

Special Meeting, March 28th 1900

A Special Meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the Council Chamber Court House Wexford on Wednesday March 28th 1900 for the purpose of appointing an Assistant County Surveyor in the room of Mr. William Ryan resigned.

Present: In the Chair: Mr. Edmond Gore Vice Chairman Other Councillors Messrs B. H. Kacocks D. Dempsey James Dodd James Donohoe Owen Doyle William Whitty J. Cummins. D. Power J. E. Mayles Lance Murphy J. M. Doyle M. Browne P. Ryan Jas. A. Doyle Jas. Sinnott Bryan Bolger Captain Walker Lord M. Fitzgerald John F. Walsh Capt. Pigott Secretary and Mr. R. W. Elge Solicitor to the Council were also present.

Mr. H. Webster County Surveyor was in attendance. In connection with the proposed loan to the Council by the Board of Public Works for the sum of £6,000 for the completion of structural and other alterations at the Lunatic Asylum Ennis Corshy. Mr. R. W. Elge read the form of Mortgage sent down by the Board of Works.

The following resolutions were passed:

Proposed by Mr. Walsh Seconded by Mr. Donohoe. That our corporate seal be affixed to the Deed of Mortgage of this date now read, whereby security is given to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland for the repayment of the sum of six thousand pounds proposed to be advanced by them to us under Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898.

Proposed by Mr. Daniel Dempsey Seconded by Mr. James Dodd. That the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland be requested to lodge the sum of six thousand pounds mentioned in the Deed of Mortgage to them this day executed by this Council to our account as County Councillors in the Wexford Branch of the National Bank. Arising out of the proposal to put in force in the New Ross Rural District the compulsory attendance provisions of the Irish Education Act 1891 correspondence was read from the Secretary to the Board of National Education and Mr. P. A. Pope Clerk to the New Ross District Council, also a copy of the minutes of the latter Council.

Loan of £6000.

Irish Education Act.

Council of the 3rd March 1900. On the motion of Mr Cummins seconded by Mr James A Doyle the regulations suggested by the Commissioners of National Education were adopted. On the motion of Mr Cummins seconded by Mr J A Doyle the following resolution was adopted.

"We recommend the following members of the District Council to be appointed on the school committee viz: Messrs John Cummins (Chairman), Edward Nevill, William Thorpe, James Thearne and Denis Cummins. We also recommend the under-mentioned gentlemen for approval of Commissioners of National Education viz: Very Rev Thomas Canon Doyle P.P. Ramsgrange, Very Rev. John Canon Turlong P.P. Bushinstown, Rev James Murphy P.P. Blongan, Rev William Gibson and Rev R.D. Martin Luncannon." Special notice that this matter would be taken into consideration at this meeting had been issued to the Councillors. There were three applicants for the position of Assistant Surveyor.

Patrick Derry Waddingtown Bleariestown wrote as follows.

Appointment of Assistant Surveyor.
I beg to apply for the position of Assistant County Surveyor, rendered vacant through the resignation of Mr William Ryan. From notice on the local papers relative to the qualifications necessary under the Order of the Local Government Board, I believe I am already eligible under one of the conditions set forth therein, having carried out contracts under no fewer than eight Architects within the last eight years and to all I have given full satisfaction. The names of the Architects are as follows: Messrs Sharpe & Co to the Local Government Board, O'Brien Smyth & Co. to the Local Government Board, MacCarthy Boro Surveyor Wexford, O'Brien B.E. Wexford, Webster & Co Surveyor Williams District Surveyor to the Board of Works, Beggs & Co. and the late E.K. Ryan & Co. I enclose copies of testimonials as to character and competency from the Very Rev Canon Turlong P.P. V.F. Taghmon, Very Rev Canon O'Gorman P.P. Kilmore, Very Rev Canon O'Brien P.P. Ballymurrin, Very Rev Dean Murphy P.P. Taghmon, Very Rev A.J. Sheridan President St. Peter's College, Wexford, Rev D.W. Redmond B.E. Bleariestown, Rev Mr Evans M.A. Taghmon, Rev Mr Kennison Kilnamanagh, Rectory Gorey, Mr Williams District Surveyor Mr S.E. MacCarthy & Co. Mr Grant Ballyteigue Castle, Kilmore. Should you be pleased to elect me to the position I shall be prepared to attend the examination (which is required in addition to

to my present qualifications) and I believe I shall succeed in qualifying in the subjects mentioned in the advertisement.

I am 27 years of age, and if my application receive favourable consideration at your hands, I will always endeavour to prove myself worthy of the trust reposed in me.

I am Gentlemen
Your obedient servant
Patrick Derry

P.S.: For your information I enclose a tabulated list of my contracts for the specified time together with names of Architects and parties from whom I obtained contracts.

P. D.

Mr. John Kehoe wrote:-

To the Chairman and members of the Wexford County Council

Gentlemen

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the vacant office of Deputy Surveyor at a salary of £80 per year. I have a practical knowledge of surveying and of measurement necessary for the office. I have also a practical knowledge of building and carpentry. I have served under Mr. H. B. Board of Works Engineer in the erection of farm buildings and concrete yards in my brother's farm, and have done the work to his entire satisfaction. If elected I undertake to give my whole time to the work and to give every satisfaction to the County Council and to the County Surveyor. I name as my Sureties Thomas Jefferies Esq. J.P. Newbald Richard H. Leard Esq. Glenville Mr. William Carl Glover Vally and Mr. James Kehoe Moortown. I append testimonials as to character from Rev. Thomas Meenan P.P. and Rev. Thomas Scallan C.C.

Yours respectfully
John Kehoe.

Mr. J. E. Traynor Inahealy, Co Wicklow wrote.

I beg to offer my services for the vacant position of Assistant Surveyor to your County. I am 27 years of age, a Roman Catholic, and in every way qualified for the office. I am at present Engineer and Architect to the Rathdunm District Council as well as having several temporary positions. Enclosed I send copies of Testimonials

Yours truly
J. E. Traynor.

Duties of Assist Surveyor.

x Mr. Donohoe - Would you kindly allow the County Surveyor to state specifically what the exact duties of a Deputy Surveyor are?

Mr. Webster - The duties as performed at present are to inspect all the roads in the several districts and report to me fully for every quarter, and to draw my attention to anything they see wrong, in order that I may fully look into it myself, and also when special works are passed such as Bridges and Works that are not very important, they lay them out with the contractors. The important works I lay out myself.

Mr. Donohoe - What they would lay out would I presume be bulverts.

Mr. Webster - Gullies and Walls. They have to see they are being properly built and the foundations cleared out, and report to me how the work proceeds. In addition to those duties they carry out any instructions I give them.

Mr. Donohoe - Their principal duty is to inspect the roads and superintend the erection of bulverts?

Mr. Webster - I would say their principal duty is to inspect roads.

Mr. Donohoe - The other duties are only of an occasional character. I mean the inspection of Bridges during their erection and so on?

Mr. Webster - Yes. They do not do any of the drawings or Specifications at present.

Mr. Browne - You do not require a Staff of Engineers?

x Mr. Webster - Up to this I have done the drawings myself. If they were Engineers they would be of great assistance. The candidate having been questioned. Mr. Donohoe proposed

proposed, that the Council only make a temporary appointment that day and give the Local Government Board reasons why the Council could not approve of the elaborate qualifications they had prepared.

Mr. Browne seconded.

Mr. Dempsey proposed and Mr. Cummins seconded that the Council make the appointment in the usual way.

On a show of hands only four were found in support of the amendment.

Mr. Doyle proposed that the appointment be adjourned until the next Quarterly Meeting of the Council.

After some discussion it was unanimously decided that the appointment be of a temporary character, so far as that day's meeting was concerned.

Mr. Donohoe then moved the following resolution:

"That we cannot accept as necessary the new and elaborate qualifications for Deputy Surveyors ordered by the Local Government Board, as it would entail considerable additional expense and would seriously limit our choice. We hold that the qualifications that were considered sufficient for the Grand Jury system for exactly the same work should suffice until at least we have proved them otherwise."

Mr. Owen Doyle seconded the resolution which was passed nem. con.

The Council then proceeded with the election of Assistant Surveyor.

Mr. Cummins proposed and Mr. Mayles seconded the election of Mr. Kehoe.

Mr. Walsh proposed and Mr. Power seconded the election of Mr. Derry.

Mr. Traynor was proposed by Lord Maurice Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Donohoe.

The following is the result of the polling:-

For Kehoe: Messrs Cummins, Bolger, Whitty, J. A. Doyle, Donohoe, Sinnott, Gadd, Dempsey, Peacocke, Browne, Owen Doyle, Walker, Doyle, Ryan, Mayles, Murphy and the Chairman. (17)

For Derry: Messrs Walsh and Power. (2)

For Traynor: Lord Maurice Fitzgerald (1)

The Chairman declared Mr. Kehoe elected.

Mr. Cummins handed in the following notice of motion.

Whereby give notice that I will move at the next

Quarterly

*Mr. Ryan's
supernumerary*
Quarterly meeting of the Wexford county council on the first day of May 1900 that a retiring allowance of £40 per annum be given to Mr. William Ryan late Assistant County Surveyor.

On the motion of Mr. Browne seconded by Mr. Placocks the council expressed themselves in agreement with the following resolution forwarded from the New Ross Board of Guardians.

Rail collection of Ballyhack, S.D.
"Resolved: That we hereby make a representation to the Local Government Board and the county council of Wexford with reference to the debt found to be due on the Electoral Division of Ballyhack on the recent adjustment. We desire to point out that an additional rate of $\frac{2}{8}$ in the £ would press severely upon the ratepayers if bore in one year, and many of the poorer ratepayers would suffer very much. Under the circumstances we urgently press the Local Government Board to take the matter into their kind consideration and give permission and authority to the county council to spread the debt on Ballyhack over a number of years and pay the amount on the ^{division} in eight or ten assessments instead of two. We make the request also for the Electoral Divisions of Ithard, Killesk and Tintern the debts on those divisions to be repaid in two or three years. We appeal to the county council to assist us in the matter and use their influence with the Local Government Board to consent to our urgent request."

*Arthurstown
Court House*
Mr. Cummins gave notice that he would move at the next meeting of the council that they would surrender the tenancy of the building used for a Sessions House in Arthurstown.

On the motion of Mr. Walsh seconded by Mr. Dempsey the report of the committee appointed to consider the provisions of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill was adopted.

Amalgamation of Railways
On the motion of Mr. Browne seconded by Lord Maurice Fitzgerald the following resolution was passed unanimously. Resolved "That the Wexford county council hereby expresses its strong approval of the Bills promoted by The Great Southern and Western company for the amalgamation with that Company of the Waterford Limerick and Western Railway company, and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway company, as we believe that such amalgamations would benefit the best interests (commercial agricultural and otherwise) of our county, and we consider that the acquisition of the Waterford Limerick and Western

Western Railway by the Midland Railway Company of Ireland, would be most prejudicial to the interests of the County of Wexford and the South of Ireland generally, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded The Chief Secretary of Ireland. The Right Hon Horace Plunkett M.P. and the members of Parliament for this County.

On the motion of Mr Cummins Seconded by Mr Walsh the following resolution was adopted:

Postal arrangements.

That having learned the defective Postal arrangements in portion of South Wexford we request the Postal Authorities to transfer from the Waterford to the Wexford delivery the parishes of Templeton Ramsgrange and Sutton's Parish, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded the Postmaster General.

On the motion of Mr Donohoe seconded by Mr Dodd the recommendations of the Finance Committee meeting held that day were adopted:

As to salaries

The following are extracts from the minutes of the Committee. The Secretary asked for directions as to the amounts to be inserted for the salaries of the two Assistant Surveyors in the Proposal for Payments.

In reply to Mr Donohoe the Secretary said that he had only received from the Local Government Board a formal acknowledgement of the resolution passed by the Committee appointed to consider the increase of salary proposed to be given Mr Webster by the Local Government Board. It was decided that the old salaries be inserted in the Proposals for Payments no reply having been received to the resolutions forwarded the Local Government Board.

Circular No. 29 M. 1900 from the Local Government Board proposing increased salaries to the Assistant Surveyors was read.

The list of increased duties laid before the County Council by the Assistant Surveyors Messrs Jones, Ryan, and Leary was considered in detail and answers as follows recommended by the Committee.

"Under the Grand Jury system owing to statutory limitation our salary was wholly inadequate."

Answer. The Surveyors were aware of this condition and agreed to it when offering themselves for election. We consider their present salary ample and would point out to the Local Government Board that there has always been considerable competition.

Competition for the Office

2 Under the Local Government Act our work has been more than doubled. We are now obliged to make four full and detailed reports to the County Surveyor.

Answer. For the purpose of properly supervising the work of the contractors it was necessary to inspect the roads at different periods, and the duty of the Surveyors in this respect shows no increase over what it was under the Grand Jury system. The Committee desire to point out that the Assistant Surveyors are now free from the duties they were obliged to perform in relation to the Urban Districts of the County heretofore. We have inspected their reports to the County Surveyor and find that the extra labour involved in their preparation is of a very small nature.

3. There is a steady and continuous increase of mileage every year owing to new roads being put into contract.

Answer. We are informed by the County Surveyor that the mileage of the County has, since the Local Government Act came into operation, only increased to the extent of about one mile in each of the four Rural Districts, and the new roads put into contract are of an unimportant character.

4 The abolition of Magistrates Orders

Answer. The Committee fail to understand how increased duties are made out under this head. The only change from the old system is in replacing "District councillors" for "Magistrates" and this change would make rather for the convenience of the Assistant Surveyors than otherwise.

5. The cutting of large contracts into smaller.

Answer. As far as the Committee can see the duties of the Assistant Surveyors are not increased by this division of the contracts as the inspection remains the same in both cases.

6. The attendance at ^{the} Quarterly Meetings of the County Council and District Councils. All the above mean a considerable increase of duty and travelling expenses.

Answer. The Committee would point out that under the old system the Assistant Surveyors would have to attend as many meetings of the Baronial Sessions and Grand Jury as they now have Meetings of the District and County Councils and as the latter are held in towns the travelling expenses of the Surveyors must show a decrease.

The

The committee cannot conscientiously agree to the proposition of the Local Government Board and must regard any compulsion in the matter as a violation of the spirit of the Act, and of the terms in which Mr Balfour introduced it to Parliament.

Proposed by Mr C H Peacocke Seconded by Mr James Bodd.
That we recommend the County Council to request the Local Government Board to agree to the abolition of Analysis of Separate charges in form 4. and that the Secretary inform the Local Government Board of the reasons why the Finance Committee considers the analysis unnecessary in the case of the County Wexford.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Council be held on the 3rd April the business to be transacted to be the payment of sums to the Guardians and District Council of the County.

C. H. Peacocke
3rd April 1900

I hereby certify this to be a full and accurate statement of the proceedings of the County Council of Wexford held on the 28th March 1900

March 29th 1900

Secretary County Council