the resolution of the Proposal Committee confirmed by the County Council as regards application No 17. advertising for Co. Council, Committees of Council, County Surveyors and Clerk of the Peace, offices, in so far as deals with the insertion of these advertisements in one local paper only be rescinded.

Mr. Kinsella seconded.

A. poll was taken with the following result - For rescinding the Resolution - Messrs Broome, Howe, Mr. Codd, J. Bolger, Kehoe, Donohoe, Kinsella, John Sinnott, Karanagh, J. Bolger, and the Chairman. 11 against:- Messrs Hearn, James Codd, Peacocke, Murphy, Dempsey, Asple, J. A. Doyle, Cummins, M. Doyle, Cleary, and Hickey. - 11.

The voting being a "tie", the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of rescinding the resolution.

after some discussion, Mr. J. Bolger said he would withdraw the second portion of his notice of motion for the present.

### Explosives' Licence

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Peacocke, licence for keeping mixed explosives in store was issued to J. H. Moncas, & Son, The Mill Ballygeary.

### University Education

Under date 24<sup>th</sup> November 1905, the following letter No. 71,437. Wexford Co. 1905.) was read from the Local Government Board:- "The Local



Government Board for Ireland have had before them the resolution of the county council of Wexford, adopted at their meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, proposing that scholarships should be awarded to students from the county at the intermediate examinations, and I am to request that the co. council will be so good as to inform the Board under what statutory authority the council propose to make the necessary grants for these scholarships."

"On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Peacocke the following resolution was adopted. - "That the Local Government Board be informed that the county council propose to deal with their university scholarships under the various Technical Instruction acts from 1889, to 1902."

— Leave of Absence —

On the motion of Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mr. J. Bolger, a fortnight's leave of absence was granted Mr. J. P. Murphy Assistant Surveyor."

— Xmas Holidays —

On the motion of Mr. J. Bolger, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, it was decided that the co. council offices be closed for the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December 1905."

M. Harris

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