

The monthly meeting of Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortineau, Wexford on 8th February, 1926.

The following were in attendance:-

Mrs J. Mac Carthy, Chairmen, (presiding) also Messrs William Boggan, Patrick Byrne, James Clinie, Michael Cloney, Patrick Colfer, John Connor, Thomas Cooney, Richard Conish, Michael Doyle, James Gault, L. Rossini, John Pender, James Stalb, Patrick Hayes, Daniel Kavanagh, Aidan Twynagh, Nicholas J. Murphy, John O'Byrne, Mr. M. O'Donoghue, James Shannon, William Thope, James E. Walsh, John White, Colonel C. W. Gilson and Colonel R. P. Wemyss Esq.

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

Mr. Elger, Solicitor, was absent owing to illness.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Farmer's Union - Deputation Re Rate for 1926-27.

Under date 30th January, 1926, the following was read from Mr. P. Higgins, District Secretary, Farmer's Union, Parklawn, Co. Y:-

"I beg to inform you that a deputation of members of the Farmer's Union, all large ratepayers and myself, will wait on your County Council at their office in Wexford at their next meeting on Monday 8th February re the striking of the new Rate. Please obtain permission of your Council to receive us and oblige."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Colonel Gilson:-

"That deputation from Farmer's Union be heard by this meeting."

Mr. Higgins stated that the deputation came to the Council to point out the necessity, in consequence of the depressed condition of agriculture, to give a substantial reduction in local rates for the coming financial year. Farmers were suffering by the importation of Canadian cattle, and, in the town of the County particularly there had been severe and extended loss owing to Fluke disease. The deputation could not of course be as familiar with local administration as Councillors who were sitting there monthly and dealing with the various phases of administration. They suggested that third, fourth and fifth class roads, which were now in a satisfactory condition, could do without material for the coming year or with half the normal supply. He did not complain in any way as to the manner in which road and quarry men carried out their work. They considered salaries were out of proportion to what they were in 1914 and 1920 and they suggested that the salaried officers of the Council should agree to a voluntary reduction in their salaries. He considered these officers should agree to a "cut" without undue pressure. The deputation did not say to the Council that a certain rate should be struck and no more - neither did they say they would not pay any rate but if a high rate be struck great difficulty would be experienced in its collection and if force were used it would lead to friction and chaos. The deputation expected that when the Council went into everything they would give a reasonable and substantial reduction in the rates.

Mr. H. H. Moore, Knocklawn, Dub., considered that everyone connected with the Council should bear their share of the general depression. He did not think it was necessary that specially

surveys should be supplied with motor cars. The deputation did not come in any hostile spirit and his voice would never be heard complaining if he could afford to pay the Rates.

Mr Earle, Tara Hill, stated that in the past Rate collection received only 3d in the £.

The Chairman said this was a mistake: a poundage fee of 7d in the £ had been always paid by the Council.

Mr Earle also complained that Tara Hill Quarry was not working. A high rate would not - because it could not - be paid.

Mr Tomkins, Seaview, Ballygarrett and Mr Frederick Earle, Kilmuckish, supported the views of the other members of the deputation.

Colonel Quinn said the deputation had the entire sympathy of the Council the members of which had done their best since they were elected to administer the business of the County with the greatest economy and would continue to do so.

The Chairman thanked the deputation which had met the Council in a reasonable spirit. He promised them that the suggestions which they had made would receive the most careful consideration. He could not hold out any hope that they would be able to make a substantial reduction in the Rates but consistent with efficiency the Council would do its best.

Mr Tuohy and Mr Higgins thanked the Council for the manner in which the deputation had been received.

Tourist Proposed Rate.

Under date 1st February, 1926, Mr. J. P. O'Brien, B.A. Secretary Irish Tourist Association, wrote bringing the notice of the County Council to the desirability of allocating in its Rate Estimates for the coming year a small rate for advertising Tourist Resorts.

It was decided, on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Doyle: - "That a deputation from Irish Tourist Association (Messrs J. P. O'Brien, Dublin and Mr. James Smith, Golf Hotel, Rosslare) be heard."

Mr O'Brien addressed the meeting in favour of the proposal and read letter from the Minister of Local Government in which it was pointed out that the time was ripe for retrenchment in local administration and the balance of trade was no longer in favour of Ireland, one way to recover the balance of trade in our favour would be by the development of Tourist traffic which if properly dealt with would help to reduce taxation.

Mr O'Brien pointed out that the large revenue which would be derived from Tourist traffic would help to keep the roads in an efficient condition.

It was decided that the matter be referred to special meeting of County Council to be held on 22nd February.

Self Protection League.

The following was read from Mr. Mr. Parker, Hon., Sec., Self Protection League, under

date 9th January, 1926:-

"at a convention of above held in Ennis county on January 4th instant the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Council of Wexford be requested to withhold the striking of the current rate until February and unless same was done this League will repudiate any rate struck which shall be considered not just and equitable."

Colonel Gibbon proposed and Mr Doyle seconded the following:- "That the Hon., Sec., of the Self Protection League be informed that their resolution relative to Rate for 1926-27 was before the County Council. The latter require further explanation and would be glad to receive a deputation from them. That our Secretary be instructed to invite the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon., Sec., and executive to the Association to attend the meeting of the County Council at which the general estimate of Rate would be considered."

It was decided that the County Council hold a special meeting on 22nd February, 1926 at 10.30 a.m., and that Roads Committee be held on same day at 2.30 p.m., the special meeting of County Council to consider the recommendations of Finance and Roads Committees relative to Roads and General estimates of Rate."

Transfer of Powers to County Board of Health.

Under date 19th January, 1926, the Housing Department (Local Government Department) wrote (H.213/3560/1926 Miscellaneous) that as the powers and duties of the County Council under the Labourers Acts (other than those relating to the raising of loans) would be exercisable by the Board of Health, the Council would be well advised to execute an order under their seal in pursuance of sub section 3 of section 10 of the Local Government Act of 1925 - transferring to the Board of Health all cottages and plots or gardens and lands provided under the Labourers Acts together with all rents due and unpaid at the date of transfer in respect of the property.

A suggested order was enclosed with this communication.

A discussion took place as to the action of the Board of Health in making a rule that all incoming tenants of cottages should give security in the sum of £5 as to the payment of their rent.

Mr Clony proposed and Mr Shannon seconded the following resolution:-

"The Council of the County of Wexford in exercise of the powers vested in them by subsection (3) of section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1925, hereby transfer to the County Board of Public Health for the County Health district of Wexford all cottages and plots or gardens provided under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1919 by the Council of any rural district in the said County Health district and all lands provided by the Council of any such rural district for any of the purposes of the said Labourers (Ireland) Acts, and also all rents due and unpaid at the date of this Order in respect of any of the said cottages, plots, gardens or lands."

As an amendment Mr Rossini proposed and Mr P. Byrne seconded the following:- "That the adoption of Order under subsection 3 of section 10 of Local Government Act, 1925, transferring the powers of County Council (other than borrowing powers) under Labourers

(Ireland) Acts 1883 to 1919 to the County Wexford Board of Health be adjourned to next meeting only, in the meantime, that the solicitor to the County Council be requested to advise as to the legality of the action of the County Wexford Board of Health in deciding that incoming tenants of labourer's cottages should furnish security in the sum of £5 without having obtained the sanction of the County Council to this proposal.

A show of hands was taken on the amendment when it was found that 15 were in favour.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried.

Transfer Guaranteed Stock.

Under date 6th February, 1926, the following was read from the Secretary to Board of Health:-

"The Wexford Rural District Council held 2 3/4 % Guaranteed Land Stock in connection with their Cottage Insurance Fund, and since their abolition one Dividend Warrant has been sent and signed by me and duly lodged to the credit of the account which replaced that of the Council.

The Bank of Ireland, who issues the Warrant, wrote asking for our authority, and I replied pointing out the Local Government Act. To this they sent a reply copy of which is enclosed.

From this it is apparently necessary for the County Council to transfer this property to the Board of Health by resolution so that the Dividends may be made out in their name.

"The amount of Stock held is £226:13:3d."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Cloney, seconded by Mr. Shannon:-

"The County Council of Wexford in exercise of the power vested in them by subsection (3) of section 10 of the Local Government Act 1925, hereby transfer to the County Board of Health for the County Health District of Wexford the 2 3/4 % Guaranteed Land Stock held by late Wexford Rural District Council and empower said Board of Health to receive all dividend warrants in connection with same."

Road Grants.

Under date 1st February, 1926, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (R. 71/19) that a payment of £350 had been made for Emiscorby Urban Council under Grant of £500 (quarrying, stone breaking &c).

Under date 3rd February, 1926, the Department of Local Government wrote (S. & R. 132) that a payment of £333 5 had been made to the County Council on foot of grant £15,660 on L. 12 Works No. C. 854.

A communication (S. & R. 132) under date 1st February, 1926, was also read from the Department of Local Government approving of forth scheme for the expenditure of £1,200 proposed to be carried out in New Ross Urban District (Road L. 12 Works No. C. 856).

Cartaker out jail.

Under date 1st February, 1926, the Department of Local Government wrote

(G. 60350/25 Wexford County) that no objection would be raised to the proposed payment of wages at the rate of £1 per week to Mr Francis Wadding, caretaker of the old jail.

Tuberculosis Scheme

Under date 30th January, 1926, the Department of Local Government wrote (P.H. 4355/1926 Wexford C.B.H.) relative to dental arrangements in connection with the County Tuberculosis Scheme. The letter in question pointed out that the name of Mrs O'Gorman, whom it was proposed to employ in connection with dental arrangements for Lory, did not appear on the Dentists' Register for 1925, that dental arrangements had been sanctioned only to the 31st December 1925 and that it would be advisable to obtain quotation from local dental surgeons in regard to multiple extractions as more favourable terms for such operations than prevailed in Wexford Co. had been secured in connection with other Tuberculosis Schemes.

It was decided to refer the matter to the County Board of Health to take any necessary action in the matter.

Application Increased Pension Dr. S. V. O'Connor.

Under date 4th February, 1926, the following letter (P. 3153/26 Wexford Co) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"With reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo in regard to the claim of Dr. S. V. O'Connor in connection with the pension granted to him in consideration of his services as medical officer, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to point out that the order determining the amount of the superannuation allowance payable to Dr. O'Connor is binding on the County Council and they cannot legally pay a greater allowance than that determined by the Minister."

"I am to add that the expression 'any County Scheme' in Section 11(4) of the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1923, clearly includes an existing County Scheme since it refers to allowances granted to officers of a local authority before the passing of that Act."

Relief Grants.

Mr. Doyle raised the question of the County Council making application for some of the government relief grant fund. Wexford had suffered as much, if not more, than other Counties, from agricultural depression and while very large sums had been obtained by other Counties so scheme — had been put up from Wexford which would be obliged to pay its share of the distribution. He proposed:- That the County Council call upon the Government to allocate money from their Relief Grant Funds for the County Wexford and that the County Surveyor be directed to prepare suitable schemes to be submitted to the Department of Local Government."

Mr. Thorne seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Mr. Jasper Whitty, Late Assistant Clerk to Emancipatory R.D. Council.

Under date 27th January, 1926, the following (G. 55923/1926 Wexford Co Council) was read from Department of Local Government:-

Adverting to your letter of the 25th November last notifying the transfer to the County Board of Health of Messrs A. A. Connolly and Jasper Whitty late Clerk and Assistant Clerk respectively to the Enniserry Rural District Council, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state it is considered that Mr. Connolly's services should be quite sufficient for the work to be performed."

Proposed by Mr. Conish, seconded by Mr. Roscilli and adopted: - "That the letter of Local Government Department (S. 515923/1926 Wexford County Council 21st January 1926), as to dispensing with the services of Mr. Jasper Whitty be referred to County Wexford Board of Health in whose service Mr. Jasper Whitty now is, and that said Board be asked to report on the matter to the County Council."

Position of Mr. James Hall, Co. Councillor.

The following letter under date 3rd February, 1926 (S. 59348/26 Wexford County) was read from Department of Local Government: -

"In reply to your letter of the 16th December last regarding the position of Mr. James Hall as County Councillor, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he has no jurisdiction in regard to the disqualification of persons for being members of a County Council and has no power to dispense with or authorise the waiver of the statutory provisions relating thereto."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr. O. Donoghue: -

"That, as it appears from the letter of Department of Local Government of 3rd February, 1926 (S. 59348/1926 Wexford County), the question of retention of Mr. James Hall as County Councillor rests with this Council we hereby decide to retain Mr. Hall as County Councillor as he is a very valued member of our body. That no further action be taken by this Council as regards the question of the disqualification of Mr. Hall."

Afforestation.

Under date 13th January, 1926, the Department of Agriculture wrote (1650/F) that as the result of the inspection of Foch Mountain the Department had learned that the unenclosed Mountain land of this area is claimed as a common by the people of the neighbourhood. Before afforestation could be undertaken the Department would have to fence the portion proposed to be planted and to obtain sufficient title to the land. So far they had not been able to ascertain the names of persons with whom they could negotiate for the acquisition of this land. They would appreciate any views which the Council might offer as to the steps which could usefully be taken to secure such a title as would enable planting to be considered as a practical proposition. The Department had 90 acres planted in Co. Wexford out of a total of 31,578 acres required for afforestation.

It was decided that the matter be referred to the Forestry Committee of Co. Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction which is to meet on 1st March.

New Ross R.D. School Attendance Committee.

A communication was read from the Department of Education that the following had been appointed School Attendance Committee for New Ross R.D. Council area to serve as from 14th December 1925.

Appointed by Co. Council:— Messrs Wm. Thorpe, Mr. Cloney, and J. E. Walsh, County Councillors. Patrick Condon, Meelgarow, Clonroche and Martin O'Brien, High Hill, New Ross.

Appointed by Department of Education:— Very Rev. Canon Rossiter P.P. New Ross, Rev. J. Redmond, P.P. Honeswood, Campile, Rev. D. Hore C.C., Lerrath, New Ross, Rev. L. Kinsella, C.C., Honeswood and Rev. W. Gibson L.L.D., New Ross.

Cruelty to Animals

Under date 25th January, 1926, the Department of Agriculture wrote (L. 4246-25) forwarding poster dealing with cruelty and damage to animals. The Department stated they would be glad if local authorities would assist the prevention of cruelty and damage to animals by giving the widest publicity possible by having the poster displayed throughout their administration areas.

Mr. Thorpe said that a good deal of damage was done cattle by loading them into railway wagons owing to defective facilities. In stations at which pens were provided the pens were occupied by something else or the wagons could not be brought opposite the pens. If the Railway Companies would provide two strong gates which could be hinged on to the sides of Railway wagons in the form of a V, cattle could be properly loaded and very little damage would happen.

Mr. Thorpe then proposed:— That we request the Department of Agriculture to furnish this County Council with 50 copies of Poster dealing with cruelty and damage to animals. That the Department of Agriculture be requested to call the attention of Railway Companies to the necessity of providing for their stations within County hinged barriers about ten feet long which could be hinged on to railway wagons, which would greatly facilitate the loading of cattle into wagons, and, also, prevent a great deal of the cruelty which is now carried on in the endeavour to drive cattle from Railway Station platforms into wagons.

Finance Committee.

The following minutes of meeting of Finance Committee of 21st January, 1926, were submitted:—

The fortnightly meeting of Finance Committee was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortnew, Wexford on the 21st January 1926.

Present:— J. Mrs. Corry (Chairman) presiding: also Messrs J. Saub, P. Hayes, and William Thorpe.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the County Surveyor and Mr. Elgee, solicitor were in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

Apology for Non-Attendance.

A letter was read from Colonel Sutton apologising for his absence from meeting in consequence of having to attend a meeting in Dublin, in connection with business relative to Sugar Beet Factory.

Payments.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4909-17-11 was examined and signed.

Combined Purchasing Act.

In connection with appointment of representative to confer with Department of Local Government (Trade Dept.) on the 28th inst. relative to the preparation of prescribed list of commodities required by local authorities for period commencing 1st April next, it was agreed that the County Surveyor should attend on behalf of Wexford County Council.

Rate Collection.

The Secretary submitted the state of the Rate Collection from which it appears that the following percentages of second money had been collected: - Cruise 17: Sutton 2: Walsh 4: Smith P. J. 6: The Archy 3: Kelly Tr. 19: O'Byrne 3: Gammon 2: Cummins W. 6: Donohoe 5: Heilly 9: Kelly J. J. 5: Fitzpatrick 5: Smith J. J. 6: Murphy E. 15: Rowe 5: Murphy James 1: Carter 7: and Cleary 8.

The following resolution was adopted: -

That we inform the Rate Collectors that the Finance Committee are very much dissatisfied with the progress of the collection. The Committee will insist on drastic steps being taken in the case of any collector who has not lodged 25 per cent. of his collection by the 31st of this month. They will also require the collectors to close their warrants by 31st March next. The Committee have warned the collectors at meeting after meeting but the majority of them appear to pay no attention to their duties.

Collector James Murphy; No 19 District.

Under date 15th January 1926, the following was read from Mr James Murphy Collector for No 19 District: -

"I would thank you to submit to your Council my application for my reinstatement as Rate Collector. As you are aware, I have lodged to the credit of the Council all the money ascertained to have been withheld by me. Whilst regretting exceedingly my action, I earnestly desire to assure the Council that I was not actuated by any dishonest motive. I have no desire to minimise the seriousness of my action, but at the same time, feel that the Council will be disposed to deal leniently with me, having regard to the amount of poundage due to me which I intend to apply in clearing up the sums temporarily withheld.

Should the Council exercise their clemency on my behalf, I desire to assure them that I will in future endeavour to the best of my ability to retrieve the past and discharge the duties of my position, including the

collection of the rates to the entire satisfaction of the Council."

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Hayes seconded by Mr. Slope and adopted, the Chairman and Mr. O'Byrne dissenting:—"That the County Council be requested to rescind the resolution dispensing with the services of Mr. James Murphy as Rate Collector for 1919 collection district and reinstate Mr. Murphy on probation - this to be subject to the sanction of the Local Government Department and the Guarantee Society." The County Council were also recommended to apply to the Department of Local Government for permission to pay the poundage fee on amount of money which had been collected by Mr. Murphy.

Payment of Poundage.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Hayes:—"That as the Wexford Rate Collectors have no occupation or means beyond their positions, we recommend the County Council to request the Local Government Department to allow payment of poundage monthly to the extent of 7½ per cent. of amounts collected and lodged in cases in which Finance Committee are satisfied that the Collectors are satisfactorily discharging their duties."

Rates on Banting Commons.

Under date 14th December 1925, the following letter was read from Mr. R. J. Keogh, Secretary, Carlow County Council.

"I have been directed by my Council to bring under the notice of your Council the hardship inflicted on ratepayers in County Carlow having grazing rights on the Blackstairs and White Mountains; it would appear that their sheep are liable to be seized by your rate collector for rates due to your Council the moment they cross into County Wexford and as fencing is out of the question, the grazing rights will be of little value should your rate collector take such action, which will result in a loss to my Council, as naturally the owners will refuse to pay rates for such grazing rights."

Perhaps your Council would see its way to direct its collector not to seize the sheep of Carlow ratepayers when engaged on a "border foray," and my Council will reciprocate.

The following resolution was agreed to:—

"That the Secretary, Carlow County Council be informed that as regards collection of rates on Banting Commons, the Finance Committee would not be prepared to interfere with the discretion of their rate collector."

Claim - Income Tax.

Income Tax Collector applied for payments of 16/6 under Schedule A in connection with Courstown Harbour.

The following resolution was adopted:— That the Co. Council be recommended to pay under protest 16/6, amounts demanded for Income Tax on property at Courstown Harbour, (Schedule A).

Claim Poundkeeper Ennisconny.

Under date 6th January 1926, the following letter was read from Messrs. Huggard,

r Brennan, Solicitors:-

"We are instructed by Mr Thomas O'Brien, Ennis coachy that there are two years fees due to him amounting to £20 as Poundkeeper. Our client is in urgent need of this money and we shall be glad therefore if you will kindly let us have cheque for same at once.

Owing to depression of business, he is unable to earn very much and he is being pressed for payment of debts. He has a wife and six children all under 10 years of age to support so you see it is very desirable that he should be paid promptly.

Proceedings have been instituted against him under the Enforcement of Law occasional Powers Act, under which, as you are probably aware, the District Justice has very drastic powers and can commit a man to jail.

Under these circumstances, we shall be glad if you will have the matter taken up at once and let us have cheque.

Mr. Elgee, solicitor, to whom this letter had been referred wrote that Mr O'Brien had not been appointed by the County Council. He had asked Messrs Sugrue & Brennan to inform him of the date of appointment and the name of the person who paid last amount of salary to Mr O'Brien.

It was decided that consideration of the claim be adjourned for further information.

County Infirmary Buildings - Lease to Dr. Furlong.

Under date 7th January 1926, the following letter from Messrs O'Flaherty & Son, Solicitors, Wexford to Mr Elgee was read:-

"With reference to the Draft Lease in this case, as already mentioned, we do not think it reasonable that Dr. Furlong should be asked to keep the premises in any better repair than they are at present.

We would, however, be prepared to advise him to agree to the ordinary repair covenant in the lease provided it is confined to the Infirmary proper and not to the out-offices, as the out-offices are at present and, were when Dr. Furlong went into possession, in a very bad state of repair, and unless these are put into good and substantial repair by your clients before the lease is signed, it is not reasonable to bind Dr. Furlong to keep them in such repair."

In forwarding this letter, Mr Elgee wrote that the ordinary covenant in the lease which it was proposed to make to Dr. Furlong was to keep the premises in the same state as they now were.

He (Mr Elgee) considered this reasonable as Dr. Furlong had been given at a very low rent.

The following resolution was adopted:- That Messrs O'Flaherty & Son, solicitors be informed that as the old Infirmary buildings were let to Dr. Furlong on very favourable terms the Committee could not recommend the Council to make any

alterations in the conditions of the letting. The Council should direct that the lease be executed without further delay."

Bills of Costs.

Under date 8th January 1926, the following letter, (No. 959915/1926 Wexford County Board of Health (S.A.)) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and, Public Health to return Solicitor Caulfield's Bill of Costs which and to state that if he fails to come to terms with the Council this bill should be submitted for taxation by the Taxing Master and opposed by the Council on hearing."

A copy of a letter from the County Board of Health on the subject is enclosed, but the liability as an undischarged debt of the late Wexford Rural District Council on the 1st of October last appears to be one for the County Council."

In a letter to the Department under date 19th Dec. 1925, the Secretary County Board of Health wrote that in September last the Board of Health had offered Mr Caulfield £300 in settlement. Mr Caulfield had refused this offer and asked for £750. At the meeting of the County Board of Health in November last Mr Caulfield had been offered £400 basing their offer on Bills of Costs from the Solicitors in Gorey and Enniscorthy. This offer Mr Caulfield also refused.

It was decided to refer the matter to Mr Elger, solicitor for report.

A Bill of Costs for £17:16:0 for preparation of Lease for Gorey Dispensary by Messrs O'Flaherty & Son, Solicitors Enniscorthy and which was an undischarged liability of the late Gorey Guardians was forwarded for consideration by the Secretary County Board of Health.

Referred to Mr. Elger, solicitor for report.

Weights & Measures Act.

Under date 16th January 1926, the following was read from Sergeant Somers, Civil Guard, Ex-officio Inspector of Weights and Measures:-

The Department of Industry and Commerce have arranged to reprint from the Irish Trade Journal, the notices published therein, as to the issue of Certificates under Weights & Measures Act 1904 section 6.

I am directed to inform you that the cost of reprinting these notices will be borne by the County Council and that a note of the amount payable for these notices will be forwarded to you at the end of each financial year, as the amounts would appear trifling to collect monthly."

It was decided to recommend the C. Council to pay their proportion of the cost of reprints of notices published by Department of Industry and Commerce under section 6 of Weights and Measures Act 1904.

Weights & Measures Office, New Ross.

In connection with Weights & Measures Office for New Ross, the following was read from Sergeant Somers, Civil Guard, Ex-officio Inspector of Weights &

Measures:-

I beg to state that as the resumption of Weights & measures duty in New Ross Court District is now long overdue, I intend with the sanction of your Council to take over an office in the house of Mr. J. Stephenson, Priory Street, New Ross. This gentleman will rent the office (with fuel and light supplied by him) at 10/- per week. The office will of course be only a temporary one.

It was decided that the County Council be recommended to accept the proposal to rent temporary Weights & measures office from Mr. J. Stephenson, Priory Street, New Ross at 10/- per week, Mr. Stephenson to supply coal and light.

University Scholarship Scheme.

In connection with University Scholarship Scheme to Mr. S. J. Furlong and which it was proposed to withdraw unless he passed in certain subjects at supplemental examinations, the Secretary stated that the next supplemental examinations would not be held until March. In the meantime College fees for four years in Agriculture and amounting to £22:2:0 were due.

It was decided that these College fees be paid.

Application by Mrs. J. Hayes, Lale Port Co. Wexford Infirmary

Mrs. Hayes applied for the sum of £3:3:4 being difference between the amount paid to her husband, the late Mr. J. Hayes, by Co. Infirmary Committee for 3 months ended 30th June 1923, viz: - £10 and the amount of the pension to which Mr. Hayes was entitled for the three months, viz: - £3:3:4.

It was pointed out that Mr. Hayes had use of the lodge at the County Infirmary from the Infirmary Committee for 1 month.

It was decided that the sum of 10/- be deducted from claim in respect of use of lodge for one month, and that the balance of account, viz: - £2:13:4 be paid subject to the sanction of Local Est. Department.

Claim Mrs. Hayes, County Infirmary.

Under date 10th January 1926, Mrs. E. Hayes late Female Searcher, County Wexford Infirmary wrote asking the Finance Committee to reconsider her application for a pension on the abolition of her office. Her husband was now dead so that she had lost her only means of support. She hoped the Council would see their way to grant her something.

It was decided that the Council be asked to reconsider the question as to whether Mrs. Hayes (who was paid £5 per annum as female searcher in County Infirmary) held a pensionable office.

Checking of Rate Collectors' Books.

The following resolution was adopted:-

'That, in view of the fact that the Public Bodies Order 1925 permits of the appointment of more than one Rate Inspector we recommend the Co. Council to retain the service of the officials who act in this capacity up to the issue of Public

Bodies order, and at a remuneration not in excess of that paid annually for this work in the past."

Finance Committee - Meeting 4th February 1926.

Present: - Mr J. Mc Carthy, Chairman, presiding, also Messrs Thorpe, Gaul, Hayes, John O'Byrne,

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

Privilege of members.

Mr Patrick Hayes raised the point that Rate Estimate which was to be considered at present meeting was adjourned to convenience Colonel Gibbon who could not attend. He wanted to know if every member was entitled to the same privilege.

Mr. Thorpe stated that Colonel Gibbon was Vice-Chairman of the Council and that it was important to have him in attendance at such an important meeting as one called for consideration of Rate Estimate.

Mr. O'Byrne enquired who was empowered to call a meeting of the Council.

The Assistant Secretary replied that the Chairman of the Council or any five members were so empowered.

The Chairman stated the Secretary communicated with him regarding Col. Gibbon's request for adjournment and pointed out that Col. Gibbon would be at a meeting about But. Factory and at other meetings in connection with public matters in Dublin on Thursday and that it would not mean any inconvenience if the request was acceded to.

The Chairman stated he agreed to Col. Gibbon's request in the circumstances, and as the postponement meant no inconvenience he thought the matter might be allowed to drop.

Rate Collection.

The Assistant Secretary submitted the state of Rate Collection showing the following percentages as having been lodged by Collectors on second moiety of current rate:-

J. Burke 31: Mr Kelly 26: S. Gannon 25: E. J. Murphy 24: J. Cummins 20: Mr Deegan 18:
P. J. Simons 17: J. Sutton 17: B. Clary 17: Thomas Rowe 16: J. J. O'Reilly 15: J. Curtis 14:
G. Mc Carthy 14: J. J. Kelly 13: W. Cummins 13: Patrick Donohoe 11: P. Fitzpatrick 10:
J. J. Simons 9: Patrick Walsh 8: Patrick O'Byrne 6: and James Murphy 1.

The amount of first moiety outstanding was £3347 and second moiety £63176.
Total £66523

The meeting considered the state of the collection as most unsatisfactory as Collectors had been instructed to have at least 25 % of their collection lodged by 31st January.

It was decided on the motion of the Chairman that Collectors who had not carried out the Council's instructions be informed that the Council view with grave dissatisfaction the very small amount of the second moiety of Rate collected and warn all backward collectors, particularly those who have

lodged under 208 that the Council must take drastic steps unless immediate improvements be shown in their collections and substantial lodgments made by the date of next Finance meeting, on the 18th inst.

Defaulting Ratepayer.

A letter was read from Collector O'Reilly regarding a case in his area in which a ratepayer owed £26:8:9 rate and £1:12:0 costs in respect of rates from March 1921 to March 1925. The man in question had no means of paying unless he sold his farm which he intended to put up for auction early in February. He wanted to know if the Council would require him to take further action as he had obtained decrees against this man for all rates to March 1925. He wished the matter to be considered in Committee as otherwise it might do harm. The only step he had not taken was to apply for imprisonment of the defaulter and perhaps the Council might think this course too drastic.

It was decided on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr O'Byrne that the Collector be notified that no further action need be taken in the case for the present and until the sale of the farm has taken place.

Collector James Murphy.

Mr. Finn, Deputy Checker reported that on re-examination of Collector James Murphy's books for 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 rates, he found further sums had been collected and unlodged.

In respect of some of the items, the Collector furnished him with the official receipts, apparently in order, which he stated had become detached from the collecting books.

After allowing for such items the amount ascertained to be due was £16:11:8 of which Murphy had lodged £12:10:0 leaving a balance of £4:1:8 due.

It was decided to call on Murphy to lodge the £4-1-8 forthwith.

The following letter from the Department of Local Government and Public Health was submitted under date 29th Jan. 1926 (No. 93381/1926 Wexford C Council):

"Adverting to the entry in the minutes of the proceedings of the Wexford Council on the 11th inst. regarding Collector James Murphy. I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that having had before him the report of the Deputy Checker and Mr. Murphy's explanation, he approves of and confirms Mr. Murphy's suspension by the Council under Article 99 of the Public Bodies' Order 1925."

The following letter from Messrs The Donagh & Boland Insurance Brokers was submitted:-

"We duly received your letter of the 22nd inst. enclosing extract from minutes of Finance Committee meeting of the 21st inst. and have now had an opportunity of discussing the matter with the Irish National Company. They inform

as that they are quite prepared to keep the Bond in force subject to obtaining a statement from the Finance Committee that Mr. Murphy has lodged to the credit of the Council all monies ascertained to have been held by him. We shall be glad to receive the required statement at your early convenience."

Loss of Collecting Book.

The following was read from Mr. C. Mc Carthy, Rate Collector under date 22nd January 1926:-
"I beg to inform you I lost the St. Helens Rate Book off my bike while I was out collecting the rates. I have made several enquiries since and cannot get any trace of book. Will you please let me know what I will do in the matter."

It was decided that the Collector be instructed to obtain a new book at his own expense and that he advertise for the old book.

Wexford Courthouse - Re Compensation Claim.

The following letter was read from Mr. Elgar, solicitor under date 20th January 1926:-
"Re Wexford Courthouse - with reference to above compensation claim, the Ministry of Finance has now sent me Paying order for £584:19:10 the amount of the unconditional portion of the above award."

The draft is payable to the Treasurer of the County Council, the Secretary, Department of Local Government and Public Health and Captain W. A. Redmond.

The £584:19:10 is made up as follows

Amount of unconditional award	£ 550
Costs	£ 26 : 5 : 0
Interest (less Income Tax)	£ 8 : 14 : 10
	£ 584 : 19 : 10

I saw Captain Redmond yesterday and he informs me that he makes no claim to any part of the amount and has signed the Paying order. I now send it to you so that you may deal with the Local Government Department in the matter.

When the amount has been received, Mr. Wood who was employed by the C. Council to negotiate with the Finance Dept. should be paid his fees amounting in all to £11:5:0 and the £26:5:0 awarded for costs should be paid to me."

It was decided on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Hayes that the sum of £11:5:0 be paid Mr. Wood and £26:5:0 allowed for costs be paid to Mr. Elgar.

Solicitor's Bill of Costs - Gorey R. D. Council.

A Bill of Costs from Mr. O'Harely solicitor for work done for abated Gorey R. D. Council was submitted.

The Bill was certified by Mr. J. J. Fanning, former clerk, Gorey R. D. Council.

It was decided that Bill be submitted to Mr. Elgar for his report.

Application Income Tax - Rose Park.

The following was read from Mr. Elgar under date 29th January 1926; Income Tax on Rose Park:-

"I am in receipt of your letter of 15 days date with demands for Income Tax herein."

with reference thereto I write to say that the Council are liable for the Schedule A tax, amount of the first instalment is apportioned being the sum of £2:4:10 as they are the owners of the property.

As regards the Schedule B Tax for the same period, amounting to the sum of 7/4, this Tax is on the occupation interest in the premises, and as such should be paid by Mr. O'Brien.

It was decided that £2:4:10 due by the Council be paid and that the collector be informed that 7/4 under Schedule B is payable by Mr. O'Brien.

Weights And Measures Inspection.

Letter from the Department of Industry and Commerce (Power Section) 41 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin under date 28th January 1926 as follows was submitted:-

"Following upon the Order made on the 30th ultimo by the Council for Justice under section 9 of the Intoxicating Liquor, (General) Act 1924, all bottles in which beer and stout is sold are now subject to inspection and verification under the Weights and Measures Act.

At the request of the licensed trade, the Council for Justice has prescribed the smaller size of such bottles to be used in trade to be one-third of a pint. This will involve the ordering by the Local authorities of a new standard measure for the set of local standards and for the set or sets of working substandards. For the convenience of the Councils, tenders have been invited from the leading makers of such standards and if your Council desire to avail of the advantages of an inclusive contract and approve of the acceptance on their behalf of the lowest tender, arrangements to that effect can be made by this department.

The standards when made will be carefully examined and tested by an officer of the Department.

The following tenders have been received for a standard hemispherical cylindrical measure of equal depth and diameter, capacity one-third pint, engraved with denomination, provided with glass striking discs and contained in polished mahogany box suitably lined, fitted with lock and key, price not to hold good unless a substantial number be ordered:-

Overbury Ltd. London	£6
W. & J. H. Birmingham	£5:15:0
De Goo, Ltd. London	£5:12:6

It was decided on the motion of Mr. O'Brien seconded by Mr. Thorpe that the Department of Industry and Commerce be informed that the Council are in favour of the department's arrangements for an inclusive contract and approve of the acceptance on their behalf of the lowest tender, and that the Superintendent of the Civil Guard be requested to state the number of the new standard measures which will be required for the County Council standards and substandards.

The Chairman proposed and Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded the following:-

"That recommendations of Finance Committee in respect of meetings of 21st January, 1926 and 17th February, 1926 be and are hereby confirmed."

Mr Hayes proposed and Mr Lamb seconded:-

"That in view of the fact that Mr James Murphy Rati Collector for No. 19 Collection District has now lodged all monies for which he did not account to Deputy Rati Clerk to be re-instated as Insurance Company are satisfied to allow his fidelity guarantee bonds to remain in force."

a show of hands was taken with the result that nine were in favour of proposition of Mr. Hayes and 14 against.

The Chairman declared the proposal lost.

Mr Thorpe proposed and Mr Whyte seconded:- "That Rati Collector for No. 19 Collection District be appointed at next meeting of the Council poundage fees to be 6d in the £."

Mr O'Sonoghue proposed and Mr Cloney seconded the following:- "That Rati Collector for No. 19 Collection District be appointed at next meeting of the County Council and that poundage fees be fixed at 4d."

a vote was taken as between a poundage fee of 6d and 4d.

The following was the result:-

For Sixpence - Messrs P. Byrne, Colpe, Conry, O'Neil, Rossiter, Pender, Lamb, Hayes, Ternagh, Sean O'Byrne, Colonel O'Connell, Thorpe, Walsh, Whyte and the Chairman. - 15.

For Fourpence:- Messrs Cloney, Doyle, Gibbon, Hall, Kavanagh, Murphy and O'Sonoghue - 7.

Messrs Boggan, Clinici, Connors, and Shannon were not present.

The Chairman declared the amendment to allow 4d in the £ as poundage fees lost.

a vote was then taken as between 6d and 4d as poundage fees with the following result:-

For Sixpence - Messrs Cloney, Doyle, Gibbon, Hall, Kavanagh, Murphy, O'Sonoghue, Quinn, Thorpe, Walsh, Whyte and the Chairman 12.

For Sixpence. Messrs P. Byrne, Colpe, Conry, O'Neil, Rossiter, Pender, Lamb, Hayes, Ternagh and Sean O'Byrne - 10.

Messrs Boggan, Clinici, Connors and Shannon, were not present when the vote was taken.

The Chairman declared the resolution to allow 6d in the £ carried.

After the adjournment for lunch, Mr Shannon complained that some members who were absent when vote as to poundage fees was taken had been given to understand that only Drainage Committee's Report and Report of Scholarship Committee would be taken before lunch.

The Chairman said the matter had been raised by a member and he took full responsibility for allowing the discussion and for taking the vote. If any member

was dissatisfied he could hand in notice of motion.

Mr Shannon then handed in the following notice of motion:-

"I will move at next available meeting of the County Council that the resolution adopted at meeting of 8th February 1926, reducing poundage fees for new Rate Collector for No. 19. Collection District be rescinded, and that the poundage be fixed at 7d as in the case of the remaining Rate Collectors of the County Council."

The resolution relative to confirmation of Minutes of Finance Committee was then put and adopted.

Drainage Committee.

The following Minutes of Drainage Committee meeting held on 1st February 1926 were submitted:-

"The adjourned meeting of the Drainage Committee was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on 1st February 1926.

Present:- Col. C. M. Gibbon (presiding), Messrs Sean O'Byrne, Aidan Mernagh and Michael Doyle J.D.

The Secretary and Mr Elgee, Solicitor were also present.

Contribution towards Cost of Drainage Schemes.

Letter from Office of Public Works (19230/25) (which was referred from County Council to the Drainage Committee) asked if the Council had decided to make any contribution towards the cost of the works in the Kilmaunock and Low Drainage Districts which are being carried out by the Office of Public Works.

The following recommendation was agreed to:-

"That the Office of Public Works be informed that the financial position of the County Council does not allow, for the present, of any contribution towards the cost of drainage works."

Proposed Drainage at Blackstone, Duncormick.

A memorial from several Ratepayers in Blackstone, Duncormick, was received. It pointed out that the drainage was in such a bad state that farmers found it at times impossible to get into their land, the water, after heavy rains, standing two and three feet on the road and adjoining land leading to the sea. There was no Drainage Board for the District, and consequently

the matter was put before the County Council in order that something would be done to prevent flooding.

It was decided to refer the matter to the County Surveyor for his report.

Kilmannock Drainage.

At a recent meeting of the County Council, Mr N. J. Murphy contended that no Drainage Trustees had ever existed in regard to Kilmannock Drainage System, and it was decided that the Office of Public Works be requested to furnish any information they had in the matter.

Under date 30th January 1926 (58/26), the Office of Public Works forwarded copy of letter which they had addressed to the then proprietors on 4th September 1901 (9232/01). They had no knowledge as to whether the persons named in this letter had ever functioned as Trustees. In 1914 the Office of Public Works endeavoured to have a meeting called for the election of Trustees but without success.

The letter of 4th September 1901 pointed out that by Section 120 of the 5 & 6 Vic. Cap. 89, the drainage works originally executed should be maintained in an efficient state of repair by the Trustees elected by the proprietors. That Act was amended by Section 15 of the 18 & 19 Vic Cap. 110 which provided that where the proprietors in any district did not exceed six in number (as in the present case), such proprietors or others nominated by them or any two of them, at any meeting for the purpose should be the Trustees for the maintenance of the works in the district. The proprietors being, so far as the Board were aware, only four in number, were the Trustees of the District subject to the exercise of their option to nominate Trustees. The Board were informed that the proprietors in the district, to whom every facility had been given for calling a meeting to appoint Trustees, without any response being received expressing a desire to take that step, were:-

Captain Samuel B. Hamilton, Kilmannock House, Arthurs town,
Patrick M. Power, Faithlegg, Waterford, Samuel King, Mountpleasant,
Waterford, and the Devises of G. P. Haughton (Agent - P. Fitzgerald,
66, George Street, Limerick).

The Board further pointed out that the chief duty of the Trustees was to maintain the works in proper order. If this was not done, the Board had power, under the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1866, to carry out the necessary works and charge the expense on the proprietors.

New Schemes.

Petitions were received (1) for the repair of the embankment of the River Barrow between Camblin House and New Ross; and (2) to clean up main drain on road leading to Great Island to the sluice on Galway Estate, etc. Referred to Co. Surveyor for his report.

Ballyteigue Drainage System.

It was decided to ask the Office of Public Works to send down their engineer to inspect the Ballyteigue and Kilmore Drainage System as the Committee considered the present a favourable time to have inspection carried out."

Mr Murphy said that some months ago the Office of Public Works wrote that the Drainage Trustees had been appointed in 1849. Now they say they endeavoured to have a meeting in 1901 and summoned the proprietors of the various properties to have a meeting. They evidently objected as they gave no reply to the Office of Public Works and ignored the Office of Public Works. The latter then endeavoured to have a meeting of 'dead men' in 1914. As a matter of fact, one of the men summoned had been dead for 40 years. The Co. Council or the Drainage Committee should go into this matter again as it was a serious step for them to take over the maintenance of this drainage system and collect a rate for which the ratepayers concerned declined to accept responsibility.

It was decided that Minute of this meeting dealing with drainage business should be forwarded to the Office of Public Works for their observations.

Under date 3rd February 1926, letter was read from County Surveyor relative to petitions for repair of embankments of River Barrow near Camblin House and cleaning up main drain at Great Island referred to him for report. The Co. Surveyor pointed out that the County Surveyor's Association had this matter of drainage

under discussion and it was decided that as the work was outside ordinary duties, fees should be paid for its performance. The Co. Council were not bound to employ the County Surveyor on these jobs.

It was decided to refer the letter of County Surveyor to the Finance Committee.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That the report of Drainage Committee in respect of meeting held on 1st February 1926 be received and adopted."

Scholarship Committee

The following Minutes of Scholarship Committee were submitted:-

"The adjourned meeting of Scholarship Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Fortwien, Wexford on 1st February 1926

Present:- Colonel Gibbon (Vice-Chairman, Co. Council) presiding; also Very Rev Wm. F. Murphy, President, St Peter's College, Wexford and Mr Sean O'Byrne.

The Secretary, Co. Council was also in attendance.

The previous meeting had been adjourned in order to ascertain what changes were about to be proposed by the Department of Education relative to the Agricultural education. Up to the present it had not been possible to procure this information, and after some discussion, it was decided to adjourn the meeting to 13th February at 10 o'clock a.m., Col Gibbon in the meantime to endeavour to procure some particulars as to the proposed changes and as to when it was proposed they should take effect.

The Chairman proposed and Mr Clince seconded:-

"That the Minutes of Scholarship Committee in respect of meeting held on 1st February 1926, be received and confirmed."

It was decided that next meeting of Scholarship Committee be held on a date before 18th March.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Thorpe, seconded by Col Gibbon:- "That the resignation of Rev. W. Gibson as member of Scholarship Committee be accepted and that Rev J. Talbot, Horetown be appointed to the vacancy."

Roads Committee

The following minutes of Roads Committee in respect of meeting of 25th January 1926 were submitted:-

"The monthly meeting of the Roads Committee of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortrose Wexford on 25th January 1926.

Present:- J. McCarthy (Chairman) presiding; also Messrs Sean O'Byrne, P. Colfer, M. Cloney, W. Boffan, Jas Hall, James Shannon, R. Corish, Col Gibbon and Col Guin.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the Co. Surveyor, the six Assistant Surveyors and Mr Effe, Solicitor were also in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Estimate for Roads and Public Works 1926-27.

In connection with above, the following letter (which had been furnished Co. Councillors) was read from the Co. Surveyor:-

"Herewith I send you amended County Road Scheme 2 and Estimate for Road Work. You will note that on Form 20 I have added a column in connection with the roads, setting out the figures that would be necessary to bring the Estimate down to figure approved for the current year, namely £62,574.

In regard to the Special Works, I have marked in Col 3 the word "omit" opposite such as it will be impossible to have carried out under the reduced estimate.

The summary attached provides for payment of arrears due by the several districts on Quarry and Machinery accounts; the proportion of amount due being that previously agreed on as an instalment by the Co. Council.

I wish to point out that in 1914 the expenditure on Roads and Special Works amounted to £30377 and that the cost of all works has increased to three times the rate since then. Deducting the arrears on Quarries and Machinery from the ~~works~~ during suggested estimate of £62574 it leaves £50558 available for works during the coming year and this figure is only about one and two-thirds the cost in 1914. During the current year there was a reduction on the estimate of £15260 and the present proposed reduction will certainly have the effect of putting back road-

maintenance work very considerably, and will entail very much increased cost in the future as the roads are bound to seriously deteriorate.

You will note that the Road Schedule has been amended to comply with the Local Government Circular fixing Main Roads and the Estimate Form has been altered accordingly. Since getting the Schedule printed and making out the Estimate the Local Government Department has sent a Circular directing the renumbering of all the roads on a special system, but it will be impossible to have this done out of hand (to make out estimate in the new to comply with the altered numbers). I shall at once proceed with the renumbering, but existing numbers must serve for the present."

The amended Estimate of the Co. Surveyor was made up as follows:-

Arrears, Quarries and machinery £6076, Quarry Stock £5940, Main Roads (Direct Labour) £14806, County Roads, do £26377. Contract Roads £6329. Special Works £1307. Sudden Damage Orders and Contingencies £1739. Total £62574.

To this should be added Insurance of Workmen £1000, Urban Roads £1859, Total £65433.

The Co. Surveyor stated that the actual amount he would have to spend on the roads would be £50558.

Col Gibbon pointed out that unless the rates were lower than last year, farmers would not be able to pay them.

The Chairman said that everyone was in favour of having the rates as low as possible, but the Council should recognise the absolute necessity for striking such a rate as would maintain the roads with efficiency. Starvation of road maintenance now would mean a progressively higher rate in the future.

Col Gibbon thought some economy could be made in the matter of haulage rates.

Mr Corish said everyone was in favour of having low rates if the results could be achieved without interfering with their various functions. Since last meeting of the Council, he found that 241 road workers had been dispensed with, so that there would now be only

350 men employed on the roads at present instead of 600. It could not be denied that at the moment many roads were not receiving that attention which was absolutely necessary for their proper upkeep. He only hoped the Council would make up their minds to receive a deputation from these people who were clamouring for lower rates and see what suggestion they could offer.

Col. Gibbon said the cost of living had increased by 75 per cent while wages were up 100 per cent. Materials were approximately 70 per cent up but the road estimate showed 300 per cent increase.

The County Surveyor said wages in 1914 had been 10/- to 12/- a week and they were now 30/-.

Mr O'Byrne questioned if the County Surveyor had a single man employed in 1914 at 10/- or 12/- per week.

Mr Boffan pointed out that while direct labour had come to stay, it was not an economic proposition on bye-roads. The contract system, if worked for what it was worth, was the cheaper system. As for haulage, he was in favour of having a definite figure per ton mile.

Col. Quin said that everyone recognised that the contract system was cheaper than direct labour. The Government "stroke" was well known and men would not do as much for the Government or for a public body as for a private individual. The contract system could be made a success with proper supervision and if the Assistant Surveyors did not carry out their duties properly their services could be dispensed with. It was a complex and difficult job to make and maintain proper roads.

The Co. Surveyor stated he had gone very closely into the matter with the Assistant Surveyors and he was satisfied they obtained better and cheaper work by direct labour than by contract. The contractor was out to pocket what he could out of the job, but the man on direct labour recognised that his position depended on capable and satisfactory work. They had a good staff of men now and it would be to the advantage of the roads if they were kept on.

Col Gibbon thought it should be possible to extend the number of roads which were maintained by sea gravel.

The Co. Surveyor said they were using all the sea gravel possible, but it should be recognised that sea gravel would not stand heavy traffic.

A long discussion took place as to breaking of material by hand but the Co. Surveyor pointed out that this was not feasible except in a few quarries and it was only possible to get out thousands of cubic yards of material in a short time by machinery.

Mr Cloney thought as many quarries were now provided with a proper face and properly stripped they might expect some reduction in the cost of working.

Col Gibbon proposed - "that the instalment of £6000 part of amount due to County Council by late R.D. Councils for working of quarries and machinery be carried forward on overdraft for the present year." Mr Cloney seconded.

Col Quin proposed that one-sixth of the amount due by the late R.D. Councils for working quarries and machinery be included in the Estimate for next year.

Mr O'Byrne proposed as an amendment - "that one-eighth of the balance due by late R.D. Councils for quarries and machinery be included in the Estimate for 1926-27 which would leave the amounts to be raised for each district as follows: - Enniscorthy £939, Gorey £607, New Ross £867 and Wexford £1027. Total £3440.

Mr Shannon seconded.

A show of hands was taken with the result that five voted for amendment and four against.

The amendment was then put as a substantive motion and Carried nem. con.

Col Gibbon proposed that £5940, amount included in County Surveyor's Estimate for Quarry stock be paid off in ten years and that £594 be included in present road estimate as one-tenth payment.

Mr Cloney seconded.

Mr O'Byrne proposed as an amendment: - "That one-sixth of the amount for quarry stock, viz, £1000 be included in the present year's road estimate."

Col Quin seconded.

A Show of hands was taken with the result that five supported the amendment and four voted against it.

The amendment was declared carried and on being put as the substantive motion it passed nem. con.

Col Gibbon considered that haulage rates should not exceed 8/- per day while the Co. Surveyor was paying an average of 10/-.

The Co. Surveyor said he usually set haulage contracts at per cubic yard per mile. The rate varied from 10d to 1/- so that 1/- would be the average.

Col Gibbon mentioned that if hauliers could be guaranteed a definite period of employment, it might be possible to secure tenders at a lower figure than at present.

The Co. Surveyor stated that the Council had suggested to him to distribute the haulage work amongst carters in consequence of lack of employment. Besides, it happened that a large quantity might have to be delivered in a limited time.

Col Gibbon proposed: - "That the Council be recommended to fix a figure for haulage not to exceed 10d per ton mile per cubic yard. In any case in which this figure has to be exceeded, Co. Surveyor must obtain approval of Roads Committee".

Mr Boffan seconded.

Mr Cloney proposed: - "That the haulage item in County Surveyor's Estimate for Roads be reduced by £1000 for this year."

Mr Corish seconded.

Col Gibbon withdrew his motion and the proposal of Mr Cloney was agreed to, Mr Hall dissenting.

A discussion then took place as regards the actual figures for road work.

The Chairman pointed out that the Co. Council last year had reduced the Co. Surveyor's Estimate by £15600 which brought the actual amount allowed down to £46483. He did not think they should agree on a lesser figure for the coming year. If they did not spend sufficient on their roads now, they would have to pay for it on the double in future years. The roads

were improving and it would be lamentable if they were allowed to deteriorate. It was vital that the roads should be looked after in the months of January, February and March. They were not able to do this for the present year as the road money had been practically all spent. Next year, however, with a more equitable distribution of men over the year, more attention could be given to the roads in these vital three months. Last year it was certain that many roads did not get the attention which was necessary.

The County Surveyor said that unless his Estimate was agreed to, the roads would deteriorate.

Col Gibbon proposed: - "That a rate of 3/- in the £ be agreed to for Roads and Public Works for 1926-27 to cover all charges under this head."

Mr Boffan seconded.

Mr Shannon proposed: - "That the original figures of last year's Estimate for Roads and Public Works, as submitted by Co. Surveyor and before reduction by County Council be agreed to."

Mr O'Byrne seconded.

A vote was taken with the following result: -
For the Amendment: - Messrs Corish, Shannon, O'Byrne, and Colfer - 4.

Against: - Messrs Hall, Cloney, Boffan, Col Guin, Col Gibbon and the Chairman - 6.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

The Chairman proposed: - "That the Council be recommended to strike a rate of 3/4 in the £ which will place at the disposal of the County Surveyor for Road Maintenance practically the same amount as he had last year."

Mr Corish seconded.

A vote was taken on this amendment with the following result: -

For the Amendment: - Messrs Corish, Shannon, O'Byrne, Colfer and the Chairman - 5.

Against: - Messrs Hall, Cloney, Boffan, Col Gibbon, Col Guin - 5.

The voting being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment which was declared carried. When put as the substantive, it was adopted nem con.

Health Resort Rate.

Mr J. F. Kelly, Secretary, Co. Wexford Tourist Association wrote requesting the County Council to strike a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d in the £ to advertise the amenities and attractions of the County Wexford, as the Council were empowered to do under the "Health Resorts and Watering Places (Ireland) Act."

It was decided that Mr Kelly be informed that owing to the state of the finances of the Council, the Roads Committee were reluctantly obliged to withhold a favourable recommendation in the matter to the Council.

Assistant Surveyors' Locomotion Expenses.

Col. Quin proposed, Mr Cloney seconded and it was passed: "That Assistant Surveyors attending meetings, etc. in Wexford be directed to travel by rail where this mode of transport is found feasible."

County Harbours - Courtown.

Mr P. J. Crean, Riverchapel, Courtown Harbour wrote as follows under date 22nd January 1926:-

"At a meeting of the fishermen of Courtown Harbour the following resolution was adopted:- "That as a judicial inquiry into the state of some twenty-four Harbours in Ireland is to be held, and that as Courtown is not one of these, we respectfully request the Co. Council to use their influence to have Courtown Harbour included so that the proposed Commissioners may have an opportunity of seeing the state of Courtown"

I am further directed by the fishermen of Courtown to point out the very great loss sustained by them during the herring season on account of the state of the bar. Only small boats can go out to sea and even these can go out only occasionally. The pier too is only a shell and may collapse at any moment.

In view of these facts which can be confirmed by Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, the fishermen of Courtown would be pleased if the County Council would use its endeavours to have Courtown included among those harbours that are being the subject of Inquiry.

It is well too to point out that a sum of money was to be expended on Courtown Harbour by the British Government, but owing to the War the project had

to be abandoned."

In connection with this matter, the following resolution was forwarded from special meeting of Courtown Harbour Committee held on January 22nd 1926:-

"Having seen in the Press that the Government have decided to improve the harbours on the East coast of Ireland, we request the Co. Council to bring before the proper authority the case of Courtown Harbour and to request that such steps may be taken as their Engineers may advise, to have the harbour put into a proper state of repair. At the present time, both piers are undermined and are in danger of falling, and should that occur, the harbour would be entirely closed, and so take away from an industrious lot of fishermen their sole livelihood."

Rev John O'Grady C.C. Riverchapel attended with a deputation of fishermen. He pointed out that he had been fourteen years in the district and during all that time, the fishermen had been greatly hampered by the state of the bar. They wanted this properly dredged and they also held that it was necessary to have the pier extended in the interests of the fishing industry.

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

"That we heartily support the request of the Courtown Harbour Committee and the fishermen of the district to have Courtown Harbour included in the scope of the Harbour Commission Inquiry which has been instituted by the Government."

County Surveyor's Report.

The County Surveyor submitted the following monthly report:-

"I have amended my Estimate in accordance with the directions of the Council given on the 4th inst and have sent copies of details with covering sheet of explanation to all the Co. Councillors. I shall be prepared to go into further detail with the Committee at the meeting on the 25th inst.

I received copy of Local Government Circular

in regard to numbering of the roads, and have gone into the matter. As there was some doubt about the system to be adopted, I wrote to the Local Government's official who had the matter in hands and I understand that the work as already done will serve for the present.

Immediately following the directions of the County Council on the 11th inst, I communicated with the Railway Company in regard to sending Ballybrennan material to New Ross Urban District. On the 13th and again on the 20th, I was at Ballybrennan Quarry arranging regarding hauliers putting the material on rail, and I have prepared the siding at Sparrowsland. It was only on the 22nd inst, that I was able to arrange with the Railway Company in regard to waggons, and these will be at Sparrowsland during the week, so that I shall be starting forward the material at once. I have the greater part of the material already prepared in Ballybrennan, and have now restarted the breaker so as to complete the quantity required.

I have had the felt lined boxes made to hold the thawed explosives, and am now thawing gelignite on day previous to a blast, and the work is going on satisfactorily.

On the 20th inst, I visited the two lanes on the Blackstairs mountain which it was requested to have repaired. In regard to Rathdruff over which material for the roads had been drawn I find that this is a private laneway for the use of four or five farmers, and the man who did the greater part of the haulage over it is one of these - living at the end furthest from the county road. He has a perfect right to use it, and as our agreement with him was for a fixed rate per cubic yard for material delivered on the county road, I do not think the Co. Council should undertake any repair.

Regarding the Askinvillar proposed new road, I find that the adjoining farmers have access to their farms by other routes, and the proposed new

road can never have been anything but a mere trackway; more like the bed of a mountain stream than anything else. It is below the level of the adjoining land and closed in with high banks; and it is only about seven feet between the fences. I do not consider that this should ever be made a County road.

In regard to the corner at which it was suggested the fence be altered by cutting down and putting posts and wire on top at junction of roads 280 and 282E, I have had a letter from Mr Cline, M.C.C. The owner originally asked for £25 compensation, but he has now agreed with Mr Cline that he would accept £3. Even this latter sum I consider high, as the work would not in any way injure the premises, whereas the corner is dangerous. I ask your directions in the matter.

During the recent storms, damage has been done to the end of the breakwaters at the entrance to Kilmore Harbour. A number of concrete bags have been carried away and it will be necessary to have repairs carried out as soon as weather permits. I estimate the cost will be in or about £25.

In connection with Rathduff Lane, Messrs P. Hanrahan and John Doran came before the meeting and explained that owing to the manner in which the place had been cut up by drawing stones to roads, the lane was impassable at present.

The Co. Surveyor stated that assuming they obtained the necessary land free, it would cost £120 approximately to make a new road at the place.

Col Gibbon suggested that in future in such cases, the Co. Surveyor should make provision for an amount to make good any damage which might be caused by haulage done on behalf of the Co. Council.

After further discussion, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col Gibbon Seconded by Col Quin:— "That the County Council be recommended to take no action in regard to application for repair of Rathduff Lane as they have no legal power to make any contribution towards its repair."

In connection with dangerous corner at Moyglass at junction of roads, 280 E and 282 E, Col Gibbon proposed, Col Swin seconded and it was passed:-

"That a sum of £2 be offered as full compensation to Mr Roche, Moyglass, Cairn for land proposed to be taken in order to allow of widening of dangerous corner at Moyglass."

With reference to Kilmore Pier the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col Gibbon seconded by the Chairman:-

"That a sum not exceeding £25 be allocated for repair of Kilmore Pier."

The following resolution was also adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor's report as presented at this meeting be received and adopted."

Machinery Charges.

The County Surveyor asked for approval to the following rates of Charges as regards Machinery &c:-

Rollers 7/- per hour; Breakers 12/- per hour; Rock Drills 12/- per hour; and Lorry 6/- per hour. Material from County Council Quarries 8/- per cubic yard.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cloney seconded by Col Gibbon:- "That we approve of the scale of charges for hire of machinery, etc, as submitted by Co. Surveyor to this meeting."

Workmen Late at Work.

The following report under date 4th January 1926 was submitted from Mr J. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor:-

"I beg to report having visited roads nos 17 and 18 R on Saturday, the 2nd January. I arrived at Raheenvarren Cross at 8 am. and waited there for Michael Kehoe Carrigbyme - one of four men we have engaged cleaning the sides of nos 17 and 18 R preparatory to steamrolling. Kehoe was working near above Cross on the previous Thursday. I stayed there till half-past eight, and the man not turning up, I left and went on to Camross where Thomas Donovan and Patrick Condon should be at work. Both men were there but had only three or four slits dug each at the time. I pointed out to them that it was twenty minutes to nine o'clock and that

judging from what they had done they could not have been working more than from five to ten minutes.

I gave both men a week's notice. I then went back towards Raheenarren and on my way found Thomas Whelan just after starting work, and as it was then a quarter to nine o'clock, I sent him home. I also found Michael Kehoe just commenced work and I sent him home also for the day.

I informed the foreman of what I had done and told him that if any of the four men were caught coming late again, we would suspend them and report the matter to Roads Committee."

The following under date 18th January 1926 was read from John Donovan, Road Gangster:-

"A complaint has been made to me by four men that had been employed under me on No 17 and 18 R. It appears that Mr Kehoe has reported to you that he caught these men absent from work during working hours. The men employed on 18 R told me they were on their work on the morning of 2nd January when he (Mr Kehoe) came there and had some work done. Therefore, I hold it is not fair to report men for being absent from their work when they were at their work. As regards the men on No 17 R, I believe Mr Kehoe came on to this road on or about 8 o'clock and found that the men were not there. On his return from No 18 the men were working and he dismissed them. The men on this road told me that they thought they had started to work about the time. On the 2nd January, I visited No 142 R at 8 o'clock. I came from that to No 18 R; it was then about half-past eight o'clock. The men told me that Mr Kehoe had been there. I then came to 17 R and I found that there was some work done and the men had been dismissed. It was then between twenty minutes and a quarter to nine o'clock. I paid several visits to these men, morning noon and evening and I have never caught them late. On one occasion I caught Thomas Whelan ten minutes late and I

cautioned him, but it never happened after. - in fact I have been on 17 R and 18 R twice daily as I had 25 carters to contend with and never did I see any of these four men idle at any time."

Mr Kehoe said one of the men gave as an excuse that his bicycle was punctured. The men in question were generally satisfactory.

Col Gibbon proposed: - "That we approve of the action of Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor in suspending men whom he found late at work. That a record of his report in this connection appear in the minutes of this meeting."

Mr Hall seconded the motion which was adopted.

Application for Increase in Wages - Patrick Mafee

Under date 31st December 1925, the following application was read from Patrick Mafee, Road Gangster, Raheen, Adamstown:-

"I beg to apply for an increase of money for work I have to supervise which I had not to do until steam-roller started work on 12 R. Section D. I have to travel 11 miles each day each way to supervise steam-roller work, and take charge of quarry and section as well.

Between quarry and surface men and roller gang I have to supervise the work of 31 men including two machine men. Trusting that you will give this application your kind consideration. I may say since steam roller started, I am after cutting up a pair of bicycle tyres owing to bad roads. I have no objection to my extra work if I get a chance to keep my bicycle in order."

The Co. Surveyor said that Mafee was receiving the same wages as other gangsters. There had been no Grant work in his area up to now, but in all other cases in which Grant work had been carried out, the gangsters concerned did not receive any higher wages than the amount paid Mafee.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col Quinn seconded by Mr Hall: - "That the application of Patrick Mafee, Road Gangster for increase of wages be refused."

Loss of Heifer at Ahare Bridge.

The Co. Surveyor submitted a letter which he had received from Messrs McDonald & Boland, Insurance Brokers, 51 Dame Street, Dublin under date 30th December 1925 stating that the claim made by James Mafuire, moneygarra, Inch, Gorey for £7 for loss of heifer drowned near Ahare Bridge was far-fetched and unsustainable. The Council should maintain the position of non-liability and if the matter was pressed, the Insurance Company would defend any proceedings taken against the Council.

Under date 16th January 1926, Mr Mafuire wrote to the Co. Surveyor asking how the matter of his claim stood. He was a poor man and could not afford to be at such a loss. Everything went to prove he was entitled to compensation.

It was decided to make no order in the matter.

Official Road Map.

Under date 12th January 1926, the Department of Local Government wrote (RM/20/26) relative to preparation of official road map and the numbering of roads.

It was decided that the matter be referred to the County Surveyor for his attention.

Relief Grants.

In connection with the carrying out of special works for the relief of unemployment by the aid of Grants, the Department of Local Government wrote under date 8th January 1926 that men required for these works should be engaged through the local Employment Exchange. This was a necessary condition in order to secure the grant and must be observed in all cases.

Referred to County Surveyor for his information.

Payment to Road Workers.

Under date 11th January 1926, the Department of Local Government wrote (RM/32) that payments to road workers must be made in accordance with the procedure laid down in sub-article 4 of Article 61 of the Public Bodies' Order 1925.

The following resolution was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr O'Syriae and carried:-

"That as all road gangers are under a bond to the County Council as regards the distribution of wages

to road workers, we hereby constitute them pay clerks under sub-article 4 of Article 61 of the Public Bodies Order 1925. We find that the distribution of wages through garfers has worked most satisfactorily, has saved a considerable sum in postage and also in clerical labour."

Destroyed and Damaged Bridges.

Under date 8th January 1926, the Department of Local Government wrote (L/DB/32) forwarding £1551-7-0 in final settlement of claims in respect of destroyed and damaged bridges in the County.

Road Signs.

Under date 18th January 1926, the Department of Local Government wrote (LH/39) dealing with Regulations which were about to issue under Section 36 of the Local Government Act 1925 with respect to, amongst other matters, the provisions of signs on public roads including the places to which road leads, "Direction Signs" and signs warning persons using a road of the dangerous portions thereof, viz:- "Warning Signs."

Referred to County Surveyor.

New Ross Urban Council and Footpaths adjoining New Ross.

Under date 18th January 1926 the following was read from Town Clerk, New Ross:-

"at last meeting of my Council I was directed to again draw the attention of the County Council to the condition of the footpaths adjoining Urban District boundary of New Ross"

It was decided to ask the Urban Council to furnish definite particulars of complaint.

Gorey Courthouse.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, forwarded letter under date 15th January 1926 from Messrs Huggard & Brennan re Gorey Courthouse as follows:-

"Referring to your letter in which you inform us that the County Council on the recommendation of the Finance Committee offered £120 for the purchase herein and £40 for the arrears of rent. This offer is entirely inadequate, even assuming that there was a long lease in existence, twelve years purchase for this rent which must be regarded as well secured, is absurd.

We could point out to you that there are only 17 years of the

lease to run and this enhances the value of our clients' interests. Your clients are bound to rebuild and to pay the rent, and we must therefore call upon you to pay us the arrears of rent due and to forthwith proceed to have the premises restored, otherwise we shall have no course open but to institute proceedings against the County Council to do so.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Duggan seconded by Mr. O'Leary:—That Mr. Elgar be instructed to make amended offer for purchase of ground rent of Grey Courthouse, viz:—£160 and that the Council be further recommended to pay in addition the £40 rent which is in arrears."

New Ross Courthouse

Under date 21st January 1926, the following was read from Mr. Hugh R. Hamilton in connection with New Ross Courthouse.

"Referring to yours of yesterday I regret that I cannot accept your Council's offer of £600 for the courthouse here."

It was decided that the Council be recommended to take no further action in the matter.

Application for Increased Haulage Rate

Under date 31st December 1925 the following application was read from carters engaged at Carrigrohane and Tongarrow quarries:—

"We, the undersigned on behalf of the carters at Carrigrohane and Tongarrow quarries beg to bring under your notice the state of things as at present."

As the roads are very heavy at present, the rate of 1/- per mile per yard is very inadequate. If a cubic yard of stone weighs 25 cwt's, half a yard of stone and a cart is a fair haul for a horse under present conditions working daily. Say, a man and horse makes two journeys over 4 1/2 miles at the above rate, he earns 4/6. This sounds ridiculous when all men under the Council are paid 5/- per day. What we ask is that you fix a fair rate.

(Signed) Terry Doyle, Carrigrohane, Pat Roche, Tongarrow.

P.S. We also ask that we be paid every fortnight."

It was decided that the application be refused as it was only quite recently that the carters concerned entered into an agreement with the County Surveyor at existing rates.

Claim for Insurance

Under date 4th January 1926 the following was read from Messrs. Huggan & Brennan, solicitors, Wexford:—

"Mr. Patrick O'Leary, Ballinacorney, Offlagan was employed at Jamestown Quarry in July 1924. He instructed us that on entering the Council's employment he handed the Council's foreman, Mr. Aidan Henegagh, his unemployment card and National Health Insurance card, and that Mr. Henegagh has informed him that he handed the cards in turn to Mr. John

Gorman, who states he forwarded them to the Co. Surveyor. Mr O'Leary has applied to the Co. Surveyor for these cards and has been told that the cards never reached the County Surveyor's office. In any case, the cards were lost or mislaid by the Council or their servants and under these circumstances, we have instructions to look to the Council for the loss our clients has sustained by reason of the cards not being forthcoming. Mr O'Leary stated he has lost £13 up to the present and we shall thank you to let us have cheque for this amount, otherwise we must only institute proceedings."

The County Surveyor stated that the card was never received in his office. The man only worked seven weeks and when the absence of the card was ascertained, the (Co. Surveyor) had had an emergency card obtained and sent to Mr O'Leary on the 31st July last.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col Gibbons seconded by Col Quinn:-

"That the letter from Messrs Huggard & Brennan claiming £13 on behalf of Mr Patrick O'Leary, Ballinacorney, regarding, as to loss of unemployment benefit, be referred to Mr Edge, solicitor for advice."

Printing for County Offices.

The Secretary was instructed to invite tenders for the printing required by County Council offices and by Co. Surveyor's Departments for 1926.

The following resolution was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Colonel Gibbons:-

"That the minutes of Roads Committee in respect of meeting of 25th January, 1926 be received and confirmed."

Mr Doyle proposed and Mr Walsh seconded:- "That the minutes of Roads Committee of 25th January relative to proposed Road Rate for financial year 1926-27 be referred for consideration to special meeting of County Council to be held on 22nd February, 1926."

Mr Hayes proposed and Mr P Byrne seconded the following:- "That Road Rate for 1926-27 as recommended by Roads Committee be now considered."

After discussion Mr Hayes withdrew his proposal and the resolution of Mr Doyle to postpone consideration of Rate for Roads to special meeting of the Council on 22nd February, 1926, was agreed to.

The Chairman then withdrew his motion relative to confirmation of the minutes of the Committee and moved the following which was seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne and adopted:-

"That the minutes of Roads Committee in respect of meeting of 25th January, 1926, except the portion dealing with suggested Rate for Roads be adopted. And that the minutes of Roads Committee

meeting of 25th January, 1926, relative to Road Rati be considered at Special meeting of County Council to be held on 22nd February 1926."

Horse v Mechanical Haulage

a long discussion took place as to the use of mechanical haulage of road material during the winter period. Several members complained that such haulage was injuring the roads very considerably.

The County Surveyor denied this and said that the damage caused by horse haulage was very little different to that caused by mechanical haulage.

It was decided that during the winter period when roads are in a soft condition the County Surveyor should utilise horse haulage as much as possible."

New Ross Bridge

Under date 8th February, 1926, the following was read from County Surveyor:-

"I was in New Ross for Friday, and had for interview with Mr. Finn, Town Clerk. He told me that the Local people have noticed heavy lorries proceeding over this bridge at an excessive speed, and possibly, damage may occur and danger to the structure, which was not originally built to stand such strain. I shall be glad if you will bring up this matter before the Co. Council, so that I may apply to the Minister to have speed limits fixed."

Proposed by Colonel Quinn, seconded by Mr. Shannon and adopted:-

"That the Minister of Local Government & Public Health be requested to agree to a speed limit not exceeding five miles per hour in the case of lorries crossing New Ross Bridge."

Application for Erection of Wall

Mr. James Benti, Burrow, Rosslare, came before the Council and asked them to erect a wall in the neighbourhood of his holding at Burrow, Rosslare.

Mr. Doyle said that this application had been several times before the Council and the only thing that prevented the Council from agreeing to it was the cost.

Mr. Benti said that an Inspector of Departments had told him the work could be done for £200.

No action.

Erection of Poles for Electric Lights

The County Surveyor submitted the following letter from Mr. J. Joseph Davis, St. John's Works, Ennis, dated, 4th February 1926.

"I have been asked by Mr. L. Doyle, who is one of my tenants to put up Electric Light in his house in the St. John's and I may want to put it up in some other house close to Fairfield where I generate Electric Currents for my own private house and out office,

the village is only 100.

"I would therefore like to have your permission to put up poles and wires along side the road to the house. The poles will be high enough so as not to cause any inconvenience to the public and the village for too low to cause any damage."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Clinie seconded by Mr. Shannon:-

"That the application of Mr. T. Joseph Davis for permission to erect poles for electric lighting purposes from his works at St. John's Emmacothy to house of Mr. L. Doyle, The Hill Emmacothy etc, be agreed to on the understanding that the work is carried out to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor and that Mr. Davis be responsible for any accident or damage which may occur during the erection of the poles and as long as they remain in position for his use."

Furniture & C. New Ross R.D. Council Office.

Under date 3rd February 1926, the following was read from the Secretary, Co. Board of Health:-

"I am directed by the County Board of Health to ask you to ask your Council if they could make arrangements to have some of the chairs at present in the Boardroom of the old Union Building at New Ross transferred to the County Home at Emmacothy, to be used in the Boardroom there."

The Mayor of the County Home has requisitioned a desk for his office at the County Home. There are some desks at the Boardroom of the New Ross Workhouse. Perhaps arrangements could be made to let him have one of those. I would be glad if you could bring the whole matter of the furniture before the next meeting of your Council."

Mr. Cloney proposed, Mr. Corish seconded, and it was adopted:-

"That our Secretary inspect furniture &c at offices of New Ross R.D. Council and submit list to Finance Committee with a view to having first selected, furniture &c, which may be required for the use of County Council"

Tramway and Bridge

In reply to query as to whether he desired to continue to act as representative of Wexford County Council on Mountgarrett Bridge Joint Committee as he was no longer a member of the County Council, Mr. Michael Byrne, Ballinaberna, Ballywilliam, wrote that he was willing to act as a member if he had an assurance from the Council that an attempt would not be made later on to disqualify him on some silly technicality.

Mr. John J. Byrne, Cusinstown, Ballynabola, wrote that he was in the hands of the County Council as regards his continuance as a member of the Joint Committee. He got notice of only one meeting. It was to credit to whoever was responsible for the delay about this very necessary work.

Mr. James Byrne, Boly, Ballycullane, wrote that he had no wish to continue as representative of the Wexford County Council on the Committee. It was quite obvious that the present Co. Council was the proper authority to deal with the matter.

No reply had been received from Mr. Cummins, the former representative of Wexford County Council on the joint Committee.

Mr. Conry proposed and the Chairman seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-
"That Mr. Thorpe, T.C.C., be appointed representative of the County Council on joint Committee for Mountgarrett Bridge vice Mr. Michael Byrne."

Mr. Conry proposed and Mr. Lamb seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-
"That Mr. Thomas Cooney, T.C.C., be appointed representative of the County Council on joint Committee for Mountgarrett Bridge vice James Byrne resigned."

Carlow Life - Boat House.

Under date 21st January, 1926, the following was read from Secretary, Royal National Life-Boat Institution:-

"With further reference to my letter of the 23rd June last, I shall be very much obliged if you will now let me know whether the Council have come to any decision regarding the disposal of the above Life-Boat House."

"Enquiries have been received as to renting or purchasing the House, but, before entering into any negotiations, I should like to hear from you as to whether the Council are desirous of taking over the House."

The following resolution was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne and adopted:-

"That the National Life-Boat Institution be requested to inform this Council what amount they would expect for surrender of lease of Carlow Life-Boat House"

Analysts' Reports.

Miss Phyllis Ryan, Co. Analyst, reports that during the quarter ended 31st December 1925, she had examined five samples raw milk, six of butter, one of buttermilk, and two of margarine all of which were genuine. For Co. Board of Health 23 drugs were examined, three were condemned and 20 were genuine.

Lectures on Economics.

The following resolution of Wexford Rural Library Service Committee as to lectures on Economics to be given under Barrington Foundation in Wexford by Mr. Joseph Johnston, Professor of Economics, in Trinity College, Dublin was submitted:-

"That the Library Committee recommend that the County Council will, under the Library Act 1925, bear any expenses incurred in running the series of lectures on Economics to be given by Mr. Joseph Johnston."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Rossiter:-

"That the County Council approve of payment for advertising and posters in connection with lectures on Economics by Professor Johnston, Trinity College,

Dublin, being made from Library Rati, as we understand the services of Mr. Johnston with the given fee and that the Mayor of Wexford will place the Town Hall Wexford at the disposal of the Committee, the only expense in connection with same being cartage's fee."

Resolution Barrow Drainage.

The following resolution adopted at Conference of members of Leix County Council, Daib Representatives and others was submitted:-

"While approving of the Scheme for the Drainage of the River Barrow, we demand that the whole area of charge for the annual repayments should be the whole catchment area in the proportion of two-thirds in the benefited lands and one-third on the rest of the catchment area"

It was decided that resolution be marked "read."

Transport Service

The following resolution was received from Dublin County Council:-

"That the County Council approve of the following resolution passed at the National Transport Congress and that copies be sent to each County Council in the 'Free State':-

(1) That this Congress strongly recommends the formation of a national Transport Commission to examine and report upon the problem of co-relating the work of various transport agencies in the Free State, and further suggests that such a Commission might either (a) confer with a similar Commission in Northern Ireland, or (b) be constituted jointly of nominees of the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland Governments.

(2) That in any Commission of enquiry that may be set up, adequate representation may be given to the interests of the Farmers and Ratepayers in the County.

The County Council would urge also representations of organised Labour on the Commission.

The resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Shane, seconded by Mr. Clinie.

Arrears Agricultural Grants.

The following resolution was submitted from Dublin County Council:-

"That we request the Government to give this Council credit under Article 1 of Treaty for the arrears of the Agricultural Grants since the passing of the Local Government Act, 1898, amounting to approximately £590,000. The action was taken in the matter."

Library Conference.

Under date 8th January, 1926, Colonel Titchell (Comptroller United Kingdom Trust) Dunfermline, wrote asking the County Council to appoint a representative to proposed Library Conference to be held in Dublin on 4th March to consider the problem of future library policy particularly as regards the relation

of Municipal Libraries and the new County Scheme under the recent act.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by the Chairman:— "That our Secretary be appointed Representative of this Council to Library Conference to be held in Dublin on 4th March."

Tenders for Rali Books.

Tenders were received for the printing of Rali Books, viz.,

"The People" office Wexford at £38:2:6

or "Free Press" at " £69:6:8

The tender of "The People" at £38:2:6 was accepted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne

Thomas Carthy

a special meeting of Wexford County Council for adoption of Rate Estimates for General and Separate Charges for financial year 1926-27 and for the transaction of other important business was held in County Council Chamber, Fortineas, Wexford, on 22nd February, 1926.

Present:- Mr J. Mc Carthy, Chairman (presiding), also Messrs William Boggan, Patrick Byrne, James Clince, Michael Cloney, Patrick Colfer, John Connor, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, Michael Doyle, James Gault, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, David Kavanagh, Aidan Kernagh, Nicholas J. Murphy, John O'Rourke, Mr. Mr. O'Donoghue, John Pender, Thomas Rossie, James Shannon, William Thorpe, James E. Walsh, John White, Colonel C. W. Gibbon, and Colonel R. P. Wemyss Quinn.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor and Mr Elgar, Solicitor, were in attendance.

Rate Estimates.

In connection with attendance of Deputation from Self Protection League, the Chairman pointed out that one of the promoters of this League had stated at recent meetings:- (1) that the cost of rate collection was £11,000 whereas actual amount paid collectors last year was £4,200; also that Mr. Elgar's salary as Solicitor to the County Council was £500 whereas the actual amount paid was £250.

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Colonel Gibbon:-

"That deputation from Self Protection League be received and allowed to put their views before this meeting."

A letter was read from Mr P. J. Tanning, Cullinogue, Gorey, Chairman, Self Protection League, complaining of the poundage rate fixed for rate collectors. also that the salary of the Secretary had been more than doubled since 1914.

The Chairman pointed out that the Secretary's salary on appointment by County Council was £310. He had received only one increase - £90 - making the salary £400. His predecessor had a salary of £456. As regards fees paid for votes and jurors these were fixed under Statute and the County Council could not interfere with them, they were held by Secretary in virtue of his office.

The deputation consisting of about 30 members then came before the meeting Messrs Mr. Ryan (Oylegate), Thomas Jacob Shoughmore, Ballydaggan, J. S. McDonald, Clonmole, G. Devereux - Ballyfinogue, Hillinick, and others addressed the meeting.

Mr. Mr. Stokes, on behalf of the League, submitted the following:-

- (1). That the salaries paid to all officials of the public institutions be reduced to pre war rates plus 75% allowance for increased cost of living.
- (2). all travelling expenses to officials to be discontinued.
- (3). all gangs to be dispensed with as such, and their services to be utilised on the roads and in the quarries. Foremen where necessary to be.

allowed 2/6 extra.

(4) an inquiry into the working of the public institutions of the County by an independent Committee composed of members of the Transport Union, Farmers Union, and the Self Protection League.

(5) Expenditure on the Court House to be limited to the extent of the award.

(6) all sheep dipping to be carried out on the old system under inspection of the Civic Guards.

(7) all bye roads to be open to contract metalling to be procured by contractors out of approved quarries.

(8) main and trunk roads to be done by piece work, metalling to be supplied open to tender.

(9) Haulage of metalling not to exceed 1/- per mile per cubic yd.

(10) all works in quarries under Co. Council to be done by piece work metalling required by contractors of bye roads - cost not to exceed 5/6 per cubic yard at the quarries.

(11) No works to be done under sudden damage order unless an immediate danger to the public, all other works to be open to tender.

(12) Representation to be made to the L.G.O., that the tax on all mechanically propelled vehicles over 30 cwt. to be increased 100 %

In reply to the Chairman Mr. Parker said that his League did not mean that 75 per cent. should be added to pre war salaries but that £75 should be added to the pre war salary of each official retinidstanding what pre war salary was, in any case.

Mr. Devereux was strongly in favour of a Committee of inquiry being set up to report as to prevailing distress.

The Chairman informed the deputation that their views would be carefully considered by the Council. The latter, however, had the responsibility of carrying on the affairs of the County with reasonable efficiency and the Council would have to keep this in mind in connection with any rate which they struck.

The deputation withdrew after Mr. Devereux on their behalf had thanked the Council for giving them such a long and patient hearing. He suggested that the County Council should place before the Government information as to the dire distress in some districts in which the people were on the verge of starvation.

In connection with estimate the following under date 12th February, 1926 (G. 6813/26 Miscellaneous) was read from Department of Local Government:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to draw the attention of the County Council to previous circular letters in which the necessity for economy in public administration was stressed and particular attention drawn to certain definite aspects in which economy was expected."

"On a general review the Minister is disappointed with the results

which have subsequently been achieved.

"Continued charges for interest on overdrafts cannot but accentuate the seriousness of the existing financial position, and the Minister considers it right to intimate that, unless in very exceptional circumstances, he will not feel justified in authorising overdraft accommodation in future.

"In many Counties the results of the recent financial reckoning have disclosed substantial arrears of liabilities and the Minister desires that each Council should forthwith take steps to provide for a clearance of all outstanding liabilities in addition to making adequate provision for the requirements for 1926/27. It should be the aim of each Council to place their finances on such satisfactory basis that they will have in future years a sufficient credit at the end of March to enable them to carry on essential services during the six weeks or so that necessarily intervene before the new rates can be put into course of collection.

"The Councils now in office have their first opportunity of dealing with the situation generally when making the forthcoming rate and the Minister trusts that they will carefully and prudently examine the estimates submitted to them."

"The Minister desires in every reasonable way to second the efforts of Councils who wish to effect substantial retrenchment; but reduction in the considered estimates of the County Secretaries should not be made unless such reduction can clearly be met by effecting relative economies in the services to be carried out. Arbitrary "cuts" without relation to necessary expenditure can only result in more acute financial embarrassment.

The Secretary pointed out that under Local Government Act, 1925, the liabilities of former R. D. Councils are handed over to the County Council. The largest item under this head is the amount due by Rural District Councils for working of quarries and machinery and, which Rural District Councils as County Surveyor reported, refused to include in their Road estimates for a number of years.

The amount due by R. D. Councils under this head will be on 31st March, 1926:-

Emmiscothy	£ 7517
Gorey	£ 4854
Thurles	£ 6935
Wexford	£ 8217
Total	£ 27523

For the year ended 31/3/25 the County Surveyor exceeded his Road limits by £5940. He explained this by the fact that the amount was expended in providing stock of material in quarries during that year. As provision for this amount was not made in Rate Estimate it is necessary that same should be included in addition to the £27523 above stated, total £33,463.

This question was considered by Roads Committee who decided to include £4440 of the amount in Rate Estimate for coming year leaving £29023.

still outstanding under these heads.

The Chairman stated the general Rates in the 2 last years were:-

	on Land s. d.	on Buildings s. d.
Emmiscothy	7: 8	9: 8
Gorey	7: 8	9: 5
West Ross	7: 3	9: 5
Wexford	7: 7	9: 6

The separate charges last year levied over entire Rural Districts were:-

Emmiscothy	1 1/2 d
Gorey	5 3/4 d
West Ross	4 3/4 d
Wexford	1 1/2 d

The rate which the Finance Committee decided to be submitted to the County Council for consideration was made up as follows:-

General Rate off Land	Emmiscothy	6: 5
	Gorey	6: 5
	West Ross	6: 5
	Wexford	6: 5
General Rate off Buildings	Emmiscothy	8: 9
	Gorey	8: 9
	West Ross	8: 9
	Wexford	8: 9

Separate Charges leviable off entire Rural Districts amount to:-

Emmiscothy	1: 3 1/2
Gorey	1: 7
West Ross	1: 1 3/4
Wexford	1: 1 3/4

In addition there are a number of separate charges leviable off small areas. Full particulars of all separate charges appear on Form 43.

Separate Charge Table contains amounts in respect of traditional Injury Decrees, superannuations allowances of Ex-Union officials, Repayments of Loans of former Boards of Guardians and repayments of Loans of former Rural District Councils. As regards the last item the Finance Committee points out that this was charged against the General Rate last year as part of the Demands of the Rural District Councils, but, in consequence of the abolition of these Councils and change made by Local Government Act 1925, it was now necessary to raise these repayments as separate charges over each Rural District.

The Minutes of Roads Committee of 25th January 1926 and appearing on pages 36 to 42 (inclusive) of Minutes of General Meeting of 8th February 1926 were read.

The Chairman proposed:— "That the minutes of Roads Committee of 25th January 1926 in so far as same relate to Road Rate for 1926-27 be received." *Passed.*

Mr. Doyle seconded.

Mr. Shannon proposed and Mr. Hayes seconded the following:

"That the amount to be spent on roads be produced by a rate of $3\frac{1}{10}$ in the £ for financial year 1926-27."

Col. Gibbon proposed and Mr. Boggan seconded the following.

"That the Council agree to road expenditure as produced by a rate of 3p in the £ for financial year 1926-27."

Mr. Jordan pointed out that while Wexford roads were costing £35 per mile, the roads in Kilkenny County were being maintained at £23.

The Chairman proposed and Mr. Sean O'Byrne seconded:—

"That the minutes of Road Committee of 25th January 1926 containing a recommendation for the approval of a road expenditure amounting to a rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ in the £, to include the raising of £4440 quarry stock and quarry and machinery arrears be and are hereby confirmed."

A vote was taken as to adopting road expenditure as produced by a rate of 3p in the £ with the following result:—

For— Messrs Boggan, Cloney, Doyle, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Quinn, Kavanagh, Murphy, O'Donoghue, Thorpe, Walsh and Whyte—13.

Against— Messrs P. Byrne, Clunie, Connors, Cooney, Colfer, Conish, Rossiter, Pender, Gaul, Hayes, Ternagh, Sean O'Byrne, Shannon and the Chairman—14.

A vote was then taken relative to road expenditure to be produced by a rate of $3\frac{1}{10}$ as follows:—

For— Messrs P. Byrne, Clunie, Colfer, Connors, Cooney, Conish, Pender, Rossiter, Gaul, Hayes, Ternagh, Sean O'Byrne, Shannon—13.

Against— Boggan, Cloney, Doyle, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Kavanagh, Murphy, O'Donoghue, Quinn, Thorpe, Walsh, Whyte, and the Chairman—14.

This motion was declared lost.

A vote was then taken as to the adoption of $3\frac{1}{4}$ rate as basis of expenditure, as follows:—

For— Messrs Boggan, P. Byrne, Clunie, Colfer, Gaul, Connors, Cooney, Conish, Pender, Rossiter, Gibbon, Hayes, Ternagh, Sean O'Byrne, Quinn, Shannon, and the Chairman—17.

Against— Messrs Cloney, Doyle, Hall, Jordan, Kavanagh, Murphy, O'Donoghue, Thorpe, Walsh, and Whyte—10.

The Chairman declared the proposal carried.

The following minutes of Special Meeting of Finance Committee held on 13th February 1926 were read.

A special meeting of the Finance Committee of Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview Wexford for the purpose of considering estimate for general rate, on the 13th February 1926.

Present, Mr Thomas MacCarthy, Chairman, presiding, also Col. Gibbon, Treas. P. Hayes, Sean O'Byrne, Michael Jordan, Wm Thorpe and James Gaub.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary and the County Surveyor were also in attendance. Mr Elger, Solicitor was unable to be present owing to illness.

Mr Walsh M. C. C. wrote that as he had a previous engagement arranged for, he was not able to be in attendance.

In connection with surveying staff, Col Gibbon considered that as Surveyors were now provided with motor cars three assistant surveyors would be sufficient for the performance of ordinary work and a fourth man might be put in charge of the trunk roads of the county.

Mr Jordan thought it would be more economic and as efficient if the roads were grouped and surface work set by contract.

The County Surveyor believed a system of this description would require quite as much supervision as the system which prevailed at present.

Mr Jordan said he understood that practically all the road workers in his district were in favour of the proposal which he made.

Col Gibbon said he would bring up his proposal as to re-allocation of the districts of Assistant Surveyors at the meeting of the Roads Committee.

In connection with mileage rate paid Assistant Surveyors there was a long discussion as to whether the present rate should be reduced to 5^d or 4^d.

It was finally decided that the County Council be recommended to reduce the rate to 5^d. Mr Jordan who was in favour of 4^d dissented.

It was decided that the amount included for the item be reduced by £231.

In connection with amount set aside for advertising, it was decided that the Chairman and Secretary should interview proprietors of local newspapers and ascertain the amount for which they would be prepared to carry out the advertising of the County Council and all subsidiary bodies, or, in the alternative, the advertising of the County Council and Committees directly appointed by them viz: County Committee of Agriculture, and Technical Instruction, Finance, Roads and other casual committees appointed by the County Council for work directly under their charge.

In connection with preparation of Register of Electors a recommendation was adopted that the County Council should point out to the Government that it should only be necessary to prepare Voters' Lists once every two years.

After considerable discussion it was decided that a sum of £1214 instalment of loan for re-erection of Courthouse be taken out of estimate as it was believed the amount of compensation for Wexford Courthouse, viz: -

£5000 would represent all that would be spent on such work for the coming year.
It was also decided that Mr Elger, solicitor be directed to apply for the 10 per cent interest on amount of compensation claim.

It was decided on the motion of the Chairman that a sum of £8000 amount of Grants be included as an estimated receipt, in view of the fact that a sum of £6000 has been withheld by Government as against unpaid Local Commission annuities amounting to only £8000.

The Chairman then proposed that the estimate for general rate, as follows be submitted to the County Council for consideration:— Off Land 6½ Off Buildings 8½

It was also decided on the motion of the Chairman that estimate for separate charges be approved.

The Chairman proposed:—"That the estimate for maintenance of roads as presented by Roads Committee be approved."

This proposal was not seconded.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col Gibbon seconded by Mr Jordan:—"That estimate for roads as agreed to by Roads Committee be presented to the special meeting of the County Council to be held on the 22nd February 1926 for their consideration."

The Chairman proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the following:—"That the minutes of Finance Committee of 13th February 1926 be received and adopted."

In connection with proposed reduction of assistant Surveyors mileage rate from 6^d to 5^d, the following was read from Local Branch of Irish Local Government Officials Union:

"Having carefully considered the proposal of the Finance Committee to reduce the travelling expenses of deputy surveyors by one penny per mile, this branch of the L. G. Officials Union is satisfied that Surveyors cannot possibly carry on at the reduced rate of 5^d per mile and in consequence is compelled to decline to agree to the Council's proposal. This action on the part of the Branch is based on the following facts:—

(1) The Surveyor must pay 11^d for petrol—not 11^d per gallon, the figure taken by the Finance Committee—and it should be remembered that the Surveyor works necessitates constant stopping and starting. As a result of this, his petrol consumption is considerably greater than that of the private owner who invariably is up against a straightforward proposition, as say getting from one town to another or works of that description.

(2) No allowance is made by the Committee for garage purposes.

(3) The Branch also considers that £36 is not a sufficient allowance to make for tyres and are of the opinion that £54 would be near the correct amount. The life of a tyre cannot be taken as 15,000 miles, and all manufacturers allow 10,000 as being the fair estimate. In the case of tyres the Surveyor has not the advantage of the private owner. He cannot choose his

route and is daily called upon to take his car into places where the latter would not dream of going.

(4) An allowance is made for a surveyor having to hire a car occasionally when his own is up for repairs. So far no man in their ranks has succeeded in getting a car at 6^d per mile. The usual charge is 10^d per mile.

(5) The Branch considers the allowance made for repairs L32 to be on the light side. In the case of repairs, the surveyor is again unfortunately circumstanced, as compared with the private owner. Practically every item must be given over to a mechanic for attention, whereas the private owner can devote his spare time to the car and do many odd jobs on his own. Invariably the surveyor's time off the roads is given to a great extent to the office work accruing from his activities and work out of doors.

In general it is agreed the Committee's figures are correct or nearly so in the case of the private owner, but it is unfair to take the surveyor off the same marks. The latter car must be out all day and every day practically speaking, and in all weathers. This is an entirely different proposition to that of the private owner who in the general case has his choice of route and weather.

Mr Jordan proposed and Mr Doyle seconded the following:

"That the mileage rate paid to Assistant Surveyors be fixed at 4^d from this date.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For - Messrs Boggan, Cloney, Doyle, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Kavanagh, Murphy, O'Donoghue, Quinn, Thorpe, Walsh, and Whyte - 13.

Against - Messrs Byrne, Clinch, Colfer, Connors, Conry, Corish, Rossiter, Pender, Shannon, Gaub, Hayes, Henagh, Sean O'Byrne, and the Chairman - 14.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

A vote was then taken on confirmation of minutes of Finance Committee including a recommendation to fix the mileage allowance for Assistant Surveyors at 5^d per mile.

The following was the result:-

For - Messrs Boggan, Clinch, Cloney, Conry, Pender, Doyle, Gaub, Gibbon, Hayes, Kavanagh, Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, O'Donoghue, Quinn, Henagh, Thorpe, Walsh, Whyte and the Chairman - 19.

Against - Messrs P. Byrne, Colfer, Connors, Corish, Rossiter, Hall, Jordan, and Shannon - 8.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The Chairman proposed:- "That general rate for financial year 1926-27 as appearing on Form 42 be agreed to and which represents a general rate of 6^d 15^d in the L on Land and 8^d 9^d on buildings. That rates for separate charges as appearing on Form 43 as submitted to this meeting and to Finance Committee be and are hereby agreed to."

Mr Corish seconded.

Mr Doyle proposed and Mr O'Donoghue seconded the following resolution:-

" That the general rate as submitted to this meeting in respect of financial year 1926-27 be reduced by 4^d in the L.

after considerable discussion both motions were withdrawn and the Chairman proposed the following which was seconded by Mr. Hall and adopted:-

" That the general rate for financial year 1926-27 as appearing on Form 42 submitted to this meeting be reduced by 2^d in the L, - amount of one penny of which is to be taken from Demand of County Board of Health and amount of second penny to come off rate for County Services, making the general rate in the L for each district at 6/3 for Land and 8/4 for other hereditaments. And that the rates for separate charges as appearing on Form 43 be also agreed to. That the following amounts be demanded from Urban districts:-

	General	Separate	Total
Ennisworthy	£ 2687:16:10	£ 108:6:4	£ 2796:3:2
Tewkesbury	£ 2484:13:2	£ 170:1:4	£ 2654:14:6
Wexford	£ 6174:18:5	£ 174:5:0	£ 6349:3:5

Rate Collection - No. 19 District.

Under date 15th February 1926 the following was read from Mr. James Murphy late Rate Collector for No 19 Collection District:-

" I regret very much the decision the County Council arrived at in reference to my suspension and am very sorry they did not give me an opportunity of relieving the past and proving that it is possible to make amends.

" I again respectfully ask them to reconsider their decision and reinstate me as collector, and I faithfully promise that there shall be no cause to regret their doing so.

" I know many of the members will recollect the difficult position and the dangers I had to contend with after my appointment, when for a long time after, the carrying out of the duties of the position often meant risking life, etc. Notwithstanding this, as can be ascertained, I successfully collected the rates for the Council and I now again respectfully ask them to give me another chance especially as I have cleared off all outstanding between us, and thus made amends as far as lay in my power."

Mr. Murphy submitted references from Rev. J. Murphy P.P. Ballymurni and Rev. William J. Harper C.C. Carroneigh.

The Council proposed that Mr. Murphy rate collector for No. 19 collection district be reinstated on probation of six months.

The Chairman said as Mr. Murphy had been dismissed by the Council, the Council should give notice of motions if he wished to move Mr. Murphy's reinstatement.

Collectors' Poundsage.

The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr. Shanahan:-

That the resolution adopted at meeting of 8th February 1926, reducing poundage fees for new Rate Collectors for No. 19 Collection District be rescinded, and that the poundage be fixed at 7^p as in the case of the remaining Rate Collectors of the Council.

Mr Clinia seconded.

a poll was taken with the following result:-

For - Messrs P. Byrne, Clinia, Colfer, Connors, Cooney, Corish, Paddy Rossiter, Gaulb, Hayes, Tremagh, Sean O'Byrne. Shammon - 13

Against - Messrs Boggan, Cloney, Doyle, Gibbon, Halb, Jordan, Kavanagh, Tremagh, O'Donoghue, Lunn, Thorpe, Walsh, Whyte and the Chairman - 14

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

Col Gibbon proposed and Mr Halb seconded the following resolution which was adopted nem. con.:-

"That our Secretary issue advertisements for appointments of Rate Collector for No. 19 Collection District, poundage fees to be 6^p in the £, elections to be held on Monday 8th March 1926. That for the position of Rate Collector for No. 19 District, Superior, Christian Brothers Westford be requested to set papers for qualifying examination in English, Irish, and Arithmetic and mark same. That examination be held in Co. Halb, Westford on Friday 5th March 1926 commencing at 11 O'clock."

Road Works Scheme

The Council then took up consideration of Provisional Road Works Scheme referred to them by Roads Committee.

After some discussion, the following notice of motion was handed in by Mr Jordan:-

"I hereby give notice of my intention to move at next meeting of Westford County Council that in future all road and quarry work of the Council be done by piece work or by contract."

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

"That the Committee for Local Government and Public Health be requested to sanction the following:- That the Councillors representing each County Electoral Area be appointed as Tenders Committee for that Area, viz:- Ennis Corliffe Area - Messrs Tremagh, Mr Corish, Jordan, Shammon, Kavanagh and Cliffe - 6
Long District - Messrs P. Byrne, Halb, O'Donoghue, Quinn, Sean O'Byrne, Connors and Pender - 7

New Ross District - Messrs Cloney, Colfer, Cooney, Murphy, Thorpe, Walsh and Whyte - 7

Westford District - Messrs Boggan, Doyle, Gibbon, Corish, Hayes, Gaulb and Rossiter - 7

That arrangements be made by which the various specifications in each County Electoral Area be available for inspection in the office of Assistant Surveyor

concerned.

That date as to meetings of Tenders Committee be agreed to by the Council when notice of motion by the Jordan as to having quarry and road work carried out by Council be disposed of."

Road at Camolin Park

Mr. P. Byrne presented the following Memorials which was signed by a large number of ratepayers in Camolin District:-

"We, the undersigned, on behalf of the residents in Camolin Park beg to draw your attention to the sad plight in which the unfortunate people are at present owing to the deplorable condition of the road leading to their houses from Camolin village.

"This road, so called, is now practically impassable. The unfortunate people have to wade knee deep in water and try to crawl along the tops of the ditches in wet weather, and when ill, the priest and doctor find it nearly impossible to visit them.

"We would therefore earnestly request that you would see your way towards granting some relief by way of grant towards putting this road in passable repair.

Colonel Sibson proposed and the Chairman seconded the following resolution which was adopted unanimously:-

"That our Secretary be directed to forward to the Department of Agriculture, Memorials from ratepayers of Camolin District calling attention to the condition of the road at Camolin Park which is a private road of the Department. That the Department be requested to put this road into proper condition at once. That reply of the Department in this matter be forwarded to Mr Doyle J.D. with a view to his taking whatever action in the matter he may consider advisable in the interests of the people concerned.

Thomas Barry