

A meeting of the Wexford Co. Council was held in the Co Council Chambers, Fortview, Wexford, on 14th April 1924.

Present:- Mr. S. P. Foley (Chairman) presiding also:-
Messrs. James Byrne, M. Slaney, John Cummins, Richard Conish,
Patrick Hayes, James Hall, David Kavanaugh, John O'Byrne,
John O'Byrne, Mr. Donohoe, John Pender, and James Shannon.

The Secretary, the County Surveyor, Mr. Elgee, Solicitor
and Mr. Greanor, Senior Assistant Surveyor, were also in
attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Compensations and Pensions Ex-Rate Collectors.

Under date 4th March, 1924, the Secretary Ministry of Local Government wrote (S) that the Ministers had laid before the Ministry of Finance a full statement of the views expressed by the Deputation which attended the Ministry's office in December last regarding Arbitration Awards made by Mr. Justice Wylie to certain ex-Rate collectors. Provision could not be made in the coming year for meeting out of State funds liabilities of this nature which the law requires to be paid from local funds and no proposal for altering the decision already come to, after full consideration of the entire position, could be entertained.

A Special Meeting of the Council by directions of the Chairman had been summoned for the 26th March, 1924 to consider the letter when six members only attended (seven forming a quorum). The six members in attendance formed themselves into a Committee of the Council and adopted the following.

That in view of the decision of the Ministry of Local Government to meet the Ratepayers of County Wexford in the

payment of gratuities and pensions for dismissed Ex-Rate collectors we hereby refuse to include the amounts awarded by Mr. Justice Wyllie to these Officers in the Estimates of Rates for the current year and, in fact, decline to strike any rate so long as the decision of the Government to harass the ratepayers in this matter remains in force."

The resolution was forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government who replied as follows under date 29th March 1924 (Secretariat).

I am directed by the Minister of Local Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant intimating that the meeting of the Wexford County Council specially summoned for the same date to consider the Ministry's letter of the 4th idem, regarding certain Ex-Rate collectors in whose cases arbitration awards were made by Mr. Justice Wyllie in October last, fell through for want of a quorum.

As regards the course of action suggested by the six members of the council who attended, the Minister would deprecate the taking of any steps that would seriously affect the interests of the County generally, especially the welfare of the poor, and he trusts that when the matter comes before the County Council at their next ordinary meeting the Council will see their way to fall in with the views of the Government on the question of the compensation of the Ex-Officers.

In December last the liability for claims of the nature was discussed in the Dail and it was pointed out on behalf of the Government that during the concluding period of the British administration, local authorities generally were faced with Bankruptcy, were it not for the action of the Government of the day - Dail Eireann - advising and directing that certain action should be taken by the local authorities, and by reason of the action taken the local authorities have not sustained any loss during the whole of the war period. In the fixing of liability for such losses as were sustained the interests of local bodies were well

safe guarded and, as pointed out in the Dail, it is to be remembered that for about two or three years no local authority was called upon to pay any contribution towards criminal and malicious injuries. Charges of this nature which had been defrayed by the British Government out of local taxation grants payable to county councils were given credit for in the allocation of the withheld grants made in 1922.

In all the circumstances the Minister feels confident that the County Council upon reviewing the whole question dispassionately will agree to a friendly settlement in accordance with the Arbitrators Award.

This letter was considered by the Finance Committee on ~~22d~~^{23d} April when the following recommendation was adopted:-

This Committee cannot find anything in the letter of the Ministry of Local Government (Secretariat 29th March, 1924) relative to Ex-officers compensations etc., which will be in any way likely to influence the opinion or alter the views of the Council relative to the action of the Government in this matter.

If the Co. Council had not exhibited particular anxiety and obedience to follow the directions of an Dail Local Government Department in the past, they would not find themselves in the position of having to consider the question of the responsibility for payment of gratuities and compensation to Ex-Rate Collectors since they could have made arrangements by which the services of Ex Officers would have been continued.

The Ex Collectors put themselves in the position to be dismissed through the action of the British Local Government and it is the British Government - not the ratepayers of Co. Wexford who should be responsible for their compensation and superannuations.

In connection with resolution submitted by the six members who met on the 24th March the Secretary called attention to letter from Ministry under date 29th March 1924 No G. 13931/1924 as follows:-

With further reference to my letter of yesterday I am directed, by the Minister of Local Government,

to state that he sanctions a departure from the terms of the Public Bodies order, 1904, to enable the Wexford County Council to confirm their estimate of rates for the service of the financial year 1924/25 at a date not later than the 14th proximo.

The meeting, having first considered the matter in committee for over a hour, adopted nem. con. the following resolution on the motion of Mr John J O'Byrne seconded by Mr James Byrne:-

"That in view of the decision of the Ministry of Local Government to mulct the ratepayers of the County Wexford in payment of gratuities and pensions for dismissed En-Rate Collectors we hereby refuse to include the amounts awarded by Mr Justice Wylie to these officers in the Estimates of Rates for the current year, and in fact decline to agree to any rate so long as the decision of the Government to harass the Ratepayers of the County Wexford in this matter remains in force"

Deputation from Workers - Re Rates of Wages.

The following extract from Minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads committee on 3rd April 1924 was submitted:-

Mr W. Vennard, organiser, of the Transport Union, and a large number of road workers attended the meeting. Mr Vennard requested that a deputation from these should be received.

The following was adopted on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hayes:-

That a deputation from the road workers in attendance be allowed to put their views before this meeting of the Finance and Roads committee.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:-

That the recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee as to reception of deputation from the Road workers.

of the Council be confirmed and that the Council receive (at this day's meeting) the deputation which is now present.

Mr. Vennard, organiser, Transport Union, spoke on behalf of the delegation. It was ridiculous, he contended, to expect a man with a family to live on a wage of 28/- per week having regard to the cost of living. A worker was entitled to what would keep himself and family in frugal comfort. He desired that the Council would appoint a small committee to meet the representatives of the men, discuss the pros & cons and endeavour to come to an amicable arrangement. The men held that 28/- was not a living wage and it was not business to ask the men to accept it. It did not pay the farmer to starve his cattle and it was not business for a country to starve its population.

The Chairman said that the question of any alteration in wages could not be discussed, until the resolution of the Council fixing the wages at 28/- had been rescinded. Even then the Government stood in the way as they had declared that they would not agree to a higher wage than 28/-.

Mr. Vennard said that this difficulty had been surmounted in several counties. He stated that the Government had sanctioned wages as follows:

Barlow	35/-
Wicklow	32/6
Cork	42/6
Kildare	38/-
Hongford	34/-
Offaly	33/9

It was not necessary to reduce the wages of the men in order to secure the grant and if the Council was prepared to met the men in the spirit which he had mentioned the difficulty as to the amount of the wage under the grant would be overcome. They had a good staff and it was poor recompence that their wages should be reduced by 25 per cent.

The Chairman stated that at the first meeting at which this matter had been discussed by the Council there

was a possibility of coming to some agreement but he did not believe it was now feasible.

Mr. Corish pointed out that up to the present all adjustments of wages had been made through a conference with the men's representatives and a committee of the County Council since the 28/- had been sent down as the basic figure the Government had altered their views. In Wicklow, in consequence of the fight which had been made by the Council, the Government had agreed to 32/6 and Wexford should be as well able to afford this amount seeing that Wicklow was a mountainous country. Wexford Co. Council was the only council in Ireland which had reduced the wages of its permanent staff.

Mr. Cummins held the Council would be acting just in order in meeting the men and discussing the matter of wages.

Mr. J. J. O'Byrne mentioned that the majority of ratepayers were producing at a loss and this was what influenced the Council in cutting down the wages of Road and Quarry workers.

Mr. Corish pointed out that the relief farmers would obtain by the cutting down of Road workers wages would not help them very much in meeting the present economic outlook.

Mr. John O'Byrne proposed Mr. Corish seconded the following:-
"That a committee of three members of the Council be appointed to meet the workers relative to wages"

This proposal was, after discussion, withdrawn and Mr. Shannon gave notice of motion to move the following at next meeting:-

That resolution of the Council fixing the rate of wages of Road and Quarry workers in respect of work under Government Grants and for normal work at 28/- per week be rescinded and that a new rate of wages be fixed at next meeting.

Notice of Motion - Hedge cutting.

The following Notice of Motion stood in the name of Mr O'Donoghue.

That the resolution of the Council re cutting of hedges be rescinded.

Mr. O'Donoghue stated he knew nothing about this Notice of Motion until he saw it on the agenda paper.

The Secretary stated that at the last meeting the Surveyor asked for instructions to institute proceedings against persons who had refused to cut hedges which were detrimental to the roads. Mr O'Donoghue who was not in favour of the prosecutions had it pointed out to him that by instructions of an Dail, Local Government Department a resolution was been adopted that proceedings should be instituted against all persons whose hedges were an injury to a Road by keeping sun and wind there from and that the only method which an individual prosecution could be prevented was to have this resolution rescinded. Mr O'Donoghue then gave the necessary notice of motion.

The Chairman said the statement by the Secretary represented exactly what occurred at the meeting of the County Council. Mr O'Donoghue stated he withdrew the Notice of Motion.

Salaries of County Officials.

The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr O'Donoghue:-

"I propose to have the Salaries of all the Officials reconsidered with a view to adjustment."

Mr Blaney seconded.

That a small committee of the Council be appointed to consider the salaries of the Officials and to report to the County Council as to adjustment

Mr Blaney seconded

As an Amendment Mr Bonish proposed and Mr Hayes seconded the following:-

That we agree to appoint a committee of the Council to ascertain the relations as to wages and conditions of employment existing between the County Council and its staff.

on a Show of Hands three members (Messrs Bonish Hayes and Shannon) voted in favour of the amendment.

The Chairman declared the Amendment lost put the resolution of Mr O'Donoghue as to the appointment of a committee and declared same carried.

The following Committee were then appointed to meet in the Council Offices on Saturday 19th April at 11 o'clock (old time): - Messrs O'Donoghue John J. Byron and R. Bonish.

County Hospital

Under date 23rd March, 1924 a report submitted to the Co Board of Health by their Committee relative to urgent repairs to the Hospital was furnished by Mr S D Bennett Secretary, Co Board of Health.

The Committee having pointed out the necessity for certain repairs stated that they were of opinion that a large amount would be necessary to put the Hospital into anything approaching a comfortable condition and its expenditure on what would after all be only a temporary Hospital would be a foolish and unless waste of public money. The sum required to reconstruct the old building in accordance with the specifications prepared, when spread over a period of 20 years, would not amount to more than three farthings in the £ and as this would provide proper medical and surgical accommodation and treatment for the population of the County the Committee felt it to be the imperative duty of the Co Council to levy such rate and raise the necessary loan immediately for the reconstruction of the Hospital.

were so bad that it would be criminal to allow them to remain longer.

Under date 8th April, 1924, Mr J D Sunnott, Secretary, County Board of Health, forwarded report of meeting of that body held on 7th April 1924. This meeting considered the carrying out of the recommendations of the Committee of the Board as embodied in the following one of the most urgent matter to be dealt with by those responsible for the Local Government of the County:-

Minutes of the Special meeting of the Board held at the County Home, Enniscorthy, on Monday, April 7th, for the purpose of discussing and considering the report of the Committee appointed to consider the suitability of the site at Wexford and New Ross as locations for the County Hospital.

A special meeting of the Board of Health was held at the County Home, Enniscorthy, on Monday, April 7th, for the purpose of considering a report from the Committee appointed by the Board at its meeting on January 21st, 1924, to visit the Hospitals at Wexford and New Ross in company with Departmental Inspectors and examine into their suitability as County Hospital locations.

Ald R Borish, presided, and there were also present Mrs N Ryan, James Shannon, Sean O'Byrne, James Lawlor, Patrick White and Thomas McCarthy.

The Secretary read the following report submitted by the Committee.

In accordance with arrangements with Dr A. J. Blinck, Department Medical Inspector, the Committee was summoned to meet at the County Hospital, Wexford on Monday, March 31st. There were present: Dr A. J. Blinck Medical Inspector from the Department, Messrs J O'Byrne, John Murphy, James Shannon, Ald. Borish, J.D., Drs O'Brien and Dowse and the Secretary. The only member absent, Mr Sean O'Byrne Garry, wired his resignation.

uncle. After going through the Institution and discussing various matters raised by members, the committee adjourned until the following day when they visited the New Ross Institution. Ald Conish J.D. Messrs, J.J. O'Byrne, John Murphy, Drs Blenck, O'Brien Buckley and the Secretary were present. After going through the entire Institution and discussing various possibilities and grievances the following report was unanimously decided upon.

- (1) Dr Blenck informed the Committee that his instructions from the Ministry were that the question of the location of the County Hospital would not be reopened, as this had been already fixed by County Representatives and embodied in the Schedule to the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1923.
- (2) In view of this and from the experience gained by their visit to the present County Hospital, and the perusal of the records there the Committee recommend that the County Hospital Re-construction Scheme for which plans, Estimates and Specifications have already been prepared be proceeded with immediately.
- (3) The Committee recommend that the New Ross Hospital be established in the old Town Hospital there in accordance with the Scheme, and that this building be enlarged by the addition of a wing to accommodate 24 beds, twelve of which will be reserved for the treatment of Fever cases. They further recommend that the Hospital be equipped with an Operating Theatre, a Maternity ward and a small Oratory, and that provisions be made for the enlargement of the present entrance and the installation of a lift.

It is suggested that the entrance to this Hospital be from the side so that all communication with and through the old building will be served and the District Hospital will be an Institution complete in itself, and unconnected with any other building.

Temporary Arrangements at New Ross.

Pending the making of the suggested Alteration, it is recommended that the Hospital be carried on as at present, with the addition of two wards, not at present in use for the accommodation of Male

and female gear patients, when Fever cases of an urgent and serious nature arise in the New Ross District.

It is further recommended that maternity cases be treated in the Hospital when the Medical officer considers that such cases are urgent and fit cases for local Hospital treatment.

The Committee were impressed with the equipment and arrangement and the general Institution and they think it a pity that some use could not be made of it, so as not to allow a building erected at considerable public expense to fall into decay through disuse.

Ald R. Donist F.D. said that he had attended the meetings of the Committee and he thought that every aspect of the case for Hospital accommodation at New Ross and Wexford had been considered by the Committee. They had set before themselves the ideal of maximum medical and surgical treatment with the minimum of expense. There had been another proposal to isolate the present Hospital at New Ross by a wall, and he had been inclined to favour it before he had visited the New Ross Institution. No one visiting the Institution and seeing the situation of the Old Gear Hospital and the case with which it could be converted into a most efficient and modern District Hospital, could favour any proposal other than that recommended by the Committee. He was also influenced by the fact that the opposition which Ross had given to the Amalgamation Scheme had seriously hindered its progress and he thought the satisfying of the New Ross people which, he believes would be done by the present proposals, would be an achievement of itself.

Mr McCarthy and Miss O'Ryan also expressed the opinion that the Committee had come to a wise conclusion.

Mr Lawlor questioned the wisdom of spending money on the Wexford and New Ross Institutions, and said that he would like to see the reasons for the expenditure clearly shown. He was not against the proposals, because he knew that the provision of proper accommodation of this kind

was an essential. He thought, however, that the building of a new wing in New Ross where there was already a fully equipped Hospital would require a lot of explantation.

The Chairman dealt with this point, showing the advisability of detaching the District Hospital from the mass of the main buildings and pointing out the inadvisability of retaining a piece of a building which would make the upkeep of the whole mass useless and vacant a necessity.

Mr James Shannon dealt with the condition of the present County Hospital and said that reconstruction there was a crying necessity.

Mr Hall thought that things should be carried on as they were for the present if that were possible.

After further discussion it was unanimously resolved, on the proposition of Mr Pat White seconded by Mr Sean Byrne

That the report of the Committee be adopted by the Board of Health, and forwarded to the County Council. That the urgency and extreme importance of carrying out the recommendations therein be impressed on the County Council, seeing that the public Health of the County should be first consideration of the County Authority, and that the County Council be asked to make immediate arrangements for the raising of a loan and the carrying out of the County Hospital Re-construction scheme and the building of the addition recommended at New Ross.

In connection with this matter, the following resolution adopted at the meeting of the New Ross Rural District Council on 9th April, 1924 was submitted:-

That we request the Wexford County Council to refuse to put in force the recommendation of the Board of Health as regards the proposed changes in New Ross Hospital. We further recommend the Co Council to select a deputation to wait on the Minister of Local Government in order to submit for his consideration the scheme for utilisation of New Ross Hospital, which has been

suggested by the Chairman of the County Council, and which would meet with the approval of the people of New Ross District."

The Chairman ruled that discussion of this matter would not be in order until the resolution of the Council, which referred it to the new County Council, had been rescinded on notice of motion.

Mr John O'Byrne gave notice of his intention to move, at next meeting of the County Council, the rescission of the resolution referred to by the Chairman.

Mr John O'Byrne proposed and Mr John J O'Byrne seconded the following resolution, which was adopted:-

"That the report of the meeting of the County Board of Health, of 7th April 1924, as furnished by the Secretary of that body be received."

Further discussion of the matter was adjourned until the County Council had given their decision on Mr John O'Byrne's Notice of Motion.

Desused workhouse Buildings

In connection with order of Minister of Local Government, directing Co. Council to provide for the maintenance, insurance, and caretaking of desused workhouse the following resolution was received from New Ross Rural District Council:-

"That as regards the caretaking of New Ross workhouse buildings we would suggest to the Co. Council to make an arrangement with Mr Martin Keely, ambulance driver, to report to the Co. Council any matters as to repairs etc., which will be essential for the preservation of the building. The Co. Council might also arrange for a monthly visit and report by Mr Jones, Assistant Surveyor, New Ross."

On the motion of Mr James Byrne seconded by Mr Hall the following resolution was adopted:-

That our Secretary communicate with Mr Martin Keely, Ambulance Driver, New Ross Hospital, and ascertain from him on what terms he would be prepared to act as contractor of New Ross desired workhouse building and report on same as occasion arises regarding any matter of repair etc., which needed attention. That Mr Jones, Assistant Surveyor, New Ross District, be instructed to make a monthly inspection of the building and report to the County Surveyor.

Road limits of expenditure.

under date 31st March, 1924, (R.I.R.G/32), the Ministry of Local Government (Roads Department) wrote that sanction had been given for the following limits of road expenditure for financial year, 1924-25, in the case of the Rural Districts of the County:-

Bunsworthy	£22,589
Gorey	£18,402
New Ross	£16,392
Wenford	£18,293

In connection with above, letters were received from the Clerks of Bunsworthy, New Ross and Gorey Rural District Councils stating that the limits of Road Expenditure as sanctioned by the Ministry had been accepted by these bodies.

As regards Wenford Rural District Council the following resolution had been received from that body:-

That we refuse to consider the matter of the amended Estimate for Road Expenditure until the Council get more information from the County Council as to the greater number of road workers, which it was promised would be employed, when the wages were reduced to 28/- a week, rather than a reduction of the estimate. Also, in view of the fact that prices are not decreasing, but in some of the staple commodities they are tending to increase, the Council would like to

know how it is expected that married men and their families can be expected to live on a wage of 20/- a week.

The Secretary stated that the resolution from Wexford R.D. Council had been forwarded to the Ministry previous to the date on which Road limits had been fixed by the latter.

Proposed Trunk Road - Newtownbarry - New Ross

The following is an extract from Minutes of Finance and Roads Committee in respect of meeting of 3rd April 1924:-

Under date 25th March, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government wrote (R/TR/32) that no alteration in the Trunk Roads in County Wexford could be made at this stage. In any case, the towns of Newtownbarry and New Ross are linked up by portions of Trunk and main Roads in accordance with the principles of classification.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

That the J.D.'s of the County be requested to bring before the Roads Department of the Ministry of Local Government the injustice of not scheduling as a Trunk Road such an important thoroughfare as that between New Ross and Newtownbarry.

On the motion of Mr James Byrne, seconded by Mr Hall, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Government Grants

Under date 28th March, 1924, letter, No. 13368, was read from the Ministry of Local Government, forwarding £11,691:4:2, the balance of the Agricultural Grant, due to the Council for the half year ending 31st March 1924. The total amount due was £12,022 10.0, but from this had been deducted a sum of £31. 5 10. arrears due by Gorey Rural District Council in repayment of advance made by the Irish Land Commission under Labourers (Ireland) acts.

Dogs (Ireland) order 1906.

Under date 15th February, 1924, No V.B. 319/1924), the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction forwarded Order under the Dogs Act, 1906, by which Local Authorities may make regulations, requiring the wearing of collars by dogs while on a highway or place of public resort: also, the Co. Wexford (Control of Dogs) Order of 1909, requiring owners of dogs to keep them under control between sunrise and sunset.

The meeting considered that a general order of this nature at this season might lead to hardship on dogowners, and decided to adjourn consideration of same for six months in order to ascertain if the worrying of sheep by dogs in Wexford Rural District continues or is inclined to increase.

Primary Scholarship Scheme.

Under date 19th March, 1924, the Minister of Education wrote, approving of the County Wexford Primary Scholarship Scheme 1924

The following extract from Minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 7th March 1924 was submitted

Under date 13th February 1924, the Secretary, Ministry of Education wrote, forwarding statement of expenses, incurred in connection with Primary Scholarship Examination, conducted for the County Council by the Ministry last July, amounting to £8.4.9.

On the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Cummings, the following Resolution was adopted:-

That we recommend the County Council to issue Paying order for £8.4.9 to the Ministry of Education in settlement of cost of examination of bursaates for scholarships from Primary to Secondary Scheme.

On the motion of Mr. Corish, seconded by Mr. James Byrne, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Damage to Property Act 1923

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924, was submitted:-

Applications were received from the Ministry of Finance for the payment of £ 4,940:6:7. and £ 40:6:8. contribution to be made by the Wexford County Council under above Act.

The following recommendation was agreed to:-

We recommend the County Council, at their meeting to be held on 14th instant, to pay first moiety of amount due by them under Damage to Property act. 1923. viz. £ 4,940:6:7.

On the motion of Mr. Corish seconded by Mr. John J. Byrne the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Dispensary Residences.

The County Wexford Board of Health forwarded letter from Ministry of Local Government, under date 3rd April 1924. (No M.12264/24 Wexford 60) agreeing to the Board of Health acting on behalf of the County Council as regards letting, repairing, collecting and accounting for the rents of Dispensary Residences.

On the motion of Mr. John J. Byrne seconded by Mr. John J. O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-

That the County Wexford Board of Health be requested to act as in the past in relation to the letting, repairing, collecting and accounting for the rents of the Dispensary Residences of the County."

Rate Collection

The state of the Rate Collection was considered with the following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924:-

We recommend that, unless collectors O'Byrne, Donohue and Sutton exhibit a very marked improvement in the progress of their collections by the 14th April, they be suspended from office. That this recommendation be conveyed to the collectors concerned, and, as regards the majority of the other collectors, we believe more substantial progress could be made. That our Secretary inform them that the Finance and Roads Committee insist that no further delay shall take place in having the collection closed by the appointed date.

Application was read from Mr P J Fitzpatrick, collector for No 15 collection district, for reinstatement after interment Mr Sean Gannon, Deputy Collector, and he had made an arrangement by which Mr Gannon was satisfied to allow him to take up the collection.

Mr Michael Deegan, collector for No 7 collection district applied for reinstatement after interment. His brother Mr John Deegan, had been acting as Deputy in the meantime.

The following recommendation was agreed to:-

That the question of the reinstatement of Rate Collectors who have been released from interment be adjourned until the completion of the present collection, and for which the Council hold bonds from Deputy Collectors, as regards service of Demand Notes, Misses Bursts and Sutton be requested to explain why they had, up to recently, such a large number of Demand Notes in their Books.

The following recommendation was also agreed to:-

That, as regards No 4 collection district, we recommend the County Council to appoint as permanent collector Mr Patrick J Simott Mountain Gate, Blessington.

In connection with Fidelity Guarantee Bond of Mr John Bursts, Rate collector for No 10 collection district the amount of which had been raised recently from £750 to £900 the following recommendation was adopted:-

That our Secretary communicate with Mr John Sennott,

Rate collector for No 10 Collection District, and inform him that in view of the great increase, which has taken place in the amounts of the warrants of the collectors, we are of opinion that in no case should a bond for a lesser sum than £900 be accepted from any collector, and Mr Sennott must be aware that, when his bond was fixed at the sum of £750, his collection was considerably less than the amount obtaining at the present time.

Under date 6th February, 1924, letter, No 5. 5409-1924, Wexford County, was read from the Minister of Local Government, forwarding copies of correspondence which he had received from Captain Alcock, relative to the rates of Wilton Castle, and asking for the observations of the Council on the matter.

When paying his rates on his Wilton estate, Captain Alcock had deducted £11. 16. 0 amount of rates due on Wilton Castle, and had sent a cheque for £91. 11. 10, through his solicitors, Messrs Moon Healy and Lloyd, promising to make up any difference when the rates had been adjusted. The collector, Mr John Sennott, No 10 Collection District, in returning the cheque to the solicitors, forwarded a six-days notice for the full amount of rates, viz.: £103. 7. 10. and informed the solicitors that, if the amount was not paid within the specified time, Captain Alcock would find his cattle in the County Council pound, and put up for sale by auction, and all necessary expenses deducted from the proceeds. When the Reviser settled the valuation, the matter would be adjusted.

No order was made on this communication by the Committee. The following recommendation was agreed to:-

That Mr Jasper Whitty, Deputy Checker of Rate collectors accounts for Enniscorthy district, be asked to submit to next meeting of the County Council, to be held on the 14th April, a detailed certified statement as to the amount of rates, which were withheld by Mr Patrick Boddy ex-rate collector for No 7 collection district.

Mr Elgee Solicitor, reported that the Civic Guard had interviewed him in connection with the levying of a fine for £87, poor rate against Mr P. H. Pearse

Kilmallock. The Civic Guards had seized a tractor, the property of Mr Peare, and they wished to know would the County Council be responsible for the employment of a man to drive it into Enniscorthy.

It was decided that Mr Elgee inform the Civic Guard that they should take the responsibility of having the tractor driven in to Enniscorthy, and add the cost to those incurred with regard to the levelling the decree."

The Secretary reported that the collectors, complained of at Finance and Roads Committee meeting, had exhibited some improvement.

On the motion of Mr John O'Byrne seconded by the Chairman, the foregoing recommendations of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Under date 8th April, 1924, Mr B. McCarthy, Munntown, wrote that he was prepared to take up his position as Rate collector, and wished to be informed when he could resume work.

On the motion of Mr John O'Byrne seconded by the Chairman the following resolution was adopted:-

That the question of the reinstatement of Mr B. McCarthy as Rate collector for No 5 collection district be adjourned until the completion of the present collection, and for which the council hold bond from the Deputy Collector for this district.

Under date 12th April, 1924, letter (No 83535-24) was read from the Minister of Local Government, stating that he had made further careful inquiries into the case of Mr R. J. Sinnott late Rate collector, and now consented to his re-employment as requested by the Council.

Midwives (Ireland) Act 1918.

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924 was submitted:-

Under date 13th March, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government wrote (PH 11622/1924) therefore be advised,

that he had been ascertained there were 51 names on the Register of Midwives for County Wexford, and, in the circumstances and in consideration of the fact that, in the course of his duties as Tuberculosis Officer, Dr O'Connor had already occasion to travel over the County, the Minister suggested that £50 per annum would represent an adequate remuneration for the performance of the duties of medical officer under the Midwives Act. It was to be understood that the arrangement should be on a temporary basis.

Under date 17th March 1924, Dr O'Connor wrote that he did not think the £50, mentioned by the Ministry would cover expenses. Special journeys would be necessary to most of the midwives (who did not live in towns) for each inspection; such inspection would not be less than four times a year, and, perhaps, in some cases, much oftener. He could not think of taking on the work at less than £80, and, though he did not quite know if that would cover expenses, he was prepared to chance this.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

"We recommend the County Council to point out to the Ministry of Local Government that, taking into consideration the amount of extra travelling which would have to be performed by Dr O'Connor, and the necessity for a proper and rigid administration of the midwives etc. it would not be possible to have the duties of Medical Inspector properly carried out for a lesser remuneration than £80 per annum."

Under date 8th April 1924, letter no PH 12772/24, Wexford County, was read from the Minister of Local Government, stating that, from further information now furnished to him 43 of the 65 midwives on the roll were engaged exclusively in private practice, and, to the number of 28, resided in one or other of the four towns, visited by Dr O'Connor in his programme of Dispensary attendances. Twenty-two other midwives held dispensary appointments, of whom three, or possibly four, lived in above-mentioned towns. Nineteen, at the most resided in more or less outlying portions of the County, but, as they were responsible, in the discharge of their public duties, to the Dispensary Medical Officer, it would probably be found that, after the initial inspection, the need for frequent re-inspection might be confined within comparatively small limits. In view of the great number of cases to be supervised, the Minister was prepared to increase his previous suggestion of remuneration to £85 per annum. It was hoped

that the foregoing explanation would show that Dr O'Connor had overestimated the extent of travelling involved, and would enable him to accept the temporary position of Medical Officer on the terms now proposed.

The recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr Borish seconded by Mr Shannon.

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 5th April 1924, was also submitted:-

Under date 26th March 1924, Miss K. M. Price, Secretary Irish Nurses and Midwives Union Dublin, wrote, giving the names of six 'handy women', who were attending midwifery cases in Co. Wexford, in contravention of the provisions of section 1(2) of Midwives Act 1918.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

That consideration of letter from Secretary of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Union, relative to the attendance of midwifery cases of certain unqualified women, be adjourned pending the appointment of a Medical Inspector of Midwives."

The recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman.

Local Elections

At the meeting of the County Council, on 10th March 1924, the following resolution was adopted:-

That we request the Ministry of Local Government to fix a date other than the 15th July 1924, on which to hold elections of Urban Councillors. From the experience of members of this Council, it would be almost physically impossible to carry out, in the one polling booth, election on of County Councillors, Rural District Councillors and Urban Councillors. The present order of the Ministry in this regard will only lead to confusion and dissatisfaction.

Under date 18th March 1924, letter No F12223/1924 (Wexford County) was read from the Ministry of Local Government, stating that, in the event of all local government elections taking place on the same day it would not appear possible for polling for County

Rural and Urban elections to take place in the same booth. As, at a booth, there could only poll either County and Rural or County or Urban electors.

On the motion of Mr. Borish, seconded by the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:-

That the Ministry of Local Government be informed that in connection with polling for local elections, the point, which the County Council desired to make, was the following:- Schools and bouthouses in Urban Districts have always been used in connection with elections for County, Rural and Urban councillors and, without grave dissatisfaction and considerable confusion, it would not be possible to have this arrangement, which made in every way for public convenience, carried out in future, if polls for County, Rural and Urban councillors were held on the same day.

Disputed University Scholarship

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 7th March 1924, was submitted:-

Under date 3rd March 1924, Mr. Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council, wrote that, in his opinion, Mr. P. M. Hayes was ineligible for University Scholarship awarded him, as he did not obtain Honors in two subjects, as expressly provided for in University Scholarship Scheme. The Scheme also provided that decision of Council, in the event of any dispute or difference, was final and binding on all parties. Under last mentioned provision, it seemed clear to him that Mr. Hayes would have no claim against the County Council. As to the amount already paid, he considered the Council could not recover the amount from Mr. Hayes.

It was decided to refer Mr. Elgee's letter to the County Council.

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924, was submitted:-

In connection with disputed University Scholarship a letter was read from Mrs Anna O'Dempsey, grandmother of Mr. A. A. Franklin, in which she claimed that

the University Scholarship, which had been awarded to Mr Hayes, should have been allocated to his grandson, in view of the fact that the latter had received Honours in two subjects. As Mr Hayes had obtained Honours in one subject only, he did not comply with the provisions of the University Scholarship Scheme.

Under date 21st March 1924. (G12216/1924 Wexford County) a letter was read from the Minister of Local Government, stating that, as regards the proposal of the Wexford County Council asking for his decision, relative to the continuance of a University Scholarship to Mr Patrick M. Hayes, the functions of the Minister under the University Act 1918, were limited to the question of rating, and did not extend to the award of Scholarship. In this case, the matter should be dealt with by the County Council on their own responsibility.

It was decided to refer the correspondence, received from Mrs O'Dempsey and the Minister in this matter, to the next meeting of the County Council.

On the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Hall the following resolution was adopted:-

That Mr Corish T. D. be requested to ascertain if in the event of continuation of Scholarship to Mr Hayes a surcharge would be imposed. Pending report from him as to this matter, scholarship awarded to Mr Hayes be suspended, and that no further payment, in regard to same, be made after the Easter term. That our Secretary inform Mrs O'Dempsey, on behalf of Mr A. A. Franklin that the County Council are empowered to withhold University Scholarship from Mr Franklin on the advice of their solicitor, who has pointed out that, according to the University Scholarship Scheme, the decision of the Council is final and binding on all parties concerned.

Lake New Ross Guardians

The following report, under date 29th March 1924, was read from the Chairman and Secretary of the Wexford County Council:-

On the 16th January, 1924, Mr David O'Keeffe Auditor of Ministry of Local Government, attended at the

Boardroom of New Ross workhouse, for the purpose of collecting data to allow the Minister of Local Government to make an Order determining the division of the assets and liabilities of the late New Ross Union as between the counties of Wexford, Kilkenny and Carlow.

Wexford County was represented by the Chairman (Mr Foley) and the Secretary.

Kilkenny County was represented by Messrs Corrall and Dunphy County Councillors.

Carlow County Council was not represented.

The Accounts were apportioned according to the following valuations:-

	£	S	D
Wexford County	80.948	5	0
Kilkenny County	16.278	13	0
Carlow County	<u>10.554</u>	<u>15</u>	0
Total.	<u>107.771</u>	<u>- 13</u>	0

as Assets. Receipts and demands on County Councils had been always dealt with on this basis.

Taking the position as it existed on 30th September, 1923, there was a balance to credit of £637: 10: 4, which would all go to the credit of the County Wexford as follows:

In hands of Treasurer	£	S	D
to be paid to Co Wexford by Kilkenny County Council.	584: 6: 4		
to be paid to Co Wexford by Co Carlow	24: 2: 3		
	<u>29: 1: 9</u>		
Total.	<u>637: 10: 4</u>		

As regards the question of superannuation of officers taken over under the Amalgamation Scheme, their services under the joint regime will be apportioned as per the valuation of each County as found at the present Inquiry: the superannuation for service under a particular County will have to be borne by that County.

Outstanding loans become a debit on County Wexford, but the workhouse buildings, etc become the property of that County. The only other property, which the late Guardians had, was Yethal Dispensary which, for the purposes of adjustment, had been valued at £170.

In connection with payments for gratuities and pensions, as from 1st October, 1923, the counties would each be responsible for their share as per the valuations existing at the Enquiry and which appear in the foregoing.

It will be noticed that these are approximately; - Wexford three-fourths; Kilkenny, one seventh; and Carlow one-tenth.

At the termination of the Enquiry, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr O'Heiffe on the motion of Mr Foley (Wexford) seconded by Mr Denphy (Kilkenny).

In reply, Mr O'Heiffe acknowledged the assistance he had been given by Messrs Rochford and Shortall, Clerk and assistant Clerk to the late Guardians.

Under date 29th March, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government (No P2424/1924. Wexford County) forwarded adjustment orders in regard to the assets and liabilities of the late Board of Guardians of New Ross Union. The figures in the Adjustment order confirmed the figures in the report of the Chairman and secretary.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Borish, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That report of Chairman and secretary as to assets and liabilities of the late Board of Guardians of New Ross Union be received and adopted."

Wexford Bridge

The County Surveyor submitted copy of letter No R/124/32, under date 26th March, 1924, from the Ministry of Local Government as follows:-

I am directed by the Minister of Local Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant and previous correspondence on the above subject, and to state that no grant can at present be made to the Wexford County Council towards the rebuilding in reinforced concrete of the timber structure known as Wexford Bridge.

Purchase of Road Machinery.

The following extract from minutes of Finance Committee of the 3rd April, 1924 was submitted:-

Under date, 21st March, 1924, (R.1128/32) the Ministry of Local Government (Roads Department) wrote that any Road Machinery, purchased under the Loan or Grant, must be purchased through the Trade Department of the Ministry.

The County Surveyor explained that, in connection with the amount set aside for this machinery by the Council, a seconded hand traction engine had been included, but meantime he had received report as to the examination of this engine, and he would not take it. The Ministry had written to him that they considered his estimates excessive. In all cases they stated he should provide for bituminous dressing on the Trunk Roads.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

That the County Surveyor be directed to wait upon the Ministry of Local Government (Roads Department) in connection with proposed purchase of road machinery and point out to them the necessity that this machinery should be supplied without further delay.

Confirmed on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Shannon.

In connection with this matter the following report from the County Surveyor under date 12th April was read:-

Arising out of correspondence from the Ministry of Local Government I visited Dublin during the week and had interviews with the following:-

Mr. Moyle, Secretary Roads Department

Mr. Quigley, Engineer.

Mr. Raftery in charge of improvement work Scheme & Mr. Maher, Trade Department.

I had been notified that machinery must be purchased through the "Trade Department" which is inviting tenders for various types of engines and breakers &c., and, further, that we would not be allowed to get "convertible rollers", as no one else is asking for them. I am quite satisfied that the above is the case.

one suitable for our normal work and the Council agreed with me in selecting this type. After a lengthened discussion between Mr. Angley, Mr. Maher and myself, it was agreed that the Trade Department should invite tenders for six 7.H.P. Traction Engines, convertible to rollers, not exceeding 15 tons, and on receipt of the tenders, I am to be consulted in regard to final selection.

In regard to machinery required for the improvement work I agreed to vary my former selection - taking two traction engines and four rollers instead of six convertible engines. This selection can serve for the special work as rolling can be carried on continuously during most of year which could not be done under normal work.

As regards the buckers, vans etc., the Trade Department state we must be satisfied with the selected type and I believe we can fall in with this. It has been suggested that a small advisory committee of three or four County Surveyors should act with the Trade Department in making the selection.

Regarding the financial side of the matter I have arranged with Mr. Moylan and there will be no difficulty in obtaining one third of cost for the whole machinery under Grant P.48 and sanction for loan to cover balance will be given. Thus the entire "Improvement Grant" of £30,800 will be available for the road work and, besides this, in or about £3,000 will be obtained towards the machinery for Grant work.

The running expenses as well as interest and sinking fund will be charged against the £30,800 Grant.

I interviewed Mr Raftery regarding the allocation of the £30,800 and with reference to my estimates. The matter is satisfactorily arranged but we must provide for tar or bitumen spraying. I have accordingly varied the machinery to cover this and submit amended list of same for your approval"

List of Machinery for Grant Work

2	7 H.P. Traction engines	£930 = £1,860.
2	16x4 Breakers	£620 = £1,240
4	12 ton Rollers	£420 = £2,880
6	Driving vans	£120 = 720
12	Watercarts	£60 = 420
4	Scrapers	£80
4	Decayed Scarifiers	£120 = 480
	say £8,500	
		£8420

Mr Borish proposed that recommendations of County Surveyor as to list of machinery for work under Government Grants be approved provisionally. Mr Shannon seconded. Passed.

The following report, under date 5th April, 1924, from County Surveyor was also submitted.

You will recollect that, at the meeting of the Council on the 13th ultimo, it was decided, subject to satisfactory report, to purchase a second hand traction engine. I have report now, and find that it would not be advisable to purchase this engine, and, accordingly, I suggest purchasing an 8 H.P. Portable engine. The original proposal passed in February last for machinery amounted to £8,560, and the total cost, including the Portable engine, amounts to £8,756 : 11 : 0. being a difference of £186-11-0. It will be necessary to have a proposal for this amount passed at the next proposed Committee meeting.

The County Surveyor mentioned that he had made the necessary supplemental proposal to the proposal Committee.

Application Supplemental Road Grant.

The following resolution adopted by New Ross Urban Council on 29th February 1924, was submitted to the County Surveyor for report:-

That the County Council be requested to supplement, out of the Grant allocated to them for the improvement of Trunk Roads, the Grant of £1,100, provisionally allocated to the urban district council by the Ministry of Local Government for a similar purpose, and also to inform the latter council of the amount by which the County Council are willing to supplement the sum allocated to this District.

The County Surveyor stated that he had examined the figures furnished by the Town Surveyor, New Ross, as to the cost of proposed work which he estimates would require an additional grant of £600. This would cover work at New Ross Bridge for which the County Council might reasonably be considered responsible.

On the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr John O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-

"that a grant of £100 to cover road work on New Ross Bridge by New Ross Urban District Council be agreed to as recommended by the County Surveyor and that this amount be furnished from Government Grant of £30,800 for improvement of trunk roads."

Mountgarrett Bridge

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Corish seconded by Mr. John J. Byrne:-

That the Wexford County Council hereby agree to co-operate with the Kilkenny Co. Council in the erection of new Bridge to replace existing structure at Ferry Mountgarrett (New Ross) one half cost of said work to be a charge on County Wexford and the balance to be payable by Kilkenny Co. Council. That we appoint the following as our representatives on the joint Bridge Committee:- Messrs John J. O'Byrne Bushinstown, Ballinaboola; Michael Byrne Ballynabearna Ballywilliam; James Byrne, Bally Ballycullane and John Cummins 64, O'Connell St. Waterford.

And that, further, we authorise a memorial to be presented to the Governor General under the Bridges (Ireland) Act 1834 for the purpose of having the foregoing proposal carried into effect.

Wexford Corporation and County Council

A letter was submitted by the County Surveyor, under date 12th April, 1924, pointing out Paying Order for £ 436-19-0, payable to Wexford County Council, stated, to have been sent him by the Wexford Corporation, had never been received by him. He submitted copy of letter he wrote the Town Clerk on 7th December, 1923, and particulars of interview with the Assistant Town Clerk on 21/2/23.

Trunk Road Grant £ 3. 510.

Under date 19th March, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government wrote R/85/32 that, in consideration of the acceptance by the County Council of the conditions governing the Grant, the Minister had directed that the Grant would be available, provided the work was commenced without delay. The estimated cost of the work was £15 in excess of the grant allocated no orders.

Kilmore Harbour.

The following report from County Surveyor, under date 8th March, 1924 was submitted:-

As the probationary period fixed for the appointment of Harbour Master has about now expired, I beg to report that I am perfectly satisfied with the manner in which Kehoe had been carrying out the duties and would recommend that he be continued in the position.

On the motion of Mr. Gorish seconded by Mr. John O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-

That Mrs Annie Kehoe be appointed permanent Harbour Master at Kilmore Quay at £1 per week and 5% on dues collected as already agreed to by the Council.

Piece work in Quarries.

The following resolution from Enniscorthy Rural District Council was submitted.

"That we request the Co. Council to have all work in quarries done by piece work as far as possible."

Adjourned to next meeting.

Register of Electors

The following extract from minutes of Finance Committee on 3rd April, 1924, was submitted:-

Mr J. N. Scallan, Registration Officer, applied for £600. advance to enable him to make a payment on account to the Rate Collectors in respect of work done by them in the preparation of the Register of Electors for the current year.

A resolution was adopted recommending the County Council to pay this amount at next meeting.

Confirmed on the motion of Mr Blaney seconded by Mr John O'Byrne.

Coal to Office of Clerk of Crown and Peace

Mr J. N. Scallan, Clerk of Crown and Peace, submitted bills as under for supply of coal etc., to his office:-

J J Stafford, Wexford £ 14 17. 0

Thompson Bros. 2 2 - 6.

As his supply of coal was exhausted he had ordered a ton of anthracite coal from Mr J J Stafford pending the meeting of the County Council.

The Secretary mentioned that an order of extension for payment in this case had been issued by the Ministry of Local Government.

A resolution was adopted that the amounts claimed for supply of coal etc., to Office of Clerk of Crown and Peace to date be paid.

Confirmed on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Blaney.

Annescothy Court House

Under date 21st February, 1824 Mrs Moore wrote, asking if any arrangements had been made in regard to purchase of furniture etc., in office for District Sessions Clerk.

The County Surveyor recommended that the furniture be purchased for a sum of £8-10-0

On the motion of Mr. Glancy seconded by the Chairman the recommendation of County Surveyor was referred to Finance Committee who are empowered to close this matter.

Gorey Court House.

The following letter re stove was submitted from John McLeod, Court messenger:-

I wish to apply for payment for the cleaning of the hall where the court is held and for getting it ready for the courts for the last twelve months. I will light the fire if you will supply the coals. Hoping you will give this ~~matter~~ your attention."

Mr. Tandy, District Justice, considered that Mr. McLeod should be allowed £5 per annum for the work.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Hall it was decided that the matter be referred to Mr. John Byrne M.B.B.S., for report to next meeting of Finance and Roads Committee.

Wexford Courthouse

The following extract from Minutes of Finance Committee of 3rd April, 1924, was submitted:-

The County Surveyor submitted a report as to Wexford Courthouse specifying repairs to roofs etc., which it was necessary should be carried out without delay. He estimated the entire cost of £40.

Owing to the urgency of the matter, the Finance and Roads Committee gave directions to the County Surveyor to carry out the repairs certified for by him but not to exceed £40.

Conformed on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Glancy.

The County Surveyor mentioned that he had brought in a proposal to cover the works.

Courthouses.

The following extract from minutes of Finance Committee of 8th February 1924 was submitted:-

Gorey under date 14th January, 1924, Mr. Gahy, District Justice, wrote asking for arrangements to be made to have Gorey Hall heated temporarily by means of an oil stove.

The County Surveyor stated he had made arrangements in the matter which had met the approval of Mr. Gahy.

Timworth circular letter was read from Hon. Sec. to Tenants Committee (Portsmouth Estate) that the tenant were offering 18 years purchase of their holdings and inquiring if Wexford Co. Council was agreeable to agree to this number of years' purchase for Timworth Courthouse.

The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:-

That the Co. Council be recommended to fall into line with the other tenants on the Portsmouth estate and offer 18 years' purchase for ground rent of Wexford Courthouse.

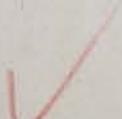
New Ross Courthouse Mr. Thomas Butler, New Ross, wrote offering the use of A.O.H. Hall at £6-10-0 of which £5 was for rent and £1-10-0 for caretaking for a further six months.

The Secretary mentioned that altho' he was holding his court in New Ross Courthouse, Mr. Gahy District Justice was not in favour of surrendering A.O.H. Hall as the courthouse might not be available after February.

The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:-

That the Co. Council be recommended to rent A.O.H. Hall New Ross, for a further period of six months, rent to be £5 and £1-10-0 to be paid for caretaking."

Conformed on the motion of Chairman seconded by Mr. Slaney.



Motor Tax Act.

Minute of Finance Committee of the 8th March, 1924
ordering prosecution for offences and remissions of fines
under Motor Tax was confirmed on the motion of the Chairman
seconded by Mr John Byrne.

The following extract from minutes of Finance Committee
of 3rd April was submitted:-

Under date 13th March 1924, letter (No MT/202) was read
from the Ministry of Local Government, Roads Department,
stating that the Minister had recently had before him
claims from local authorities for the reimbursement of
expenses incurred by them during the period from 1st April
1922, to 30th September, 1923, in connection with the levy and
collection of Motor Licence Duties, the registration of mechanically
propelled road vehicles and the issuing of drivers' licences
under the Motor Tax Act 1903. The claims, some of which were
inflated by returning throughout the entire period officials
at special salaries originally intended to meet rush periods,
should marked differences in the amounts considered by the
authorities to have been properly incurred, and in some cases,
owing to the exorbitant amounts asked for, it was necessary
to reduce the claims considerably. The conclusion was forced
upon him that many Councils did not recognise that the
larger the expenses of collection the smaller would be the
amount available from the Road Fund for road improvement.
The Minister had decided with the approval of the Minister
of Finance that, commencing with the period 1st October last
and for the twelve months ending 30th September, next
remuneration shall be fixed at three per cent on the net
amount of the duties collected and lodged by the Council to the
credit of the Motor Tax account, this allowance to cover all
outgoings in respect of salaries (including overtime) wages or
fees and to be regarded as a maximum rate applicable
to the full period of twelve months. The practice of appointing
officials permanently at fixed salaries regardless of the amount
collected should be revised accordingly. The Minister believed
that the rate fixed would adequately pay for the work to be
done, and Councils should be able to estimate fairly
accurately what sum would be available for the
remuneration of their officials, the fixing of which, subject
to the maximum percentage allowed was a matter for the
Council concerned subject to the approval of the Minister.

Incidental expenses, which, in some of the claims already dealt with, were very high, should be reduced as much as possible.

As regards the organisation of the work locally, the Minister considered it essential that in all cases the County Secretary or the Accountant should undertake the supervisory duties and that other members of the Council's clerical staff should be employed, as occasion required, on the clerical duties, the work of receiving cash and that of issuing licences being, as a rule, separated. Where an officer was engaged on cash duties in respect of Road Fund Licences and of other monies for which the Council were responsible the existing practice regarding Fidelity Insurances should be extended to these monies and a reasonable proportion of the premiums might be included in the claims for reimbursement. In cases where the cash duties of an officer related solely to Road Fund monies a similar Bond must be executed and the amount of any premium, would, if previously approved by the Minister be admissible as a claim against the Road Fund.

No expense must be incurred for Printing and Stationery unless previously sanctioned by the Minister and no miscellaneous expenses must be incurred except authorised by the Supervising Officer who must obtain the prior sanction of the Minister to any proposed expenditure amounting to £5 or upwards. Vouchers for miscellaneous expenditure should be carefully preserved for audit.

No legal proceedings except prosecutions before District Justices were to be taken without the sanction of the Minister.

Claims would be paid yearly, seventy five per cent pending on audit of the account, the remaining twenty-five per cent to be paid as soon as possible after the receipt of the Auditor's certificate.

The following recommendation was adopted
That we recommend the County Council to accept three per cent as remuneration to be paid our officials in connection with administration of motor car acts.
That in connection with circular letter (No MT-208) from the Ministry of Local Government, under date 13th March, 1927, I remain your constant Secretary,

be appointed to supervise and examine daily the cash transactions of the Motor Tax account and the daily lodgements of cash received.

Conformed on the motion of Mr Foley seconded by Mr John O'Byrne.

The following recommendations was agreed to:-

That in connection with the administration of Motor Car Acts the Finance & Roads Committee will, in cases in which technical offences only have been committed, be prepared to entertain favourably recommendations from the District Justice as to the amount of fine to which the penalty would be remitted.

Conformed on the motion of Mr Foley, seconded by Mr John O'Byrne.

That we approve of the action of Mr Elgu, Solv., in taking appeals in the following cases under Motor Car and Finance acts:-

Thompson Bros., Quay, Wexford (Tractor) John Hayes,
Old Pound, Wexford (Lorry) and Joseph Fortune, Imperial
Hotel Wexford, (Hackney carriage)

Conformed on the motion of Mr Foley seconded by Mr John O'Byrne.

Under date 27th February, 1924, letter was read from Messrs P. A. Murphy & Co Solvs Wexford, asking for a further remission of the fine inflicted on William Kelly of Wexford under Motor Car Acts.

A report was read from Mr G. H. Richards, Local Taxation Officer that the costs in this case were £8-4-0 and the fine had been remitted to £6.

The following resolution was adopted.

The Finance & Roads Committee recommend the council to make no further remission of fine under Motor Car Acts which has been imposed on William Kelly of Wexford.

Under date 23 February, 1924 Mr Banfield Solv. Wexford wrote asking for reductions of fine under Motor Car Acts which had been inflicted on William Murphy John St Wexford and James Murphy Monk St Wexford.

as both men were in very poor circumstances.

The Superintendent, Civic Guard, reported that the motor car of James Murphy had been seized in satisfaction of this fine. He did not believe the car would realize more than £10 and defendant seemed to have nothing further to say.

The following recommendations were agreed to:-

That as regards the application of William Murphy John Street Wexford for remission of fine under Motor Car Acts we agree to the entire remission of fine but consider that he should be responsible for the costs. That in the case of James Murphy we are satisfied to remit the fine to £1 and the amount of costs which have been incurred."

In connection with prosecutions for alleged breaches of the provisions of motor car acts the following orders were made:-

Prosecutions to be instituted against Martin J. Savanagh 102 Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, John Keen & Sons contractors, South Parade Waterford and William O'connor Neville Street New Ross.

No prosecutions - Walter Boggan Kilmuckridge Dr G. A. Hickey, South Street New Ross, and Patrick Boyce Templetown Fethard."

Conformed on the motion of Mr Foley seconded by Mr John O'Byrne.

The following recommendation was submitted from meeting of Finance & Roads Committee of 7th March 1924:-

That we recommend the Council to make arrangements by which the acceptance of mitigated penalty instead of prosecution be provided for in suitable cases".

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Hall and adopted:-

That we authorise the Finance & Roads Committee to arrange for acceptance of mitigated penalty in cases under Motor Car Acts and Finance Act in which they consider this should apply."

Under date 3rd April 1924. Messrs M. O'Connor & Co
Solicitors. Wexford.

under Motor car Acts in the case against Mr. J. Blashford-Snell, Dublin.

Referred to Finance Committee, report to be obtained from Mr. S. H. Richards, Local Taxation Officer, in the meantime.

On the motion of Mr. O'Donoghue seconded by the Chairman the following resolution was adopted:-

That we recommend the Ministry of Finance to arrange that the cost of Half yearly and Quarterly licences under Motor car Acts be only one half, and one quarter of cost of Annual licences respectively".

Poisons & Pharmacy Act.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. John Byrne seconded by Mr. Blaney:-

That licences under Poisons and Pharmacy Act be issued to the following provided they stock and sell only Irish made oil:-

James Bullen, Taghmon, James J. Dodd, 27 Court Street Enniscorthy, Nathaniel Checkberry Banbridge and that renewal of license be granted to Richard Breen, Commercial Quay, Wexford.

Appointment of County Analyst

The following letter from Miss Phyllis Ryan M.Sc., University College, Dublin was submitted.

I am satisfied to carry out analyses for the Wexford County Council at the following figures:-

Samples under Food and Drugs Acts (except sour milks)	5/- per sample
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Sour milks	4/- "
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Waters	1/- "
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Poison cases	£2-2-0 each
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Appointment to be determinable by a months notice in writing at either side.

The following letter from the Ministry of Local Government, under date 11th March 1924 (no PH 11204/1924 Wexford County) was read.

In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to state that, as a temporary arrangement, he sees no objection to the scale of fees suggested by Miss Phyllis Ryan, for her services as Public Analyst for County Wexford.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr John O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-

That miss Phyllis Ryan be appointed County Analyst on the terms of her letter of the 4th March, 1924, as set out on minutes of this meeting. That the Ministry of Local Government be requested to inform us if the County Council can appoint Miss Ryan to act as Analyst to all the other Public Bodies in the County as suggested by Local Government Department (Dail Eireann)

Claim for Personal Damages.

The following extract from minutes of Finance Committee under date 3rd April was submitted:-

On a date last April 1924. Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co Solrs, Wexford, wrote that they had been instructed by Messrs R.A. Parkes and J. Ryan Dublin, Mr L Turlong of Wexford and Mr Postlewaite of Bristol to claim damages against the council owing to injuries which they had received on the night of the 13th March 1924, and when driving in a motor car from Tughrone to Wexford they had collided with a stone barricade, erected, by the council, at Ballyweathers Bridge which had been left without any light or other warning signal, and in the darkness was indistinguishable from the road surface.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

That communication from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co Solrs, Wexford, claiming damages against the council for personal injuries to Messrs R.A. Parkes and J. Ryan Mr L Turlong and Mr Postlewaite be referred to Mr. Elgee, solicitor, to defend any proceedings which may be taken against the council in the matter.

✓ Confirmed with note of my b. 18th March seconded by the Chairman.

Claim for Injury to Car and Harness.

The following extract from Minutes of Finance Committee of 3rd April was submitted:-

Under date 2nd February 1924, Messrs Huggard and Brennan, solics., Loney made application for £10 on behalf of Mr William Webb, 100 Main Street, Loney to cover cost of injuries to car and harness owing to a horse becoming frightened while blasting operations were being carried out at Camgagh Quarry.

Mr Elgee, solics., was instructed to defend any proceedings which may be taken against the council in the matter.

Agreed on the motion of Mr John Byrne seconded by the Chairman.

Proposed Sale of House at County Home.

Under date 19th March, 1924, the Local Government Department wrote (No A 5590-1924, Wexford County Board of Health) forwarding copy of sealed order, conveying consent of Ministers to the proposed sale of property at County Home to Mrs Bosgrave for the sum of £100.

Under date 21st March, 1924, Mr J D Simott, Secretary, County Wexford Public Health Board, forwarded copy of letter received from Mrs Bosgrave, regretting she was unable to make any further arrangement regarding the purchase of house. She had been placed in a very awkward position through the loss of a large amount of money. She wished to know if she could have a small amount of land at the back of her premises for convenience as a laggard at whatever rent the Board thought reasonable.

Referred to Public Health Board for their observations as to whether they consider the plot should be let: if so, at what rent and ^{on} what terms.

Bank Overdraft.

Letter was read from the Ministry of Local Government under date 9th April 1924 (No. S. 15427/1924, Wexford County) sanctioning overdraft up to £50,000. to 30th June next.

The following resolution was adopted:-

That the manager, National Bank, Wexford, be requested to forward to his Directors, for their sanction, letter from Ministry of Local Government, under date 9th April, 1924. (G.15427/1924), as to overdraft of Wexford County Council.

Matters relating to Roads and Quarries

Road 2E

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 8th February, 1924, was submitted:-

The Committee, appointed to visit and report to condition of Road 2E, reported that the road was generally in fair condition, and would compare favourably with any road in the County. It would require more tarmac, but this was not the fault of the contractor.

The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

That the report of Committee, appointed to inspect and report on Road 2E be received; from their observations, the Finance and Roads Committee arrive at the conclusion that the road is in generally satisfactory condition.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Hall, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Alleged Fraudulent Depot.

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924, was submitted.

under date 30th January, 1924, Mr Bullen, Assistant Surveyor, reported that, on the date of his letter, he inspected road 169E, and found material ready for measurement. He found at bottom large unbroken stones mixed with sods. Depots had been fraudulently banked up by placing bags filled with straw in center. In portion tried, he found three of these bags, equivalent to about three cubic yards. He had informed the contractor Peter Murphy, Quillastown Lower Adare.

that he was reporting the matter to the County Surveyor.

The following resolution was adopted:-

That Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, be instructed to proceed against Peter Mythen, Oulart Lower Oulart, on the facts given in report of Mr. T. Bullen, Assistant Surveyor, as to his examination of road depots on Road 169E on 30th January 1924."

On the motion of Mr. John J. Byrne, seconded by Mr. James Byrne the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was conformed.

Road 182E

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April, 1924, was submitted:-

The County Surveyor submitted letter, dated 7th March 1924, from Mr. T. Bullen Assistant Surveyor, relative to two loads of gravel which he found spread at avenue entrance, leading to Mr. Dan Power's Ballywoodrane, Blackwater.

Mr. Power wrote that he admitted he took a load of gravel and put it at his entrance gate. He would replace it at the first opportunity. It was the first he ever took from anyone in his long life.

It was decided to refer the matter to Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, to instruct a prosecution should he believe it could be sustained by the evidence."

On the motion of Mr. Blaney, seconded by Mr. John J. Byrne, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was conformed.

Roads 135E and 325E

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924 was submitted.

Under date 7th March, 1924, Mr. R. J. Lewis, Assistant Surveyor reported that, on 12th February, he found stones from Glodogue Quarry had been taken from Roads 135E and 325E and spread in the yards of three labourer's cottages the owners of which are:- Myles Green Ballinabull Town

Thomas Donohoe, as; and John Kavanagh Cologne Sens. In the first case he (Mr Ennis) interviewed a woman who admitted having taken the stones; in the second, he saw a woman who professed to know nothing about the matter. John Kavanagh stated that the stones came from a private quarry, though they were fine machine broken material.

It was decided to refer this report to Mr C. G. Solicitor, with a view to prosecution, should he be able to procure evidence that will, in his opinion, reasonably lead to a conviction.

On the motion of Mr Slattery seconded by Mr John O'Byrne, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Road 10R

The following extract from Minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 8th April 1924 was submitted.

The County Surveyor reported that, in regard to the injury caused this road by motor traffic from mills of Mr Oldham, St Mullins, he had arranged Mr Oldham is to avoid passing over a road, beginning to cut, until repairs have been carried out. He is to notify the County Surveyor of such cases. It was arranged to improve road 81R, so that it would provide Mr Oldham with an alternative route.

The report was regarded as satisfactory.

The County Surveyor reported that Mr Oldham was using an alternative route now.

Haulage of material

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924 was submitted.

A letter was read from Mr Lawler M. S. B. that a number of ratepayers had been complaining to him about the expense of carting stones from Sherry's orchard, Ryland, and Ballinaboola, to the districts of Kiltisely, Killcase, Rathmore, and Ballindaffin while quarries could be found along the whole mountainside, and thus avoid the great expense of haulage.

The County Surveyor stated that all the material in the district, which was suitable, was being utilised. He had spent days in endeavouring to secure suitable stones to this district but failed. He considered it more economical to pay for the haulage and use only half such material as could be found in quarries like Threemont.

The Finance and Roads Committee accepted the explanation of the County Surveyor.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr John Byrne, the minute of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Proprietary Quarries

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April, 1924, was submitted:-

The County Surveyor reported that the County Council Committee (Mearns Hall and Toley), appointed to deal with this matter, visited the quarries on the 18th February, and were accompanied by the County Surveyor and Mr Ballen, Assistant Surveyor.

The quarries visited were Blotownish, Kellymurray, Edenvale and Achunaboon.

As regards Blotownish Quarry Mr Doran, who opened the quarry, and who has regularly worked it, is still prepared to carry on the work. He and his sons have now practically no other work, as his former roads contracts have been taken up for want of labour. His sons are members of the Labour Union and eligible for employment. He will supply 1,000 cubic yards at an adjusted rate according to the rate of wages fixed by the County Council, and will surrender the quarry at the end of two years to the County Council, if so desired, the quarry in the meantime to be worked to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor, so as to leave a fair face. The taking over of the quarry now will mean the enclosing of more land and the making of a proper face, and the expense thus incurred will cause a higher rate per cubic yard for the first year. The Committee, therefore recommend that Mr Doran be continued as contractor for supplying material from this quarry, provided all the men employed come within the terms of the County Council's resolution governing labour.

Ballymurray Quarry is worked by Messrs Hyland Ballen, Dunguaire, Co. Cork, quarrymen.

worked by Hyland and Doyle is altogether outside the control of the council; the other side is held under agreement from Miss Kavanagh, but has always been worked by contractors. About sixteen men are employed in the quarry: most are eligible for employment by the county council and would have a claim for the work if the county council takes over the quarry. The contractors, who opened the quarry, are prepared to continue supplying material at an adjusted rate according to the county council's rate of wages, and will surrender all claims, if required, at the end of two years. The committee makes similar recommendation as in the case of Glounish Quarry.

The present contractors at Edenvale Quarry are Messrs Murphy and Kearty. The quarry is held under agreement, but was never worked except by contractors. Murphy and his sons are dependent on road work, but have lost all their contracts owing to direct labour. Murphy employs four men, including himself and his sons, and the latter are eligible for work, and would claim it if the quarry be taken over by the county council. The contractors are prepared to supply material as in the other two quarries mentioned, and the committee makes similar recommendation.

As regards Richenahoon Quarry, this quarry was opened and worked by Mr Edward Byrne under agreement with the county Surveyor. It is situated on a 'common' and no quarry charges are payable. The contractor expended about £30 in opening the quarry and making a dumping ground, and his work would be covered by a couple of years materials, most of which has been supplied. If he is paid £15 he will hand over the ground to the county council. The committee recommends that £15 be paid to Mr Edward Byrne and that the county council take over the quarry and work it by direct labour.

It was decided that the report be received and recommended to the county council and adopted.

On the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by Mr James Byrne, the recommendations of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Poulmark Quarry.

The following extract from minute of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924 was submitted:-

The County Surveyor reported that the quarry, which he had tried at Poulmesle, was not yielding suitable material. He had also made trial holes on the lands of Mr. Sore at Forest, near Taghmon, but unfortunately with a similar result.

Ballynegan Quarry.

Mr. Pender raised the question of payment of contractor at Ballynegan Quarry, which had been opened ten or eleven years ago. This man had laid down a roadway into the quarry, and never received any payment for it. Last January, owing to sudden damage, he had been obliged to put 100 load of stone on the road adjoining the quarry, and he had never been paid for same.

The County Surveyor stated that all the work done in this case had been paid for.

It was decided to refer the matter to the County Surveyor to deal with the claim.

St. Helen's Quarry.

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April, 1924 was submitted:-

The County Surveyor reported that the owner of St. Helen's Quarry Kilcane, ask an exorbitant price for the land, viz £200 for half an acre, including the portion covered by bare rock. He (County Surveyor) recommended that the ordinary proceedings to have the quarry opened be taken if the owner was not satisfied to accept reasonable compensation.

The County Surveyor stated that, since writing his report he had received an offer from the owner of the quarry to accept £60.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

That we recommend the County Surveyor to offer £30 to the owner of quarry at St. Helen's Kilcane, but that, should he consider it desirable, this offer can be increased but not exceed £50.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hall the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was approved.

Pigs Elbow

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924, was submitted:-

The County Surveyor reported that, at the last meeting of Wexford Rural District Council, a proposal was passed for the alteration of road at the Pigs Elbow near Kilmore, and compensation to the owner was agreed to at £50. Since the District meeting, the original owner died, and his brother would not allow the work to be started unless he is paid £20. The County Surveyor asked the Council what steps he would take in the matter, as he wished to put the works in hand at once.

It was decided that the matter should be referred to Wexford Rural District Council by the County Surveyor.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hall the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Dunagh Rosslare Road

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 8th February, 1924, was submitted:-

A letter was read from the Clerk of Wexford Rural District Council, under date 18th January, 1924, asking the County Council to give a proposal for the construction of a new road from Dunagh to Rosslare their support and to press upon the Government to give a grant towards carrying out the proposal.

The County Surveyor mentioned that the construction of the new road would cut down the distance to Rosslare by six miles.

The Committee approved of the proposal and recommended it to the favourable consideration of the County Council.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hall the following resolution was adopted:-

The County Council would be prepared to give favourable consideration to any feasible proposal as regards construction of new road between Dunagh and Rosslare.

Claim for Arrears of Wages.

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 3rd April 1924, was submitted:-

John J. O'Gorman, Ballygramle, Glenbrin, Quarry, ourselves, made application to the Committee for arrears of wages which he said were due in connection with payment of men, when the latter were on short time for 21 weeks, prior to the 21st March 1921. He claimed £1. 3. 4.

It was decided to refer the matter to the County Surveyor for further information.

On the motion of Mr Hall, seconded, seconded by the Chairman, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was approved.

Flooding at Yotetown & Ballybeg.

The County Surveyor reported, relative to the flooding at Mr P Doyle's Yotetown, that the drain in question, which was stated to belong to the holding of Mr James Power, Thornville, ran from a gullet on Road 22W, through Mr Doyle's plot, to the river. Mr Power had been requested to have it cleared, and Doyle had been employed by Mr Power to clean the drain when the place was sufficiently dry. As regards the flooding at Mick Gustong's this man occupies a labourer's cottage and plot at the junction of Roads 229W and 231W. The tail drain from a gullet, under the end of 231W, passed through the plot, and thence the water passed through another gullet under 229W. The tail drain from this last passed through the lands of Mrs Kehoe, Honeytown, who promised to get the drain cleared. There were other holdings through which the tail drain passed, and it might be necessary to have the owners to clear also, but he could not state definitely until Mrs Kehoe's plot was cleared.

Under date 8th March 1924, Mr J T Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, reported that the cleaning of the drain, ordered by the County Surveyor, had not been started, but would be done as soon as possible.

definitely deal with the matter, as soon as the weather conditions permitted. He had made a thorough inspection of all the lands concerned, accompanied by Durlong, who stated there had been no heavy flooding since, so that Mr Rehor's delay in the matter had evidently produced no serious effects.

The County Surveyor reported that the work at Youghal had been partly done, and, in the circumstances the Council did not consider any order necessary.

Public Liability Insurance

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Finance & Roads Committee of 3rd April, 1924, was submitted - with regard to the risk covered by insurance policies for public liability, the County Surveyor mentioned that Messrs McDonagh and Boland, through whom the County Council effected their present insurance, wanted a premium of £58-10-0, in addition to the ordinary amount £36-9-0. Messrs Doyle's 60 & Anglesea Street Dublin, would be prepared to cover the risk at 28 per cent on the wages paid. This would mean a premium of £15 as against £58-10-0.

The County Surveyor was directed to effect the insurance with Messrs Doyle & Co.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr John Byrne, the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

The Late Mrs Treanor

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr John Byrne seconded by Mr John J. Byrne:

"That we offer our sincere condolence to Mr Treanor, our Senior Assistant Surveyor, in the death of his mother, and feel that this expression of our regret had the full approval of every member of the County Council and of its staff."

Dominic O'Keeffe

