

WEXFORD CO. COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11TH FEBRUARY,
1924.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

N. J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

A meeting of the Wexford County Council was held on the 11th February, 1924.

Present:- Messrs E. P. Foley (Chairman) presiding, James Byrne, Michael Byrne, Michael Cloney, C. Culleton, J. Cummins, R. Corish, L. Lawlor, P. Hayes, James Hall, D. Kavanagh, John O'Byrne, Patrick O'Byrne, M. M. O'Donoghue and James Shannon.

The Secretary the Assistant Secretary and the County Surveyor were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Late Mr. Peter Corish

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. John O'Byrne, the following letter from Mr. R. Corish, M.C.C., in reply to resolution of condolence on the death of his father was directed to be inserted on the Minutes:-

"Will you please convey to my Colleagues of the County Council, my heartfelt thanks, for their vote of sympathy, passed to me, at the recent death of my dear father and my appreciation of their official attendance at the Funeral.

Allow me also to thank yourself for your kind remarks, he often talked to me about you and the youthful days you had spent together.

Also your staff for their thoughtfulness in sending such a beautiful wreath"

Proposed Purchase of Surgeon's Residence

Mr. Culleton moved the following of which he had given previous notice:-

"That the resolution of the Council agreeing to purchase Rosepark as a residence for the Surgeon of the Co. Hospital only on condition that the latter would forego his allowances for fuel, light and laundry from the Co. Board of Health be rescinded, and that the Council further consider the matter with a view to ascertaining if the residence cannot be secured on other terms."

2

Mr. Culleton pointed out that this matter had been under consideration for a considerable time and he believed the Council should now come to some definite conclusion. They did not intend to purchase the place as a residence for Dr. O'Brien who might not be always with them, but the place certainly would form a desirable house for any surgeon who would be connected with the County Hospital.

The Chairman mentioned that this question of the County Hospital was getting more confused daily. Nobody was quite certain at present whether the County Hospital would be in Wexford or somewhere else. He called the attention of the meeting to the following copy of resolution which had been adopted at a public meeting in New Ross on 25th January, 1924 and at which eleven bodies had been represented:-

"That in view of the proposal to spend a minimum of £14,000 of the ratepayers' money in a hopeless effort to render the Hospital in Wexford suitable for a County Hospital, we representatives of the undermentioned Societies, appeal to you as custodians of the finances of the County, to join us in an appeal to the Local Government Department to appoint an independent Engineer and a Doctor as requested by the County Health Board, to assist the Committee in their investigations as to relative suitability of the Hospital in New Ross and in Wexford."

With reference to the statement in this resolution as to the proposal to spend £14,000 in order to renovate and improve Wexford Hospital, everybody who had any acquaintance with the circumstances knew that the County Council had decided to leave this matter over for the consideration of the new Council. .

Mr. Culleton stated that the meeting at New Ross had been held since his notice of motion had been given, and, in view of the agitation which was now set up, it might be advisable to adjourn consideration of his motion for the present, and he asked

3

the meeting to agree to allow the matter to remain over for at least a month.

The Chairman pointed out that, in his opinion, the question of spending £14,000 on Wexford Hospital was a matter for the electors at the next elections.

The following was read from Mr. D.^O Sullivan, Clerk, Wexford Rural District Council:-

"At Saturday's meeting of my District Council I was unanimously directed to write to you and ask you to bring to the notice of this day's meeting of your Council, the present bad condition of the County Hospital.

I am to point out that, generally, the Hospital needs very extensive and urgent repairs, and the Council strongly urge the necessity of taking immediate steps to provide in the town of Wexford a modernly equipped Hospital for the people of the County in accordance with the Amalgamation Scheme.

The Council consider that, as there is no other Hospital in the County suitably situated or fitted with modern requirements, it is the duty, and an absolute necessity, for the County Council to proceed at once with the proposed alterations in the Co. Hospital.

I am, also, to call attention to the very bad facilities provided for serving meals. It was stated at the meeting that owing to the food having to be carried in the open for some distance, it is practically cold when it reaches the patients. As this is a matter which very materially affects the well-being of patients the Council feel sure that it need only to be mentioned to be remedied without delay".

Mr. M. Byrne said that the proposal from the New Ross meeting was a very reasonable one, and he had great pleasure in proposing it. The County Board of Health did not believe the County Hospital at Wexford was suitable, and that being the case, how could people, residing in New Ross district, be expected to send

patients there. There was no use in shelving the question any further, and nothing would settle it except an independent inspection of both hospitals. New Ross would never have agreed to amalgamation only for the influence he brought to bear upon the New Ross Guardians, and, when putting the matter before them, he mentioned that the situation of the County Hospital was to be decided by the Ministry of Local Government. He was convinced that, if an independent engineer and doctor would inspect New Ross Hospital, they would find it more suitable than Wexford. It was a really decent hospital and would accommodate 100 patients. Why then should the ratepayers be obliged to build practically a new hospital while New Ross Hospital was in first class order ?. New Ross people would not have it.

Mr. Shannon pointed out that a Committee had been appointed by the County Board of Health to inspect New Ross and Wexford Hospitals with a Government Inspector and Doctor, and, until they had given their decision he could not see how anyone could have a grievance in the matter. The Committee consisted of himself, Mr. John O'Byrne (Gorey) Mr. R. Corish, and M. Murphy, New Ross, and he would ask the Council not to put anything before them which might, in any way be said to interfere with their giving an honest opinion. The resolution from New Ross was premature and it would not have any influence on him.

Mr. Lawlor asked if the Committee and Government engineer and doctor decided to have the County Hospital located in Wexford would New Ross agree.

Mr. M. Byrne - Certainly; that would satisfy public opinion in New Ross.

The Chairman pointed out that the County Council were not against New Ross in any way as they were only concerned with the

5

provision of the finances for the Board of Health.

Mr. Shannon said that the action taken by the Wexford Rural District Council was to be condemned just as much as that taken by the New Ross meeting. Both were trying to prejudice the Committee in favour of their particular choice.

Mr. James Byrne said there was intimidation in the resolution read from Wexford Rural District Council that day.

Mr. Culleton, who was at the meeting of the Wexford Rural District Council, said that no such desire as intimidation was in the minds of the District Council when they adopted the resolution. It was the representatives of the Board of Health on the Council who raised the question of the condition of the hospital.

Mr. Corish said, that, when the amalgamation scheme was under consideration, everybody agreed that the County Hospital should be in Wexford without a single dissentient voice. New Ross asked for a District Hospital. A Committee, consisting of himself, Seumas Doyle, the late Mr. Etchingham, and Dr. Ryan considered the matter. Dr. Ryan and Mr. Doyle were against District Hospitals, and when they went to Mr. Cosgrave, who was then Minister for Local Government, he agreed, that if in twelve months, Gorey and New Ross were not satisfied as to the number of beds allocated, their grievances would be considered.

Mr. James Byrne proposed :- "That the Wexford County Council co-operate with the Committee appointed by the Public Health Board appealing to the Local Government Department and suggest the appointment of an engineer and doctor to visit and inspect the Hospitals at New Ross and Wexford with a view to the selection of the County Hospital".

Mr. M. Byrne, in seconding, said that, in reference to the

6

County Home at Enniscorthy, they were told that everything was in perfect order, whereas it was only the other day they had to obtain a loan of £3,000 for an improved sewerage system.

Passed.

It was also agreed that the further consideration of Mr. Culleton's motion be adjourned to next meeting of the Council.

Living Vans for Machinery

Mr. Shannon moved the following of which he had given previous notice:-

"That the Council adopt a resolution to have all living vans required for machinery plant made in Ireland and also, if possible, of native timber, provided that the difference in cost is not prohibitive. "

The County Surveyor stated that if the vans were to be made in Ireland, the cost would be from £100 to £120 each. He had in hands quotations from manufacturers in England who sell engines for £60 per van. The prices of the engines were fixed.

Mr. Shannon said they did not know what sort of shoddy they would get from England and if they did not support Irish Industry, they were imposters. Employment was badly needed, and the timber would be supplied by men who were paying rates. He proposed that the vans be built in the County and be of native timber.

Mr. Culleton seconded and pointed out that the carpenters in Wexford were out of work.

The Chairman mentioned that it would be better if the matter were referred to the Special Committee appointed to deal with all the machinery plant - the County Surveyor had no quotations for vans made in Wexford or in Ireland, so that they could not say that the figures he gave were correct.

The motion of Mr. Shannon was allowed to stand for the present until quotations as to the cost of living vans constructed in Ireland and England have been secured by the County Surveyor.

7

University Scholarship Scheme

Mr. Shannon moved the following of which he had given previous notice:-

"That the award of University Scholarship to Mr. P. J. Hayes, South Main Street, Wexford, be reconsidered, and, if cancelled that the Council take such action in regard to same as will meet the conditions of University Scholarship Scheme"

The Chairman explained that he was not present at the meeting of 10th September, 1923 at which University Scholarships were awarded, but it appeared from their Scheme that successful applicants should obtain Honours in two subjects of the specified list. Patrick M. Hayes, although he secured 920 marks, obtained Honours in one subject only, and Mr. Franklin, with 885 marks, had Honours in two subjects.

The Secretary stated that the provision in the Scholarship Scheme as to the necessity for successful applicants obtaining Honours in two subjects was brought to the notice of the meeting in September. A sum of £43: 18: 0d had been paid on foot of this Scholarship to Mr. Hayes.

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Corish, seconded by the Chairman:-

"That our Secretary consult our legal adviser and obtain his opinion as to whether, in the event of Mr. Hayes' Scholarship being cancelled, he would have any remedy against the Council. That the Secretary inform Mr. Hayes his Scholarship must be regarded as suspended until next meeting of the Council at which notice of motion given by Mr. Shannon to cancel Scholarship awarded to him will be considered."

Under date 29th January, 1924, Mr. M. J. Howlett, University Scholarship Holder wrote asking if he could take a degree in medicine instead of faculty selected by him viz., law

On the motion of Mr. Corish seconded by Mr. Cloney the

8

the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Council have no objection to Mr. Howlett changing his University Course from Law to Medicine provided the annual liability of the County Council during the full Scholarship period is not increased beyond £70, the amount of the Scholarship awarded to him".

Under date 4th February, 1924 a letter was received from the Secretary of the County Councils' General Council forwarding memorandum from the Ministry of Education, suggesting that the award of University County Scholarships should be made on the results of the Senior Grade Intermediate Examinations.

The Secretary explained that, since the institution of the Scheme of University Scholarships, the awards had been always made on the results of the Senior Grade Intermediate Examinations.

Grant under R.35 and Special Trunk
Road Grant

The Secretary submitted the following extract from Minutes of meeting of Finance and Roads Committee of 8th February, 1924:-

"Mr. Quigley referred at length to the grant of a million and a quarter for roads and also to the special trunk road grant of £3,510. Cavan, Wexford and Wicklow were the only Counties which had not taken up the small grant. Some of the Counties had got working on this grant before there were any restrictions as to wages. It appeared that the latter was blocking the way. The wages had not been fixed by him but the amount for each County in the Free State had been fixed by a Committee which took a great many matters into consideration before they came to a conclusion. A letter dealing with the distribution of the million grant would issue to Councils in a few days. Wexford's share would probably be £35,200 and it would be suggested that the Urban Districts should receive the following amounts:- Enniscorthy £1,100, New Ross, £1,100, Wexford £2,200 for Corporation and Harbour.

Mr. Hayes asked if some Counties had received the Grant without

9

any revision in wages.

Mr. Quigley said there had been a revision in all cases. The only conditions to be made as regards the £35,200 grant were on the question of wages and that the money should be spent on trunk roads. The rate of wages was the crucial condition, He was unable to say what would be the exact figure for each County but a maximum rate would be laid down for the ordinary unskilled labour on the roads, and grant would only be forthcoming provided the stipulated rate was not exceeded. The figure fixed for Co. Wexford was 28/- which was the rate fixed for Leinster but in a few round Dublin, - Meath, Kildare and Louth 30/- had been agreed to.

Mr. Corish said that the consideration of the small grant had been held up because the wages mentioned were 27/- a week and the proposal looked as if the men discharged from the National Army were to be used to blackleg on the ordinary worker.

Mr. Quigley said he believed in the first instance that the grant would have been launched without any conditions as to wages. He wanted if possible to get good roads in Ireland.

In reply to Mr. Corish Mr. Quigley said that the peak wages for Wexford were 28/-; this was the instruction which had been issued by the Committee. Kilkenny was at the same figure.

Mr. Hayes said that the wages for agricultural workers fixed last September, by Transport Union and Farmers' Union were 28/- and tho' some were not observing it, it could not be denied it was still the official figure.

Mr. Quigley held that present wages to workers on roads could not be maintained unless they contended the work was more onerous than that performed by ^{the} agricultural labourer. In the North ~~were~~ where it was supposed there was a higher standard of comfort than in the South the wages in the Rural District round Belfast was 30/- per week and outside of that 25/-. There was something about the same rate paid in Scotland.

10

The Chairman said they had a good type of men working on the roads at present and reasonable people believed the road worker was entitled to better pay than agricultural labour. Everything in regard to these grants was bound ^{up} in the question of wages and something should be done to meet the crux.

Mr. Quigley said that some people were saying direct labour was all wrong and that contractors should be employed by men who would take two or three miles of road. In Meath a man named Grainger from Belfast took a contract of this kind, of course he would only employ strong and vigorous youngmen and when the job was finished they were out of employment.

Mr. J. O'Byrne said that under direct labour it was admitted that the Council were getting value for their money.

Mr. Quigley said he had explained that the rates of wages were not fixed by him. Perhaps they might agree in a statement to the Ministry that the rates of wages in Wexford should not be lower than in any other Leinster County outside Dublin.

The following recommendation was then proposed by Mr. Corish seconded by Mr. J. O'Byrne and adopted:-

"That we request the Government to withdraw condition incident upon the Road Grant which would leave workers in this County working at a lesser rate than the highest rate prevailing in any other County in Leinster, excluding Dublin."

In regard to the provision of Machinery Mr. Quigley did not think there would be any difficulty about having a third of the cost of ^{machinery to meet} the normal expenditure of the County paid out of Grant P48 and he was also of opinion that as regards the larger grant the Ministry would agree to pay the Instalments of Principal and Interest for a number of years but these instalments would be deducted from the Grant.

Mr. James Byrne proposed:-

"That the wages of road workers in connection with Road Grant

referred to at this meeting be fixed at 27/- per week"

Mr. O'Donoghue seconded.

Mr. P. O'Byrne proposed the adoption of the Finance and Roads Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Shannon seconded.

The Chairman stated he would have a vote taken for or against the recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee.

The following was the result:-

For the recommendation:- Messrs Hayes, P. O'Byrne, M. Byrne, Corish, Cummins, Culleton, John O'Byrne, Shannon, and the Chairman - 9.

Against:- Messrs Hall, Kavanagh, Lawlor, O'Donoghue, Cloney, and James Byrne:- 6

"The Chairman declared the recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee carried."

Mr. James Byrne proposed:-

"That the wages of road and quarry workers as regards ordinary work of the Council, and exclusive of Government Grants, be fixed at 27/- per week".

Mr. O'Donoghue seconded.

This motion was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. Hall proposed that the wages be fixed at 28/- per week.

Mr. Lawlor seconded.

Mr. Cummins proposed 30/- per week but this motion was not seconded.

Mr. P. O'Byrne proposed and Mr. Hayes seconded as an amendment to the motion of Mr. Hall that the wages be fixed at 34/- per week.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment:- Messrs Culleton, Hayes, P. O'Byrne, Corish, John O'Byrne and Shannon - 6.

Against:- Messrs Hall, M. Byrne, D. Kavanagh, Cummins, Lawlor, O'Donoghue, Cloney, James Byrne and the Chairman - 9.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

12
A poll was then taken on Mr. Hall's motion that the wages be fixed at 28/- per week, with the following result.

For - Messrs Hall, O'Donoghue, Kavanagh, Lawlor, M. Byrne, Cloney and James Byrne - 7.

Against - Messrs Culleton, Hayes, P. O'Byrne, Corish, Cummins, J. O'Byrne and Shannon - 7.

The Chairman declined to vote.

No further motions were proposed and the matter dropped.

County Council Advised to Appoint Financial Experts.

13

The following resolution was read from the Piercestown Branch Co Wexford Farmers' Association:-

"That we, the members of above Branch of the Co Wexford Farmers' Union, are of opinion that paid representatives of the ratepayers should be appointed to advise the Co. Council in matters of finance".

On the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Corish, the resolution was marked "Read".

Estimate of Rate.

The following recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee, from meeting of 8th February, 1924, was confirmed on the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Patrick O'Byrne:-

"That the Finance and Roads Committee are of opinion that Estimate of Rate, even for County-at-large Charges, should not be dealt with by them until they are in a position to consider the full demands from Rural District Councils, including Road Estimates; also, until approval has been received from the Ministry of Local Government to the Road Limits of the four Rural Districts of the County".

Liability of Occupiers for Payment of Poor Rates.

The following recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee, from meeting of 8th February, 1924, was confirmed on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That, in cases in which landlords refuse to pay Rates for their tenants, the Rate Collectors be informed that the occupiers are responsible for rates, but have their remedy in the adjustment of the rent. The Council have asked that legislation should be adopted, making landlords responsible for payment of rates on small holdings".

Burned out Railway Stations.

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

Correspondence was read from Accountant, Dublin & South-¹⁴
Eastern Railway Company, several Rate Collectors, Mr Elgee, Solicitor,
and General Valuation Office, as to reduction of valuation on partially
burned out railway stations for current year only.

"The following recommendation was agreed to on the motion of Mr
Cummins, seconded by Mr J O'Byrne:- 'That reductions of assessments of
rates on partially destroyed railway stations be not agreed to in
cases in which railway companies have lodged claims for compensation
for said premises'".

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

Progress of Rate Collection.

Proposed by Mr Corish, seconded by Mr Patrick O'Byrne, and
adopted:-

"That we request our Rate Collectors to display more energy
in regard to the collection of present rate. At present progress they
are not securing sufficient rates to meet current expenses, and the
Council regard this as most unsatisfactory".

Bonds of Rate Collectors.

The following minute of Finance & Roads Committee, from meeting
of 8th February, 1924, was submitted:-

"Under date 25th January, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government
wrote (G 3386/1924, Wexford County) that the Minister was insisting
upon all public bodies requiring their collectors to enter into bonds
in the form prescribed by the Public Bodies Order, 1904, and he saw
no reason for making an exception in the case of Wexford County
Council.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the
Chairman, seconded by Mr John O'Byrne:- 'That the Council be re-
quested to inform the Minister of Local Government that an order will
be made to have Rate Collectors enter into full bond as prescribed
under Public Bodies Order, 1904, for collections of 1924-5, and

15

afterwards, but it is not considered desirable to ask Collectors to give this form of bond for current Rate Collection, owing to the difficulties experienced in starting the Collection'".

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

Rates on Vacant Buildings, Etc.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That the Finance and Roads Committee deal with applications for refund of Rates in connection with vacant buildings, and also in regard to overpaid amounts in respect of old Rates".

Preparation of Rate Books.

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

"The Secretary explained that an order had been received from the Government that no annual revision of valuation would be carried out this year.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- 'That Rate Books for 1923-4 be used for 1924-5, as no annual revision of valuation will take place this year, and that amounts of Rate be shown in coloured ink'".

On the motion of Mr Cloney, seconded by Mr Shannon, the foregoing recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Mr R J Sinnott.

Letter, under date 31st January, 1924, was received from Mr A A Reynolds, Hon. Secretary, Cathal Brugha Sinn Fein Branch, Wexford, relative to the dismissal of Mr R J Sinnott as Rate Collector.

It was decided to postpone consideration to next meeting, as

Mr Corish mentioned there were great hopes of Mr Sinnott's re-instatement being agreed to by the Ministry of Local Government.

National Tuberculosis Grant.

Under date 31st January, 1924, letter, No P H 53735-23, Wexford County, was read from the Ministry of Local Government, stating that the Minister had authorised the issue to the Council of a Paying Order for £211 as a second instalment of recoupment from the National Tuberculosis Grant on account of the current financial year. The final instalment for the year would be dealt with in due course on the auditor's certificate.

Rate for Irish.

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

"That a sum of £745, moiety of Rate to provide for Instruction in Irish, be transferred to No 2 Account of County Wexford Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction at this meeting of the County Council".

Proposed Abolition of Rural District Councils.

Representatives of Rural District Councils, who waited upon the Minister for Local Government, on 28th January, 1924, wrote, asking the County Council to oppose the proposal of the Government to abolish these Councils, and to appoint a delegate to attend a meeting in Dublin for that purpose.

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

"That we reiterate, at this meeting, our protest against the proposed abolition of Rural District Councils, and appoint Mr C Culleton to represent the Wexford County Council at any meeting which may be held in order to help any movement, which may be initiated to block legislation having for its object the abolition

17

of these Councils".

New Ross Urban District Council Dissolved.

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

"Under date, 30th January, 1924, (G 3551/1924), the Minister of Local Government wrote that he had decided to dissolve New Ross Urban District Council. Pending the forthcoming local elections, the Minister considered that, in the interests of economy, the most suitable manner to provide for the administration of the District would be for the County Council to assume control.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of Mr J O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman:- 'That we recommend the County Council to appoint Messrs J J O'Byrne, M O'Byrne, and J Cummins to administer the affairs of New Ross Urban Council. That this Committee be empowered to co-opt two representatives from the town of New Ross to act as members of the Administration Committee'".

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

Midwives Act, 1918.

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

"Correspondence was read from Ministry of Local Government and Central Midwives Board in connection with the above. The former pointed out (31st December, 1923 - P H 53013-23, Wexford County) that, having regard to variations of circumstances, it did not seem possible to specify a standard number of visits by the Registered Medical Officer.

"The Secretary stated that the Secretary, County Board of Health had supplied him with a list of the midwives (63) practising in the County.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of Mr Cummins, seconded by the Chairman:- 'That we recommend the Council to adopt the Midwives Act, and, further, to appoint Dr W O'Connor, Tuberculosis Officer, as Medical Practitioner and Inspector of Midwives under the Act, at a salary of £80 per annum. That, as provided by the Act, the Council be recommended to delegate their powers and duties to a Committee, with whom Dr O'Connor could prepare a memorandum as to systematized visits to midwives, etc'.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Cummins:- 'That the County Council be recommended to pay the £15:2:3, due by Wexford County Council, under section 13 of Midwives Act, 1918, to the Central Midwives Board'".

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

Weights & Measures.

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

"Mr O'Byrne mentioned that James Waddick, Gorey, had salvaged the Weights and Measures of the County Council in the Gorey Courthouse, when the latter was destroyed during the Irish War. Waddick considered he was entitled to some compensation, and there was no doubt his action saved considerable expense to the Council.

"On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr John O'Byrne, the following recommendation was adopted:- 'That we recommend the Council to pay a sum of £2 to James Waddick, Gorey, as recognition of his action in saving the Weights and Measures, the property of the Council, during the burning of Gorey Courthouse, this payment to be made subject to sanction by the Ministry of Local Government'".

On the motion of Mr Shannon, seconded by Mr Patrick O'Byrne, the foregoing recommendation was confirmed.

Surveyors' Travelling Expenses.

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

"Under date 14th January, 1924, Circular Letter, R/38/1924, was read from Ministry of Local Government. The circular inquired if the Council are satisfied that the system of vouching the mileage travelled by Surveyors has had satisfactory results, and, if not, what alternative system for travelling expenses the Council would suggest. Also, whether a system of having a contract agreement at a mileage rate for hired cars would not commend itself to the Council. Pending further instructions, the practice of making loans to Surveyors for the purchase of motor cars should be discontinued.

"The County Surveyor explained the method of checking the mileage accounts of Assistant Surveyors.

"The following recommendation was adopted:- 'The Finance and Roads Committee consider that the system adopted by the County Surveyor for the checking of mileage returns of Assistant Surveyors is quite satisfactory. The County Council have no Surveyors at present requiring cars, and, therefore, no question of applying for a loan could arise'".

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

Subsidiary Bodies.

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

"Applications for payment of instalments on foot of demands from Public Bodies were received.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- 'That our Secretary pay the Public Bodies, financed by the Council, as large an instalment on foot of their Demands, as the financial position of the County Council will allow'".

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

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

"That, of the £2,000, due to Gorey Rural District Council by late Gorey Guardians, one moiety be transferred from this meeting to the Gorey Rural District Council".

Government Grants.

On the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman, the following recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee, from meeting of 8th February, 1924, was confirmed:-

"That the Ministry of Finance be asked to furnish to this Council a return, showing the amounts of outstanding annuities to 31st December, 1923, in each County in the Free State".

Motor Car Acts.

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

"That our Secretary communicate with the District Judge and ascertain from him what fines (if any), under Motor Car Acts and Finance Acts, are still in the hands of Clerks of local Courts".

Under date, 6th February, 1924, Messrs P A Murphy & Co., Solicitors, Waterford, wrote in reference to the fine of £36, imposed at New Ross Petty Sessions, on their client, William Kelly, in respect of a road tax of £12, due in connection with a Hackney Car, with a stay of one month to give him time to settle his accounts with the Government, which Mr Kelly found it impossible to do in the time allowed. He had, therefore, paid all the Licence duties on all his cars to the Town Clerk, Waterford, in January, and, in the circumstances, Messrs Murphy felt that the Council would feel disposed to remit the fine of £36, inflicted on their client, as his inability to pay the duty at the proper time was solely due to the large amount of money owed to him by the Government.

On the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman, it was decided that, in the case of the County Council v. William Kelly, Waterford, a remission of motor fine be made from £36 to £6.

Under date, 23rd January, 1924, a letter was read from Mr William Caulfield, Solicitor, Wexford, asking the Council to recommend a reduction of the fines of £20 imposed on William Murphy, John Street, Wexford, and James Murphy, Monck Street, Wexford, for the non-payment of the Road Tax. Both were very poor men; in fact, he understood William Murphy and his family were in very, very poor circumstances.

Both cases were referred to Mr Richards, Local Taxation Officer, for report.

Alleged Offences against Motor Car & Finance Acts.

The following were reported by the Civic Guard for alleged offences under Motor Car & Finance Acts:-

Mr McConville, Nore View Hotel, Thomastown, Co Kilkenny.

Howard Rowe & Sons, 63 South Main Street, Wexford.

Miss Nancy Leigh, Rosegarland, Wellingtonbridge.

Dr O'Connor, Westgate, Wexford.

Patrick O'Leary, Selskar Street, Wexford.

Sir John Scott Hosborough Porter, 34 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1.

Anne F Kennedy, Borris, Carlow.

Richard Richards, Juliamount, Wexford.

Laurence Lacey, John Street, Enniscorthy.

Mr John O'Byrne proposed:- "That prosecutions be instituted against persons whose names have been submitted to this meeting as being guilty of offences under Motor Car and Finance Acts, with the exception of

Richard Richards, Juliamount, Wexford, and

Laurence Lacey, John Street, Enniscorthy,

on whose behalf representations have been made from which it appears that their offences were caused by inadvertence".

The Chairman seconded.

As an amendment, Mr Hall proposed that all the persons, whose names are submitted to this meeting for alleged offences under Motor Car and Finance Acts, be prosecuted, or none of them be prosecuted.

Mr Cloney seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment:- Messrs Hall, Cloney, and James Byrne. 3.

Against:- Messrs Hayes, M Byrne, Culleton, Lawlor, John O'Byrne and the Chairman. 6.

The other members had left before this poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

23

The resolution of Mr John O'Byrne, to exempt Messrs Richards and Lacey from prosecution, was voted upon with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Hayes, Culleton, M Byrne, Hall, Lawlor, John O'Byrne, and the Chairman. 7.

Against:- Messrs Cloney and James Byrne. 2.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

Deductions from Estate Duty Grant.

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

"Under date 21st January, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government wrote (S 1181-24) that a sum of £1,070:1:7, share of Wexford County Council in respect of Estate Duty Grant for 1922-23, had been deducted in respect of arrears due by Rural District Councils in repayment of advances, made by the Irish Land Commission under Labourers' Acts.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Cummins:- 'That the following Rural District Councils be informed that their Demands will be paid by the Council less the following sums, which had been deducted from County Council Estate Duty Grant, in respect of arrears on repayment of loans under Labourers Acts; Enniscorthy, £362:7:2; Gorey, £530:14:2; New Ross, £177:0:3.'"

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

24

Damage to Property Compensation Act - Sixpenny Rate.

Under date, 12th January, 1924, letter, No 764/16, was read from the Ministry of Finance, transmitting Receivable Order for £4,960:6:7, being a moiety of the amount payable to the Exchequer in pursuance of the Damage to Property (Compensation) Act, 1923, Section 14 (1). This moiety was due to be paid on or before 31st January, 1924. The Ministry asked that a remittance for the amount stated ~~xxxxx~~ be forwarded to the Secretary, Bank of Ireland, Dublin, or to the Agent of the local Branch of that Bank.

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

"That our Secretary point out to the Ministry of Finance, as regards payment of first moiety of the sixpenny rate (Damage to Property (Compensation) Act, 1923), that this Council are working at present on an overdraft owing to Government grants being withheld. They cannot see their way to pay the first moiety of the rate raised for compensation in connection with damage to property through their overdraft, but will be happy to pay when the usual Government grants are released."

Proposed Agreement - County Council and County Insurance
Committee.

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

Under date, 29th January, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government wrote (P H 4435/24, Misc.), suggesting that the County Council and County Insurance Committee should enter into a standard form of agreement for the treatment of tuberculous persons.

"On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr John O'Byrne, the following recommendation was adopted:- 'That we recommend the Council to appoint a small Committee to consider the advisability of the Council entering into an agreement with the County Insurance Committee for the treatment of tuberculous persons, more especially

25

in regard to the safeguarding of the interests of non-insured persons'".

On the motion of Mr John O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Hall, the foregoing recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed, and the following were appointed as a Committee:-
The Chairman, Messrs John O'Byrne, and R O'Grish, to deal with the matter.

Union Amalgamation Scheme.

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

"The Secretary mentioned that Mrs Askins, late Portress of Enniscorthy Fever Hospital, had been awarded a gratuity of £180, whereas the provision under Circular 53 entitled her to £168:1:5. He could not find any ^{record} report of this case having been dealt with by the Ministry.

"On the motion of Mr Cummins, seconded by the Chairman, the following recommendation was adopted:- 'That our Secretary communicate with the Ministry (Public Health Section), and ascertain if they have made any award in the case of Mrs Askins, late Portress of Enniscorthy Fever Hospital.'"

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

Decrees for Rates.

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

"That the District Judge be requested to inquire from the Clerks of the District Courts if any decrees for rates have remained unexecuted, as it is so reported to us".

26

Food & Drugs - Appointment of Ex-Officio Inspector.

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

"That Guard Michael O'Brien, 2312, be appointed ex-officio Inspector under Food & Drugs Acts for Gorey Rural District".

Wexford Courthouse.

Under date 4th February, 1924, the following letter, No G 4910-1924, Wexford County, was read from the Secretary, Ministry of Local Government:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to state that it has been brought to his notice by the Minister for Home Affairs that the Courthouse in Wexford is in a very unsatisfactory condition, the roof is very bad and the rain is coming through, and the general condition of the Court is in a bad way.

"I am to request that the County Council should immediately instruct the County Surveyor to have the necessary repairs carried out without delay".

It was decided that the County Surveyor should inspect Wexford Courthouse and report as to its condition to the next meeting of the Council.

County Analyst.

Under date, 5th February, 1924, the following letter was read from Mr J Keane, Chemical Department, University College, Dublin:-

"I would be glad if you would kindly substitute the name of Miss Phyllis Ryan, M.Sc., for mine as analyst to the Wexford County Council.

"Even though Miss Ryan will act as Analyst, I shall always interest myself ~~my~~ in the analyses carried out for your Council. I thank you and the different Public Health Officers for the many

27

acts of kindness which have been meted out to me during my period of office."

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

"That Miss Phyllis Ryan, M.Sc., of the firm of O'Kelly, Keane and Ryan, be appointed Analyst to Wexford County Council on the same terms and conditions as the appointment has been held by Mr J Keane, her partner in business."

Campile Dispensary.

The Committee appointed to consider above - Messrs M Cloney, J Cummins and James Byrne,- reported as follows:-

"A proposal has been made that Campile Dispensary should be handed over by the County Council as a barrack for the Civic Guard. The building is suitable for the purpose, but we wish to call attention to the fact that there is at present a caretaker in this dispensary, who may have a substantial tenancy in the premises. Also, we are of opinion that it would be unwise at present to discontinue the dispensary there. In view of this, it would be necessary for the Government to build a cottage, which might be used as a residence for the caretaker and also as a dispensary for the locality."

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

"That our Secretary be instructed to communicate with Mr J H Williams, Office of Public Works, Waterford, and ascertain if any arrangement can be made by which the suggestion of the Committee, viz., to exchange the dispensary at Campile for another building in order to allow of the former being used for a Civic Guard Barrack, can be carried out."

Gas Account - Wexford Courthouse.

The following minute of Finance & Roads Committee, from meeting of 8th February, 1924, was submitted:-

"Under date, 17th January, 1924, Mr J N Scallan, Clerk, Crown & Peace, wrote, asking the Council to pay £12:9:9, for gas and gas fittings for County Courthouse.

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- 'That the Council be recommended to pay £12:9:9, amount due for gas and gas fittings in office of Clerk of Crown & Peace, Courthouse, Wexford, Mr Scallan to be informed that, for the future, unless he receives previous approval for such items as gas fittings, costing £9, the County Council will not be responsible for the payment".

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

Road, Newtownbarry-New Ross.

Mr Shannon complained that the road from Newtownbarry to New Ross had been scheduled as a third-class road only.

The County Surveyor stated that this classification had been made out by the Roads Department of the Ministry of Local Government.

Mr Shannon held that, owing to being classed as a third-class road, it was not getting sufficient attention or material.

Mr Michael Byrne pointed out that this road was one of those with the heaviest traffic leading in and out of New Ross town, and he could not understand why it should be classed as a third-class road.

Mr Shannon stated that he would move, at next meeting of the Council, that the Ministry of Local Government (Roads Department) be requested to schedule the road from Newtownbarry to New Ross as a trunk or main road.

Application for Permission to erect House on Roadside.

John Connick, Poulpeasty, Clonroche district, submitted letters from the Parish Priest and Curate that he had to leave the house he was in at present, and asked for the permission of the Council to erect a house on a vacant plot in Tominearly Lane, which, he held, would not interfere with the travelling surface of the road.

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

"That the County Surveyor be directed to inspect and report relative to the application of John Connick to erect a dwellinghouse in Tominearly Lane, Clonroche".

Ballinaboola Quarry.

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

"The County Surveyor reported that, on 4th February, 1924, while the breaker was working in Ballinaboola Quarry, six men, whose names would be given by Mr Jones, Assistant Surveyor, arrived at the place, and ordered the work to be stopped because they were not getting employment. The driver of the breaker did not mind their order, so they knocked the belt off the wheel and stopped the engine. They remained in the quarry from 11 a.m. to 6 in the evening and would not allow any work to be carried out. The ganger was unable to telegraph but reported the matter to Mr Jones, who informed him. He (County Surveyor) went across to the quarry from Enniscorthy, and found the work had been stopped on the 4th Feb. There were seven men, a ganger, and a horse and cart held up. The ganger was a brother of two of those who were engaged in the hold-up. He saw one of the Murphy's, who had been at the hold-up and told him he would report the matter to the Finance and Roads Committee. Whatever grievances they had, they had put themselves absolutely in the wrong by holding up the work. They made a good deal of complaint of men being employed from other districts in the quarry. There

might be a certain amount of grievance with the Murphy's, as four of them were originally employed in Carrigbyrne Quarry when the quarry was opened; one brother was acting as ganger in Carrigbyrne *byrne* he had given some small jobs to another.

Mr Jones, Assistant Surveyor, said the men, who were engaged in the hold-up, were :-

Patrick Murphy, Joseph Murphy, Thomas O'Rourke, Patrick Carroll, John Doyle, James McGrath.

They had complained that the Secretary of the Local Branch of the Transport Union had put himself down for employment with other members in order to put them out.

Patrick Murphy and Thomas O'Rourke attended the Finance and Roads Committee meeting at this stage.

The Chairman asked them if they considered themselves justified in what they had done in Ballinaboola Quarry.

Murphy, in reply, said that want would drive a man to do a great many things.

O'Rourke said they were entitled to get a job, and they were driven to do what they had done in order to call attention to their grievances.

Mr Vennard, Organiser of the Transport Union, explained that the grievance in Ballinaboola District appeared to be that Henry Neill, the Local Secretary, Transport Union, had selected himself and two other men for employment under the County Council behind the back of the Branch. He had gone into the matter, and the two men present to-day had refused to accept the positions which would be vacated by the dismissals of the other two men.

Mr John O'Byrne held that it would be better that the Union had no say in the selection of men. The Union should confine itself to saying whether men were or were not Trade Unionists, and the officials of the Council could then find out the various circumstances of each case, preference being given to married men, or men with dependents, or men living convenient to the quarry or road.

After considerable discussion, the following recommendation was adopted on the motion of John O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Hayes:-

'That the County Council be recommended, in the special circumstances, attending the interference with the work of the Council at Ballinaboola Quarry, on the 4th February, 1924, as some of the men concerned have expressed sorrow for their action, not to take any proceedings against those concerned'".

On the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Hayes, the foregoing recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was confirmed.

Road, 18R. -----

In connection with proposed prosecution of Patrick Kennedy, Ballyvergin, Foulksmills, who had interfered with work on road, 18R, the following resolution was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr James Byrne, and adopted:-

"That, if Patrick Kennedy, Ballyvergin, Foulksmills, furnishes the County Council with a written statement, expressing regret for his interference with work on road, 18R, and an undertaking not to interfere with any work of the County Council in future, the prosecution will be withdrawn".

North Parade, Gorey. -----

In connection with the application of Mrs Veney, Gorey, to encroach upon the roadway at North Parade, Gorey, to a small extent, in connection with the building of a new dwelling in substitution for her residence, which was destroyed by the Black-and-Tans, the County Surveyor reported that the encroachment would not, in any way, interfere with the travelling surface of the thoroughfare. He was in favour of the application being granted.

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

"That the application of Mrs Veney to be allowed to encroach to a small extent upon the roadway at North Parade, Gorey, be agreed to, as the County Surveyor reports that the encroachment would not interfere with the travelling surface of the thoroughfare".

Workman and Transport Union.

Under date 11th February, 1924, the following letter was read from Mr Moses Kenny, Bloomfield, Enniscorthy, who had been dismissed from employment on the roads as not being a member of the Transport Union:-

"As Mr Vennard seems to be Boss of the County Council, it would be useless for me to attend your meeting to-day, as Mr Kehoe and Mr Reddy, Enniscorthy Transport Union, are prepared to make any statement that suits, and are extremely unreasonable. I offered them, through the deputation, 4/- out of each payment; they absolutely refused.

"I was owed £6:13:10 when dismissed two weeks ago, and have only received £1:16:11 out of that sum.

"What I would ask you to do to-day is to kindly reinstate me in my position, as I can get no other employment and means hunger for a wife and five children in mid-winter".

Mr Hall mentioned that it was stated at the Enniscorthy Rural District Council meeting that Kenny was prepared to pay 1/- per week to discharge his arrears, and he (Mr Hall) could not understand why that proposal was not accepted.

Mr James Byrne proposed that Moses Kenny be reinstated in his position as workman of the County Council.

The Chairman seconded the motion which was passed.

Hedges.

Under date 5th February, 1924, the following letter was read from Mr W F Barry, County Surveyor:-

"I want to get authority from the Council to have proceedings taken against the following persons for refusal to cut hedges after having received 'Ten Day Notice':-

On road 317E- Commdt. Ryan, Merton, Macmine, Enniscorthy and
John Munny, Macmine, Enniscorthy.

On road 6E.- John Rothwell, Farmleigh, Enniscorthy."

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

"That prosecutions be instituted against the following for refusal to cut their hedges:-

On road, 317E - Commdt. Ryan, Merton, Macmine, Enniscorthy, and
John Munny, Macmine, Enniscorthy;

On road 6E.- John Rothwell, Farmleigh, Enniscorthy."

Statement of Salaries.

A statement of salaries, as requested by Mr O'Donoghue, was submitted to the meeting.

The following letter, under date 9th February, 1924, was read from Mr R W Elgee, Solicitor to the Council:-

"Having regard to the decision of Mr Justice Crampton in re County Officers and terms of the Local Officers and Employees Order, 1923, I am of opinion that once the County Council have fixed a salary for a County Official, and made an appointment at that salary, they have no power to reduce such salary except for misconduct on the official's part."

No Order.

34
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Proposals for Payment.

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

"That the several Proposals for Payment for salaries
and other items of expenditure; also, transfers to Public
Bodies, financed by the County Council, and as recommended by the
Proposal Committee, be and are hereby agreed to".

The remaining items on the agenda paper were not disposed
of owing to the lateness of the hour.

Comm. Proposed

W - 3. 1924