

Quarterly Meeting - 2nd August 1904.

The Quarterly Meeting of the County Council was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on August 2nd 1904.

Present:- Mr. E. Hore, vice-chairman, (presiding)
Other members:- Messrs M. Browne, J. A. Doyle, James Donohoe, James Sinnott, John Bolger, M. Murphy, C. H. Peacocke, J. J. Walsh, John Cummins, James Shearney, M. A. Ennis, John J. Kehoe, and M. Hickey.

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

The minutes of Annual Meeting, and of Special Meeting held on July 15th '04 were read and confirmed.

— Courtown Harbour. —

Under date 20th July (Letter No. 42829: 1904 Wexford Co.) the Local Government Board, wrote stating they had made a Provisional Order under section 50. of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, transferring the business of the Commissioners of Courtown Harbour to the County Council.

A copy of the Order had been forwarded to the Irish Office, London, with a view to submission to Parliament for confirmation, and the Council were requested to put themselves in communication with the Board's Parliamentary Agent; Herbert E. Boyce Esq. Local Government Board, Whitehall London. S. W. who had taken charge of the Confirming Bill.

Copy of the Order entitled the "Courtown Harbour Order 1904" was laid before the Meeting.

It provided for the transfer to the County Council of the business arising in the County, of the Commissioners under the Harbour Acts, and the vesting of all property, rights, and liabilities of the Harbour Commissioners in the County

council, except any liability in respect of repayments of instalments of loans guaranteed by the Earl of Courtown.

The costs and expenses of the County Council, and of the Local Government Board incurred in respect of the Order, shall be paid by the County Council, and may be raised equally over the whole County.

The Secretary said, that on receipt of the letter from the Local Government Board he had written to Mr. Boyce offering to furnish him any information in the matter which he considered necessary.

The following resolution from Mr. H. H. Moore, Hon. Sec. of the North Wexford Ratepayers Association was considered with the above:-

Resolved:- "That this Association having heard that it is the intention of the County Council to expend a large sum of money towards the improvement of Courtown Harbour, are of opinion that the result will not be attended with success, and we protest against the Ratepayers being asked to contribute towards such expenditure but consider that it is the business of the Government to carry out such improvements as are considered necessary without calling on the Ratepayers to assist."

Mr. J. Bolger moved the confirmation of the following recommendation of the Finance Committee:-

"We recommend the County Council to inform the Hon. Secretary of the North Wexford Ratepayers Association that the Council contemplate the expenditure of only a small amount on this harbour, and the Department of Agriculture, &c., have expressed their intention of granting half the amount."

The County Council through their Chairman

are endeavouring to have passed a Marine Works Act to include the piers and harbours of the East Coast of Ireland under which repairs such as those proposed at Bowtown Harbour will be carried out by the Government."

Mr. James Sinnott, seconded. Passed.

Audit of Accounts.

The following report of J. L. King Esq Auditor of the Local Government Board, with reference to his audit of the Accounts of the Council, in respect of the half-year ended 30th September 1903 was read:-

No. 65,520/1904

Wexford County

Tullamore,

13th June 1904.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report that I have audited the Accounts of the County of Wexford, for the half-year ended the 30th September 1903, and I herewith transmit two copies of the abstract duly certified.

When checking the road expenditure, I found that certain errors had crept in owing to the dual quotation in the form of tender, one case was brought specially under my notice by direction of the County Council, in which the contractor tendered to maintain 1816 perches of road for "£21 : 7 : 6" per annum being at the rate of 4⁵/₈^d per perch, per annum. In this case the rate quoted per perch would work out to a total of £24 : 13 : 6, and the Council wished to know if they could legally pay the contractor at that rate. As, however, they adopted the more prudent course of paying, in the meantime, at the lower rate, I was precluded from giving a formal ruling on the legality of such a payment. As regards their liability under such existing

contracts, the County Council, should, I think, be guided by the opinion of their legal adviser, while such errors could be avoided in future by amending the Tender Form, so that only one quotation should appear in the material part of it, the other being shown approximately as a marginal or foot note.

The Clerks of the Rural District Councils, in the County, with the exception of Enniscorthy have responded creditably to a reference in a previous Report as to the necessity of greater care on their part in the preparation of the Road Forms. In the case of Enniscorthy the Forms contained many inaccuracies. I may, however, add that the County Surveyor informed me that subsequent Forms from that District show an improvement.

In the absence, through ill-health, of the Secretary, his duties with respect to audit were efficiently discharged by the Acting Secretary, Mr. Frizelle.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

J. L. King

Local Government Auditor

In connection with the report of the Auditor the following resolution was received from the Enniscorthy Rural District Council:-

"That in future the accepted contracts, specifications, and Bonds, after being perfected, be handed to the clerk of the Rural District Council, to enable him to fill up Forms 11, 12 & 14, correctly, and at the same time check the calculations made by contractors; and enable him to give the Council an idea as to the solvency of the Sureties; which cannot be done hurriedly in a noisy crowded courthouse, such as Enniscorthy

where the business is so much heavier than in other places."

The documents referred to, to be forwarded to the Secretary of the County Council, with Form 11, when completed after each adjourned Quarterly or Half yearly Meeting."

Mr. J. Bolger proposed the confirmation of the following recommendation of the Finance Committee:-

"That acting on the advice of our Solicitor we consider it would be inadvisable, that the tenders and specifications should be parted with by the Secretary after the bonds in connection therewith had been perfected; but the Clerk of the District Council or his Assistant, can at any time examine these documents in the County Council Office before preparing Form 11."

Mr. Peacocke, seconded: Passed.

Arising out of the paragraph in the Auditor's Report as to road contracts:- Mr. Browne proposed, Mr. Peacocke seconded; and, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee, was adopted:-

"That for the future we recommend the Co. Council, to take into consideration in tenders for road contracts, only the amount per perch; and that any error occurring in the calculation per bulk be rectified."

Reports of Local Government Auditors, as to audits of the accounts of Wexford Union and Rural District Council; Enniscorthy Union, and Rural District Council, Gorey Union, and Rural District Council in respect of the half year ended March 1904 were laid before the Meeting.

The report of the Auditor as to the accounts of Enniscorthy Union called attention to an increase of £200 in outdoor relief as compared with the year 1900, and to the continuance of the undesirable

practice of selling the crops of the farm on credit.

In the report of Enniscorthy District Council the auditor called attention to the excessively large amount of arrears due by the tenants of cottages.

In the report of Gorey District Council the auditor referred to the large balance in the hands of the Rent collectors at the close of the half year, and suggested that the usual monthly lodgment of their collection should be made before the close of the financial half-year.

Marked. "Read"

Mountgarrett Bridge.

The Secretary said that sometime ago, a resolution was adopted by the Council, that they should in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council, appoint a caretaker for Mountgarrett Bridge.

The following letter under date 27th July 04 was read from the Secretary of Kilkenny County Council.

"In reply to your inquiry of yesterday's date the County Surveyor was empowered on 20th April last to employ a caretaker for Mountgarrett bridge at usual salary."

Proposed by Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. Ennis: "That we request the Kilkenny County Council, to have a regular appointment of caretaker of Mountgarrett Bridge, made by the two Co. Councils of Kilkenny and Wexford." Passed.

Finance.

Under date July 12th '04. an application was read from the clerk of Wexford Rural District Council, asking for payment of the balance of the demand of the District Council, to enable them to meet the half-yearly instalment of loans when it became due.

Mr. Peacocke proposed, that the following recommendation of the Finance Committee, be adopted: "That we accede to the application of the Wexford R.D. Council for payment of the balance of their demand, and the Committee trust, that having done this, there will be no application for an advance on the Demand for next year."

Mr. Browne seconded. Passed.

Malicious Injury Claim

The following resolution was received from Wexford Rural District Council:-

"That we desire to draw the attention of the County Council, to the malicious injury case of Walter Brien, in Forch for the burning of a house stated by Brien himself to be unfit for human habitation; and beg to inquire whether any evidence of value of this house, was elicited by the Solicitor to the County Council, as members of this Council, state that expert evidence could be obtained showing that the house could be repaired for £10; (whereas the amount claimed, and awarded was £25) and the Council desire to know, who is responsible for obtaining evidence in malicious injury cases."

On the motion of Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Kehoe the recommendation of the Finance Committee, as follows, was adopted:-

"We have been informed by our Solicitor that from the evidence given in this case it would appear that the house was in thorough repair, and had never been condemned by the doctor as insanitary.

Evidence was also elicited both from the Applicant and from a Sergeant of Police, as to value.

The Solicitor of the County Council, is anxious to receive any evidence in respect to malicious injury cases from any individual ratepayer.

The District Council can, if they so desire, employ a valuer to give evidence."

Confirmation of Minutes of Finance & Proposals
Committees

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, "The minutes of the Finance and Proposal Committees were approved."

The Finance Committee's minutes included a resolution granting permission to Sergeant Howard R. J. C. to purchase weights at a cost of about 23/- to replace some others which were worn out.

The minutes of the Proposal Committee included the following resolution with reference to repairs to piers :-

"That in view of the circumstance that the Piers at Carni, Arthurstown, Kilmore, Duncannon, Fechar, Poulduff, and Courtown Harbour, built by loans from the Board of Works; and paid for by the Ratepayers of this County; and which the Treasury has made a considerable profit; that we request the Treasury to have those Harbours immediately dredged by the Board of Works, free from further cost to this County, so as to enable the fishermen to make use of them, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury."

Road Contract

Under date 2nd July, the following resolution was read from Newross Urban Council :-

"That the resolution of the Council, passed on the 7th May declining to accept the contract now held by Mr. Philip Kelly, within the Urban District, except one for seven years at 10/- per perch, half to be an Urban, and half a County-at-Large charge, be given; be rescinded; and the offer of the County Council to contribute 10/- per perch to July 1905 be accepted."

Marked. "Read"

Food and Drugs Act.

Sergants Craughwell, Carson, and Collins, R. I. C. (Inspectors under Food & Drugs Acts) applied for permission to purchase Mr. Haddenwick's work on the Food and Drugs Acts.

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Peacocke, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was adopted:-

"That permission be granted to the applicants to purchase the Book in question."

Swine Fever.

Under date 14th July (Circular No. 3226/04 P. B.) the Department of Agriculture, wrote asking what action had been taken by the executive committee entrusted with the management of the business under the Diseases of Animals Acts, as to the adoption of movement regulations under the Swine Fever Order of 1900.

The Secretary said that the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee, had considered the matter but in view of its importance had referred it to the Co. Council.

Mr. Peacocke, proposed the following recommendation of the Finance Committee:- "That as according to the statistics of the Department of Agriculture there appears to have been a gradual decrease in Swine Fever since 1893, we consider it unnecessary at present to adopt any movement regulations with reference to this disease."

The Local Authority have always taken active measures in rigidly carrying out the regulations of the Department.

We understand that the disease is decreasing in this County from the opening of this year.
Mr. Browne seconded. Passed.

County & Assistant Surveyors.

Mr. Donohoe moved (but subsequently withdrew the

following) - "That we ask the Local Government Board, if the County Council have any control over the County Surveyor, and, if we have any; to define it, since the roads in certain districts of the County are in a state of utter disrepair and a disgrace to the County."

Mr. Ennis moved: "That we convey to the County Surveyor, that it is the wish of the County Council that he should not in future cut down the amount of tollage he considers necessary for the efficient upkeep of any road; when the price estimated by him is cut down by the district Council."
Mr. Ahearne seconded. Passed.

Gorey School Attendance Committee

Under date 14th June '04 a letter was read from the Commissioners of National Education requesting to be furnished with particulars as to the persons appointed by the Wexford Co. Council, as members of the School Attendance Committee for Gorey Rural District to act from September 1st 1904.

The members appointed by the County Council on the former Committee were: - Sir J. H. G. Esmonde Lord Viscount Stopford, Messrs J. J. Byrne, Rahen Ballyduff, E. Donohoe, Clonmore, Ballycanew, M. Lyons, Clonamona, Craanford.

Proposed by Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Ennis and passed: - "That the present members of the Committee as representing the local authority be hereby appointed, and that our Secretary be directed to ascertain from the Secretary to the School Attendance Committee the names of the Committee."

Enniscorthy School Attendance Committee

Mr. E. Munnagh, Secretary to the Enniscorthy Rural District School Attendance Committee, reported that at a meeting held on the 9th June '04 it was unanim-

ously decided to dispense with the services of one of the school attendance officers, viz: Mr. John Gallagher, on the ground that he was not fulfilling his duties, and to hand over charge of the whole district to Mr. N. Flood, for one year at a salary of £45 per annum.

The two school attendance officers had a salary of £25, each per annum, for the last three years.

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Browne, the action of the Enniscorthy School Attendance Committee was approved.

Motor Pump - Asylum.

The following Minute made 13th July 1904, from the Committee of the Lunatic Asylum; was laid before the Meeting:-

"A letter having been read from Mr. Harris in which he estimates that a sum of £380 would provide a motor pump and appliances complete to pump water from the slaney and provide the asylum with an adequate supply in case of fire, and Mr. Drapes having stated that such provision is really necessary, that Members of the County Council here present are requested to ascertain at the meeting of the Council on Friday next whether any objection would be entertained by the County Council to the sum of £400, saved on the original estimate for the Electric Installation, being applied to that purpose, and in the event of no such objection being made that tenders be invited for the work."

Mr. Ennis proposed and Mr. Peacocke seconded "That the County Council offer no objection to the proposal of the Asylum Committee, with reference to the purchase of a motor pump." Passed.

Proposals for Payment.

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Hore:- The following resolution was adopted:- "That the

several proposals for payments, sent up from the Proposal Committee, and the Rural District Councils as regards payment in respect of the Quarter ended 30th June 1904 be approved."

— Acquisition of Land for Roads. —

The General Order of the Local Government Board, dealing with the question of the acquisition of land for roads was laid before the Meeting.

— Rate collector Blake. —

In connection with the failure of Rate collector Blake, to furnish his list of tenements in which a revision of valuation was necessary, by the appointed day; Letter No. 36011:1904 Wexford County; under date June 21st 04 from the Local Government Board, requested the Secretary to call on Mr. Blake for an explanation.

Under date June 25th collector Blake, forwarded certificate from Dr. Anglim, Ballyregan, Lagoat, that he had been suffering from bronchitis for two weeks."

The certificate in question was forwarded to the Local Government Board for inspection marked "Read"

— Rate collector J. Sinnott. —

Under date July 29th (letter No 43614/1904 Wexford Co) the Local Government Board wrote returning the bond submitted for Mr. John Sinnott, the recently appointed Rate collector, and stating that they would raise no objection to its acceptance by the Wexford County Council."

The Secretary stated that the collecting Books and Warrants, had been forwarded to Mr. Sinnott."

— Repairs to Piers, &c. —

Under date June 16th 1904 (letter No. 4826:04) the Board of Works wrote referring to a communication

from the County Surveyor intimating that he was taking steps to have certain repairs carried out at Duncannon Pier. The Board understood that considerable repairs were effected last year, but it had recently been reported to them that some pinning and pointing should be done to the pier, and they had no doubt that the Council would cause the matter to be dealt with.

Under date June 28th 1904 (Letter No. 4800 '04) the Board of Works, wrote that it had been reported to them that the masonry of Carnsore Pier, requires re-pointing in several places. The concrete on the south side of the pier requires repairs and the inside of the pierhead has silted up considerably during the past winter.

The Board would be glad to hear that these matters will have the attention of the Co. Council.

Under date 28th June '04 - Letter No. 6688-04. the Board of Works wrote that it had recently been reported to them that the inside of the quay at Arthurstown is silting up with mud to such an extent that vessels at times have to discharge part of their cargo before getting alongside. This matter was brought under the notice of the Council by the Board's letter of the 9th February last.

The Board would be glad to hear that the necessary action to put the Harbour into a proper state of repair will be taken at an early date.

The County Surveyor said that Duncannon Pier was finished. He would do nothing about the siltage at Arthurstown; and he was taking steps to have Carnsore Pier repaired."

Acknowledgments of Resolutions.

Acknowledgments of resolutions adopted by the Council were received from Secretary's Wicklow, Dublin and Lyrone Co Councils, (width of tyres of loaded wagons drawn by traction engines) Dublin County Council.

appointing the chairman and Mr. Hamlet, as delegates to the proposed conference re Marine Works Act; Wicklow County Council, acknowledging resolution, Marine Works Act; Secretary General Post Office, - Irish in Post Office examinations; From Treasury and the under Secretary, Dublin Castle, - free dredging of harbours, by Board of Works

Main Road Scheme

The following motion of which notice had been previously given was moved by Mr. Hore.

"I hereby give notice that I will move at the next meeting of the County Council, to be held on the 2nd August 1904 - "That at the expiration of the period for the present Main Road declaration in July 1905, no new declaration be entered into, but that all roads in the Main Road Scheme be scheduled as district roads."

To allow of the matter being fully discussed by the District Councils, Mr. Hore, agreed to the postponement of the motion to the next half-yearly meeting of the Council in November."

Technical Instruction

Under date 22nd July the Department of Agriculture &c., forwarded Circular 12- Technical Instruction - (Request for sanction for special subjects) asking that the County Council, should state that they were of opinion that the following subjects of instruction, which are not included in the branches of science and art, with respect to ^{which} grants are at present made by the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, are forms of instruction required by the circumstances of the district and request that they may be sanctioned by the Department - bookery, Laundry work, Dressmaking, (including household sewing) and cutting out; Housewifery, Sick Nursing; Dairy work, Bee keeping; Poultry rearing and Horticulture.

In connection with the above the following resolution was read from the North Wexford Ratepayers Association:-

Resolved:- "That this Association protests against the great expense on the Ratepayers incurred by the employment of so many Lecturers and Instructors on Dairying, Poultry, Bee-Keeping, Cooking, etc, and considers that the money so expended has not shown and good practical results."

Mr. Browne proposed, Mr. Hore seconded, the adoption of the following recommendation of the Finance Committee:-

"The Finance Committee deny that the Technical Instruction schemes of the county are carried out at ~~a~~ great expense to the ratepayers, Pioneer lectures are given entirely at the expense of the Department of Agriculture, and the amount spent in connection with the Agricultural, and Technical Instruction schemes represent less than half the sum realised by the rate of a penny in the £, the balance being applied for Live Stock schemes,

The Department of Agriculture contribute five-ninths of the expenditure incurred for Live Stock and Agricultural Instruction, and the Council is of opinion, that the Instruction generally has been attended with good results.

The Committee are sorry to observe that the North Wexford Ratepayers' Association, a body which claims to be concerned for the betterment of the people, do not use Irish-made paper in their communications with the County Council."

Tourist Development.

Under date 18th July a circular letter was read from Mr. F. W. Grosely (Irish Tourist Development Association) pointing out that the time was now opportune for bringing to the notice of the Government the necessity of empowering County and Urban Councils to expend money for the purpose of developing

suitable tourists resorts in this country."
marked. "Read."

Tax on Fish

A resolution for adoption was received from a public meeting held in Kinsale protesting against the increased tax levied upon pickled fish imported into the United States from Ireland."

"No order was made on the above resolution as Mr. Donohoe explained that the tax had not been levied on the brine in which the fish were preserved."

Bee Pest.

The following resolution was read from the Fethard Co-Operative Bee Keepers Society.

"The Committee of the Fethard Co-Operative Bee-Keepers Society desires to emphasize the necessity which exists for steps to be taken for the prevention of the Disease among Bees, known as bee pest or Foul Brood, and believes that this can only be done by legislation.

This extremely infectious disease has spread itself over a great part of the County Wexford and is still on the increase, preventing the people from enjoying one of the most profitable of the minor industries.

We respectfully urge the Wexford Co. Council to use their influence with the Department of Agriculture to take measures to stamp out this Disease, and so confer a great benefit on the country by the protection of the industry of Beekeeping.

Referred to the County Committee of Agriculture &c.

Advertising for Co. Committee

The following letter to the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; was referred by that body, to the County Council:-

10th May 1904.N. J. Frizelli Esq
SecretaryCo. Wexford Agri & Technical Instruction Com.,
Wexford

Dear Sir,

We are instructed by the proprietors of the "People" and "Free Press" to request that you be good enough, at the earliest possible moment, to call the attention of the County Wexford Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee, to a very important matter in regard to their advertisements for which you have already refused to pay. You will be good enough to see from the minutes of the County Council, as also from the Bond signed by our clients, that our clients were bound to insert the advertisements of the different County Offices, namely - the County Council Office, the Office of the Clerk of the Crown & Peace, and the Office of the County Surveyor, in their newspapers for five years from the 31st March 1901 to the 31st March 1906. Each advertisement was to have two insertions, or more if required. You will see, therefore, their contracts covers all the County Council advertisements; but do not cover the advertisements connected with the Agricultural and Technical Committee. The advertisements issued by this Committee are not County Council advertisements and therefore, must be charged for separately by our clients. This is what has been done in every other County in Ireland, as you will see from the enclosed bundle of replies.

There is no reason why Wexford should be different from the other Counties in this regard, and accordingly our clients must apply to your Committee for payment of the sums due to them on foot of these advertisements. It so happens that you are not only Secretary of the Agricultural

and Technical Instruction Committee, but also assistant secretary of the county council, for which, of course, you obtain a separate salary.

Were this not the fact, the offices of the committee would not be in the county council buildings at all, as is the case in many other counties. That being so, nothing can be made out of the point that your office happen to be in the county council offices. As you are aware, the advertisements which our clients have had to insert in their newspapers from your committee are very numerous and very lengthy indeed.

We shall be glad if you will kindly bring the matter before your committee at the next meeting. If necessary, our clients will attend there.

Yours truly
M. J. O'Connor & Co.

On the motion of Mr. Donohoe, seconded by Mr. James Ahearne, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was adopted:-

"Having regard to the terms of the bond and to the statements made during the course of the discussion at the meeting of the Proposal Committee, previous to the acceptance of tenders the Finance Committee consider that the advertisements of the county committee of Agriculture, are covered by the Specification and Bond entered into with the county council for the execution of the county advertising."

Holidays.

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Ennis the assistant secretary was granted a fortnight's holiday, to be taken as required and subject to the approval of the secretary of the council.

"On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. Browne the County Surveyor was granted a months holidays in days to be taken now, and the remainder later on in the year."

— Diseases of Animals Act Committee —

Mr. Ennis moved, Mr. Kehoe seconded and it was passed - "That the monthly meetings of the Diseases of Animals Acts Committee be held on a day when a Finance Committee is held."

— New Ross Bridge By-laws —

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted

"That we approve of the suggested By Laws for New Ross Bridge, and request the New Ross Urban Council to adopt them."

— Vote of Condolence —

Proposed by Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Ennis "That we the Wexford County Council, desire to tender our sincerest sympathy to Rev P. A. Corish O. S. F. and the members of the family in the death of Rev J. Corish, P. P. Ballymore, which has occurred under tragic circumstances, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded Rev P. A. Corish O. S. F."

— Dates of Meetings —

The following were agreed to :-

New Ross R. D.	Saturday	8 th Oct 1904	12 noon
Gorey " "	Tuesday	11 th " "	" "
Enniscorthy " "	Thursday	13 th " "	11. a.m.
Wexford " "	Saturday	15 th " "	10.30 "
Proposal Committee	Friday	14 th " "	2. p.m.
Co. Council Meeting	Tuesday	1 st Nov. "	12 noon

W. E. Ennis

3 Nov. 1904