

STATUTABLE HALF-YEARLY MEETING.-6th MAY 1919.

The Half-yearly Meeting of the Wexford County Council, was held in the County Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 6th May 1919.

Present:- Mr John Belger (Chairman) and subsequently Mr Michael Doyle (Vice-Chairman) presided..

Also:- Messrs J. J. Stafford, P. O'Neill, J. J. O'Byrne, W. Thorpe, J. J. Kehoe, P. N. O'Gorman, J. Lynch, N. J. Fowler, R. Scallan, James Codd, M. Maddock, Louis Barry, N. J. Cowman, W. H. McGuire, Thomas Asple.

Mr W. H. McGuire signed his declaration of office on taking his seat for the first time.

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

Confirmation of Minutes.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and signed.

Roads & Works Untendered for.

The Secretary stated that at the Rural District Council Meetings the following was the result of Roads tendered and untendered for:-

<u>R. D. Council</u>	<u>Tendered for.</u>	<u>Untendered for.</u>
Enniscorthy	14	82
New Ross	10	68
Wexford	<u>2</u>	<u>59</u>
Total	<u>26</u>	<u>209</u>

The Gorey Rural District Council Adjourned Meeting had not yet been held, as no quorum attended, and it would be necessary to have a special meeting of the County Council to consider the form 20 and tenders from that Council.

In connection with the roads untendered for in Wexford Rural District, the following resolution was received from the Rural District Council:-

"That the County Council be asked to advertise inviting parties to make offers of metalling to be supplied for a period of one year, at the money allowed in respect of each road untendered for at this meeting. Each tender to state the quantity offered, and the name of the quarry from which the material is proposed to be supplied."

"Adjourned to next Meeting."

Enniscorthy R. D. Council & Road Contracts.

Under date 28th April 1919, the following letters were read from Mr A. A. Connolly, Clerk R. D. Council, Enniscorthy:-

"I beg to inform you that at the Adjourned Meeting of the District Council, it was decided to send Messrs T. Cleary, J. Mernagh, H. A. Lett, and J. Stamp, as a deputation to represent the Council at the consideration of the Contractors' complaints before your Council. Would there be any objection to the deputation being heard, if not, I would feel obliged if you would kindly let me know at what hour I will notify them to attend."

"I have been directed by the District Council to ask the County Council to investigate the complaints of James Brien, Glenteigue, with regard to the manner in which he has been paid for his Contracts.

Mr Brien produced several letters at the Adjourned Meeting here, some of which appeared to be more or less contradictory, and the Council were not able to arrive at a decision, hence they considered it better to ask the County Council to investigate the matter.

Will I write to Mr O'Brien, in this case and ask him to supply the correspondence, or would it be necessary for him to appear at your Council and state exactly what his complaint is."

"I have been directed by the Rural District Council to request you to draw the attention of the County Council to the case of Road No. 235E.

At the Adjourned Meeting of the District Council, the Contractor, Peter Kehoe, produced specification on which the tonnage had been changed from 96 to 84 cubic yards. In the debate on the question, the County Surveyor held that the change was only for one year, whereas the Contractor claimed that it held for the duration of the contract.

As this involved a question with regard to the payments to the contractor, it was unanimously decided to refer the matter to the Co. Council."

"At the Adjourned Meeting here I was directed to ask you to bring under the notice of the County Council the case of John Doyle, Ballycoursey, Contractor for No. 223E. This man considers he has a grievance with regard to his measurements, and as he stated that these were made by different Deputy Surveyors, the Council thought it better refer the matter to the Co Council and that Doyle should attend and plead his case."

District Councillor, wanted to have the question of the Oylegate District Roads discussed at the County Council Meeting. He (Mr Connolly) had written to the County Surveyor in the matter."

Mr J. R. Brennan, Solicitor, appeared for Peter Kehoe (Road No. 235E) and John Doyle, Ballycoursey, (Road No. 223E). In the former case Mr Brennan contended that £11 had been struck off the contract.

Mr Barry, County Surveyor, explained that as in another road for which Mr Kehoe was contractor, a sum of £3 had been erroneously struck off by Mr Flood, a former Assistant Surveyor, it had been arranged for the first year of the Contract of 235E that 84 cubic yards should be taken instead of 96.

Mr Brennan held that this reduction was to apply for the full period of the contract.

The Meeting came to the conclusion that as £3 would represent the value of the 12 yards taken from the contract for the first year that no mistake had been made by the County Surveyor as regards the payment.

As regards the Road of Mr John Doyle (223E), Mr Brennan, Solicitor stated that Mr Doyle 'complained that' he had two depots of stones on the road only one had been measured.

The County Surveyor stated this was correct so far as the measurement carried out by Mr Murphy (who was then a new Assistant) was concerned, but he (County Surveyor) had measured the second depot, and on the 23rd January last, when the Contractor was in his office, he explained to the contractor that there was 31 yards found in the depot which he had measured, and 32 yards in that measured by Mr Murphy, or a total of 63 yards.

After considerable discussion the meeting came to the conclusion that the County Surveyor had dealt properly with the contract.

In connection with roads of Mr James Brien, Glenteigue, the County Surveyor stated that the measurement of one depot on one of these roads had been in dispute between himself and Mr Brien for months and it was only recently he was satisfied that Mr Brien was entitled to £5 for this depot, and his War Bonus of £23, total £28, for which he had given a Sudden Damage Order to the contractor.

"The Meeting decided that the contracts of Mr Brien had been properly dealt with."

Mr Cleary, Rural District Councillor, as one of the deputation stated the discussion showed how necessary it was for the Enniscorthy R. D. Council to refer these complaints of their Contractors to the County Council.

The question of the refusal of the Enniscorthy R. D. Council to provide for the deficit on roads and quarries in their district was then gone into, and the Chairman pointed out to the deputation the serious position in which the Roads of the District would be placed if the Rural District Council persisted in holding up the work of quarries and machinery, because if the roads remained derelict on account of no material being available from quarries and no machinery provided, the expenditure which the ratepayers of the district would be obliged to incur to bring the roads into decent order would be appalling.

On the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Lynch, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted:-

"That the Enniscorthy R. D. Council be requested to hold a special meeting as soon as possible for the purpose of re-considering the present position of the roads of the district having been deprived of the use of material from County Quarries and of the machinery of the County Council. We feel assured that if the R. D. Council realise the gravity of their action they would rescind the resolution which they arrived at not to pay the amount of deficit on roads and quarries. That the members of the County Council residing in the Enniscorthy Rural District be asked to attend the special meeting."

New Ross R. D. Council and Road Limit.

Under date 22nd April 1919, the following resolution was read from New Ross R. D. Council:-

"We hereby request the Wexford County Council to formulate for the Local Government Board an application for the extension of limit of the Road Expenditure in this District from £8741. 5/- to £8928. 18. 4 for the year ending 31st March 1920."

On the motion of Mr Thorpe, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Local Government Board be requested to fix the limit of Road Expenditure for New Ross Rural District at £8928. 18. 4d, in respect of year ending 31st March 1920."

School Attendance Committee.

Under date 22nd April 1919, the Clerk New Ross R. D. Council, wrote that his Council had recommended the re-appointment of Mr M. J. Kenny, on the New Ross R. D. School Attendance Committee. Mr Kenny had been disqualified through non-attendance at the meetings of the Committee.

On the motion of Mr Thorpe, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Mr M. J. Kenny, D. C., Campile, be re-appointed a Member of New Ross R. D. School Attendance Committee."

Mr A. A. Connolly, Clerk Enniscorthy R. D. Council, wrote under date 2nd May 1919, that the following had been recommended for appointment by his District Council as members of the Enniscorthy R. D. School Attendance Committee as representing the Wexford County Council, the "Local Authority" under the Irish Education Act:-
Messrs T. Cleary, L. Harte, P. J. Bowe, James Hall and T. Hayes.

On the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Messrs Thomas Cleary, Ballyvake, Oylegate, Enniscorthy, Laurence Harte, Tominearly, Clonroche, Philip J. Bowe, Kiltale, Enniscorthy, James Hall, Boolavogue, Ferns, and Thomas Hayes, Court Street Enniscorthy, be appointed, as the representatives of the Wexford County Council, as members of new Committee of the School Attendance Committee for the Enniscorthy Rural District to hold office for three years as from 1st June 1919."

Hanlon's Quarry-New Ross District.

Under date 22nd April 1919, the Clerk, New Ross R. D. Council, forwarded the following:-

"At the Meeting of New Ross R. D. Council, on 17th April 1919, Mr Thorpe proposed, Mr Cerceeran seconded, and it was unanimously decided to ask the County Council to make arrangements by agreement or otherwise to have Hanlon's Quarry, Ballygarvan, available for the use of Road Contractors at a reasonable rate per cubic yard."

Mr Kelly, Solicitor, New Ross, appeared for Mr Hanlon, and stated that Mr Hanlon should retain the quarry as it was portion of the avenue of his house.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Lynch, the following

resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor arrange to take material from the Quarry of Mr Hanlon, Ballygarvan, at 4d per cubic yard, as quarry charge and surface damage."

Road No. 23 Wexford District.

At the meeting of the County Council on 8th April 1919, a letter from Messrs Huggard & Brennan, Solicitors, Wexford, on behalf of Mr Patrick Conboy, Contractor for Road No. 23W. was read.

Messrs Huggard & Brennan pointed out that it had been arranged between the Contractor and the County Surveyor, as the Contractor could not get his supply of material from Kerlogue Quarry, the Contractor was to have the amount of his contract less the value of the number of tons not supplied to the Contractor at 4/8 per ton, this to include spreading. The Contractor now complained that entire amount of balance of his contract had been struck off and Messrs Huggard & Brennan suggested that some Member of the Council should see the road and report to the Council, which would then be in a position to get information as to its condition.

The Meeting of the Council on 8th April 1919, adopted a resolution asking the County Surveyor to furnish a report to next meeting as to condition of the road.

"Adjourned to next Meeting."

Payment to Quarrymen.

At the Meeting of the County Council on 8th April 1919, Mr James Murphy, Ballynamuddagh, The Ballagh, President Trades & Labour League, appeared before the meeting and asked that quarrymen's wages should be fixed at 7d per hour for summer rate instead of 6d as adopted by Wages Committee recently. The men found, he said, they could not make a living wage at 6d per hour.

The following resolution was adopted by the meeting of 8th April last:-

"That the question of the wages to be paid quarrymen be adjourned until next meeting of Finance & Roads Committee, and that special reference be made to it on agenda paper of the meeting."

"Adjourned to next Meeting."

Kerlogue Quarry.

Under date 17th April 1919, the following was read from Mr Moses

Power, Kerlogue, Contractor, for supply of material for Road Contracts from Kerlogue Quarry:-

"In regard to Kerlogue Quarry, I did my best to get quarrymen through the Exchange. I got one man at 30/- per week. He only remained four days with me and left for more wages. I must pay 35/- a week to get the work done which I cannot give out of contract. I find it impossible to keep myself and family and pay big wages at present. If the Council could only see their way to help me to finish my contract which I would be inclined to do. Would you kindly lay this before your next meeting."

"Adjourned to next meeting."

Appointment Deputy Checkers-Rate Collection.

On the motion of Mr Cowman, Seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Messrs N. Kehoe, R. Creighton, and M. J. Finn, be re-appointed as deputy checkers for accounts of the Rate Collectors of Wexford, Gorey, and New Ross, districts, respectively, at a remuneration of 5/- per 100 ratings. That Mr Jasper Whitty be re-appointed as deputy checker of the accounts of the Rate Collectors for Enniscorthy District, at a remuneration of £15 for each financial half-year."

Mr E. Somers, Rate Collector-Proposal to appoint Deputy.

Under date 30th April 1919, Mr E. Somers, Rate Collector, wrote asking the County Council to agree to the appointment of his son- Mr James J. Somers- to help him with collection, as he was not quite strong as yet after his recent illness.

"Adjourned to next Meeting."

Audits of Accounts of Public Bodies.

Reports of Local Government Auditor and Abstracts of Accounts as to Audits of the Accounts of the following Public Bodies in respect of half-year ended 30th September 1918, were read:-

Enniscorthy District Lunatic Asylum, Enniscorthy Union and Rural District Council, Gorey Union.

Marked "Read"

New Member-Co Wexford Infirmary Committee.

On the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr R. Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Mrs Stafford, St Peter's College, be appointed as a Member of County Wexford Infirmary Managing Committee, vice Mr Philip Keating, deceased."

New Member-Co Committee of Agriculture, Etc.

On the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr R. Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Johnson Pasha be appointed a Member of the County Wexford Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, vice Mr Michael Hickey, Garryrichard, Foulksmills, disqualified for non-attendance."

War Bonus to Officials.

At the Meeting of the County Council on 8th April 1919, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Circular letter from the Secretary to County Surveyors' Association as to War Bonus be adjourned to next meeting and that in the meantime the County Surveyor ascertain the Counties which have granted War Bonus to their officers and the amount of same."

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr Lynch, the following recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed:-

"That the consideration of question of War Bonus to Officials be adjourned to next meeting."

Poisons & Pharmacy Act.

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr Asple, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Poisons & Pharmacy Act Licence held by Mr Richard Breen, Commercial Quay, Wexford, be renewed for one year."

Work under Representation of the People Act 1918.

The Secretary stated that on the 30th April last a meeting of ten Rate Collectors was held in Wexford at which they decided that they would not carry out the work under the Representation of the People Act 1918, unless the fees for same were increased. He had reported the matter to the Local Government Board and to the Registration Officer, (Mr H. L. Meadows).

The latter forwarded for the information of the Council copy letter which he had issued to the ten collectors concerned by Messrs P. J. O'Flaherty & Son, Solicitors, Enniscorthy, on his behalf:-

"We are instructed by Mr H. L. Meadows, Registration Officer of the County Wexford that you being a Rate Collector and as such, assistant overseer under the Representation of the People Act 1918, have refused to carry out your duties under the said Act, for which breach of your duty you are liable under 13 & 14 Vic, Cap 69, Sec 103, to a penalty not exceeding £100 to be recovered by action in the Superior Courts with full Costs.

Our instruction are to issue immediate proceedings against you unless by return of post you undertake in writing to carry out your duties without further delay.

The rate of pay is fixed by Treasury Order made on the 17th April 1918, and the Registration Officer has no power to alter the rates thereby provided. The time being short we must have a reply by return, as otherwise the proceedings will have to go on."

Under date 6th May 1919, the following letter was read from Mr Meadows:-

Mr John Mullett, Rate Collector for Enniscorthy District Electoral Division, has refused to carry out his work under the Representation of The People Act 1918, and I would therefore request the County Council to take such steps as would insure that this work should be carried out at once.

The matter is urgent as the Voters' lists must be ready for the Printer on the 15th prox.,

I think it would be well to call a special meeting of the Council to deal with this matter."

On the motion of Mr Asple, seconded by Mr Stafford, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That our Secretary be directed to suspend forthwith from his office any Rate Collector who refuses to carry out his duties under the Representation of the People Act 1918, and that the Local Government Board be requested to sanction this course as it is important that the work of preparing the Registrar should be proceeded with at once in view of the fact that the Registrar should be in the hands of the Printer by the 15th June 1919."

Kilrush Gullett.

Under date 5th May 1919, the following was read from Mr Patrick Whelan, County Councillor:-

"With reference to resolution passed at last meeting-April 7th-instructing County Surveyor to try, and arrange dispute in reference to above gullet. I understand from Mr Codd, that Mr Barry has not done anything further in the matter, I would be glad to know why Mr Barry has not carried out his instructions, He is apparently flouting the Council in this matter. At the same time I would like to know if the Contractor has been paid for portion done. I wish the Council to give Mr Barry final instructions to end this matter. I regret being unable to attend the meeting to bring this forward.

Please bring this matter before County Council Meeting."

The following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr Stafford, seconded by Mr Lynch:-

"That Mr Whelan be informed that owing to the time taken up in dealing with Contractors' payments and R. D. Council Meetings the County Surveyor has informed the Council that he was unable to arrange with Mr Codd as to gullet at Kilrush. We hereby instruct the County Surveyor to deal with the matter without further delay."

Cloologue Quarry.

Under date 4th May 1919, the following was read from Mr Terence Hinch, Road Contractor, Camolin:-

"Just to ask you to put before the Council at their meeting there is six contractors specified for Cloologue Quarry. There is Leary, Murphy, Kelly, Murphy, McDonald, and Hinch, The whole six ask the Council either to take off tonnage or get them gelignite or grant them more money for their labour. They would do with 20 per cent of tonnage off. Its nearly impossible to get the stones out of the quarry without blasting."

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted:-

"That Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, be instructed to arrange for work of Rock Drill at Cloologue Quarry, and have blasts carried out there on the one day, provided the Enniscorthy R. D. Council agree at proposed special meeting to meet the deficit on Roads & Quarries."

Roads damaged by Timber Traffic.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor be directed to prepare an estimate of the amount of damage done to the roads of the County by timber haulage and the period during which such damage was incurred. That this statement be forwarded Mr R. W. Elgee, our Solicitor, and a copy also furnished hauliers with a view to arriving by agreement at the amount of compensation to be paid in respect of each Road."

Taking Material from Road.

The County Surveyor in his report to the Finance & Roads Committee stated that by directions of the Council he had written Mr James Larkin, Blacksmith, Adamstown, in regard to material removed from Road No. 125R and had claimed payment for same. But to the present, no reply had been received from Mr Larkin.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted:--

"That Mr Elgee, our Solicitor, be instructed to communicate with James larkin, Blacksmith, Adamstown, as to recovery of 10/- the value of material taken by him and which was the property of the County Council. That Mr Elgee proceed against Larkin in the event of his refusal to pay the amount in question."

The late Miss Redmond, Tinraheen.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Asple, seconded by Mr Scallan:--

"That we offer our heartfelt sympathy to our esteemed colleague Mr Joseph Redmond, Tinraheen, The Ballagh, in the loss he has sustained by the demise of his Sister-Miss Redmond- and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Mr Redmond."

Security of Rate Collectors.

Messrs E J. Murphy, John Mullett, Joseph Cummins, G. Rossiter, and M. J. Sheehan, Rate Collectors, wrote asking the County Council to accept personal security instead of security by guarantee society on account of the high premium which they had to pay for their fidelity guarantee which they could not now effect without collateral personal security. They were prepared to submit the security of persons who were now accepted by guarantee Societies as counter security.

Mr Thorpe stated he would give notice of motion for consideration of the County Council in June to have this

question of security of Rate Collectors considered and particularly with a view of endeavouring to inaugurate a fund by which security can be provided as is the case with officials of Joint Stock Banks and other public institutions."

Proposals for Payments.

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the several proposals for payments on Forms 22 from R. D. Councils and Proposals Committee, Transfers to Public Bodies and the several items for County expenditure as approved by the Proposal Committee and recommended for payment by the Finance & Roads Committee, be and are hereby adopted, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Proposals for Works.

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the several proposals for Roads and Works, from Rural District Councils and Proposal Committee as appearing on Form 20 in respect of half-year ended March 31st 1919, be and are hereby adopted subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Applications-Increases Salaries.

Under date 30th April 1919, the following was read from Mr R. J. Ennis, Assistant County Surveyor, Enniscorthy R. D.:-

"I beg to make application for an increase of salary to correspond with the extra mileage in my charge. The following are the figures on which I base this request-

Average mileage of the other Assistants..	370
Mileage of my district-	470
Rate per mile in the other four districts (average)	8/1
Rate per mile in my district-	6/4

I am quite ready to admit that the County Council met our recent application for increases very fairly. At the same time I do not think that my present request can be considered unreasonable in the light of above figures. Calculated at 8/1 the average rate in the other districts, my salary would be £190."

The following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Stafford:-

"That the application of Mr R. J. Ennis, Assistant County Surveyor, for an increase of salary be refused."

Under date 1st May 1919, an application was read from Mr T. A. Frizelle, County Accountant, to have his present salary of £150 per annum, increased to £4 per week. He pointed out that his work had been invariably reported upon most favourably by the Local Government Auditor, while his salary compared very unfavourably with the salaries paid to Accountants in Counties of similar size to Wexford.

Under date 1st May 1919, Mr J. H. Cadogan, Clerk in County Council Office, applied for increase of salary, since his appointment almost eight years ago, the only increase he received was one of 5/- per week, over eighteen months ago, making his salary £1. 5/- per week, which was altogether inadequate, having regard to the high cost of living and present purchasing value of money.

The following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr O'Neill:-

"That application for increases of salaries from the Accountant and Mr J. H. Cadogan, be adjourned to next meeting. That our Secretary submit at said meeting a statement of the salaries and emoluments of each officer from the County Council."

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(Signed)

John Bolger

Presiding Chairman.

Dated this 16 day of

June

1919.