

A. Meeting of the Wexford County Council ads.
held on 10th March, 1924, in Co. Council Chambers,
Fortview Wexford.

Present:— Mr. E. P. Foley (Chairman) presiding, other
members:— Messrs. James Byrne, Michael Byrne,
M. Blaney, C. Bulleton, John Cummins, R. Corish,
James Lawlor, P. Hayes, James Hall, M. Hughes,
John O'Byrne, John J. O'Byrne, Patrick O'Byrne,
James Shannon, and Myles M. O'Donoghoe.

The Secretary, the County Surveyor and Mr. O'Leary
Solicitor were in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Residence for Surgeon - County Hospital.

The following notice of motion stood in the name of
Mr. Bulleton:—

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Board of Health, be rescinded, and that the Council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

Mr. Bulleton asked that the motion should be
further adjourned as he did not wish to move it
until a report had been received from the Ministry
of Local Government relative to the request of the
County Board of Health to have the Hospitals at
New Ross and Wexford examined by a departmental
doctor and engineers with a view to deciding
which should be the County Hospital. The matter
was being held up for a considerable time,
so he proposed the following:—

"That notice of motion standing in my name, relative to proposed purchase of Rosepark, be adjourned pending report from the Ministry of Local Government, relative to the Hospitals at Wexford and New Ross. That the Ministry be requested to take steps to have this matter disposed of without further delay."

Mr. Shannon seconded.

Passed.

Permanent Appointment of Machinery Overseer.

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

"That Mr. William Murphy, Machinery Overseer, be placed on the permanent staff of the council at his present salary viz £5 per week which is inclusive of travelling expenses"

Mr. John O'Byrne seconded.

As an amendment, Mr. J. J. O'Byrne proposed:-

"That notice of motion standing in the name of Mr. Shannon, relative to appointment of Mr. William Murphy as permanent Machinery Overseer, be adjourned for the present."

Mr. Blaney seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the Amendment:- Messrs Hayes, Lawlor, Bulleton, Hughes, O'Donohue, M. Byrne, Blaney, James Byrne, John J. O'Byrne and the Chairman - 10.

Against Messrs Hall, Cummins, Shannon and John O'Byrne - (4.)

Messrs. Corish and Patrick O'Byrne did not vote.

When the amendment was put as the substantive Motion Mr Corish moved the following:-

"That whilst desirous of placing Mr William Murphy on our permanent staff, we consider, in view of proposed purchase of extra Machinery that the matter should be adjourned until said Machinery arrives."

Mr. Hale seconded

A poll was then taken with the following result:-

For Amendment:- Messrs. Hayes, Balloton, Hughes, Lawlor, Hale, Corish, J. Cummins, John O'Byrne and the Chairman - (9).

Against:- Messrs O'Donoghue, Michael Byrne, James Byrne, John J. O'Byrne (4)

Did not vote:- Messrs Patrick O'Byrne, M. Glancy and James Shannon (3).

The chairman declared the amendment carried. It was then put as the substantive motion and passed. nem. con.

Road from Newtownbarry to New Ross.

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

"That the Ministry of local Government (Roads Department) be requested to schedule road from Newtownbarry to New Ross. as a trunk or a main road."

Mr M. Byrne seconded

In reply to the Chairman the County Surveyor stated that part of this road - viz from New Ross to Ballyanne was a trunk Road.

Another part was a main road and another portion a 3rd class Road, the end of which became a main road again. He considered the Road should be a trunk road whereas ten miles of it was a 3rd class Road at present.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

Disputed University Scholarship

Mr Shannon moved the following notice which stood in his name:-

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

Mr P. J. Hayes, father of the scholarship holder, appeared before the meeting, and said that apart from the technical point of his son not obtaining honours in two subjects. The Intermediate results in some subjects were not fair; however, he was unable to secure revision of the marks, The Intermediate commissioners having declined to agree to this proposal.

He submitted letters from the Professors of the university which went to show that his son was taking every advantage of his University course and was securing high marks at his examinations.

The following letter was read from Mr R. W. Elgee, solicitor, to the council.

I have looked into the question of the Scholarship awarded to Mr Patrick M. Hayes herein.

It appears to me that under the approved Scheme that the Scholarship should not in the first instance have been awarded to Mr Hayes, because it appears from the information before me he only obtained Honours in one subject only, whereas the Scheme expressly declares "That Honours must be obtained in at least two subjects of above lists. This being so I am of opinion that Mr Hayes, was ineligible for the Scholarship.

The Scheme provides that in the event of any disputes or differences arising in connection with the Scholarship or with the Holders thereof, or candidates therefor, the decision of the County Council shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

Under the last provision it appears clear to me that Mr Hayes would have no claim against the council in the event of their deciding to cancel the Scholarship granted to him.

As to the amount already paid by the council on account of the Scholarship I do not consider that the council could recover this from Mr Hayes.

The chairman pointed out the difficulty the council was in arose because a provision of the Scheme had been departed from and there was in consequence a risk of surcharge. In the event of Scholarship to Mr Hayes being cancelled it did not follow that Scholarship would be awarded to Mr Franklin on whose behalf objection to Mr Hayes Scholarship had been lodged.

Mr Corish proposed:-

That we request the Ministry of Local Government to agree to the Council allocating an extra Scholarship under University Scholarship Scheme 1923. in order to allow of Scholarships being awarded messrs. Hayes and Franklin.

Mr. John J. Byrne seconded.

After discussion Mr. John Byrne moved and Mr. J. Cummings seconded the following which was adopted:-

That we request the Ministry of Local Government to authorise the County Council to continue University Scholarship to Patrick M. Hayes, in view of the fact that he was given every satisfaction in his University course and because of the hardship which would be inflicted on him and his parents by withdrawal of scholarship at this stage.

Mr. Shannon allowed his motion to remain over pending reply of Ministry of Local Government to the request of the County Council.

Rates of wages for ordinary Maintenance of Roads etc and Terms and conditions of employment of workers.

In connection with the employment of workers for the ordinary maintenance work etc of the Council, recommendations had been submitted by the County Surveyor, and adjourned from time to time. Amongst these was a proposal as to the dismissal of men, with which the Finance and Roads Committee disagreed, and submitted, instead, the following recommendations.

Any man may be suspended without notice for gross inefficiency slackening or disobedience.

The County Surveyor may close down any job.

at once, on his being satisfied that the work is not proceeding economically, or in a proper manner.

Assistant Surveyors or Gangers may suspend labourers, or carters, pending investigation of complaint by Finance and roads committee. Gangers can be suspended in the same manner by Assistant Surveyors. All such suspensions are at once to be reported to the County Surveyor. If suspension be confirmed by Finance and Roads Committee, men concerned will be entitled to wages up to date of suspension only. If a man be reinstated there shall be no interruption to payment of his wages from the date of his suspension.

This recommendation was confirmed on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall.

Mr James Byrne proposed:-

That the rate of wages for road and quarry workers, employed on the ordinary normal work of the council, be fixed at 28/- per week"

Mr J J O'Byrne seconded

Mr Borish held that as this proposal meant a reduction of 10/- per week on the workers wages, to be in order the amount should have been definitely stated on the agenda paper.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, stated that the matter had been on the agenda paper for a considerable time, and had also been considered by the Finance and Roads Committee. In his opinion there was full power in No 11 of the agenda paper, to fix the wages, and to reduce or increase the existing rates.

Mr Shannon proposed that the rate be 30/- per week. This motion was not seconded.

A vote was taken on Mr James Byrne's motion (28/- per week) with the following result:-

For the motion:- Messrs Lawlor, Hall, O'Donoghue,
M. Byrne, James Byrne Blaney, John J. Byrne and
the Chairman (8).

Against:- Messrs Hayes, Hughes, Shannon
and John Byrne (4)

Did not vote:- Messrs Conish Patrick Byrne
and Bulleton. (3)

The chairman declared Mr James Byrnes
motion carried.

It was unanimously decided that the new
rate of 28/- per week should come into operation
as from 1st April, 1924.

With regard to the appointment of Gangers.
Mr Blaney proposed the following.

"That gangers be paid a wage of 30/- per week."
In his opinion many of them could be
dispensed with altogether, but as the County
Officials said they were necessary he would
not oppose their continuance.

Mr O'Donoghue seconded.

As the council had six Assistant Surveyors
with Motor Cars, they did not in his opinion, want
45 gangers.

The chairman held that the gangers had
justified their existence.

Mr Blaney complained that work, which
had, in the past cost £100 a year or roads,
was now costing £1,500 per annum.

Chairman The conditions of work and the
work itself are now entirely different. You
cannot compare Direct Labour with the
contract system; it was not a fair com-
parison. The amount of road estimate,

four years ago was £40,000; last year, the amount was £73,000.

As an amendment, the chairman proposed:-

That a reduction of 25 per cent be made in the present wages paid to gangers, carters etc.

Mr J J Byrne seconded.

A vote was taken with the following result:-

For the Amendment. - messrs Lawlor O'Donohue
M. Byrne, James Byrne J J Byrne, Hall and the
Chairman. (4)

Against - nil.

Did not vote - messrs Hayes, Bulleton, Patrick
Byrne, Corish Hughes, Blaney, Shannon, and
John Byrne (8).

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

The following further conditions were then agreed to on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Lawlor:-

"Tradesmen shall be paid the usual wages current in the locality according to trade."

Working hours shall be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with an interval of 12 noon to 1 p.m. off each day for dinner. Workmen not turning up at the appointed time shall lose half a day.

Church Holidays and wet weather allowed, provided otherwise full time is worked.

Work on Saturdays shall be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and shall count a full day."

The regular staff shall be employed continuously as far as possible, but shall be subject to a week's notice (from any Saturday) if, from any cause,

it be necessary to shut down or curtail the work"

"Carters, casual labourers, and Tradesmen shall be employed from day to day, or during the continuance of any particular job or which they may be engaged.

"Any workman taking employment under the County Council shall be bound by the above terms and conditions."

Trunk Road Grants

Under date 18th February, 1924. (S.G.A/201), the Ministry of Local Government. (Roads Department) wrote that a sum of £ 20,820 had been provisionally allocated for the improvement of Trunk Roads in Wexford County. In addition, the minister was prepared to meet loan charges, payable over a period of ten years, in respect of a sum not exceeding £ 9,980, if raised by the council by loan from the Treasury for the purchase of road machinery. In the event of the council having sufficient plant, this sum of £ 9,980 would be added to the grant and be available for road improvement. It was also provided that the following further Grants would be allocated to the Urban Districts, viz., Enniscorthy £ 1,100; New Ross £ 1,100; Wexford £ 2,200.

Under date 1st March, 1924 a letter was read from the Town Clerk, New Ross, forwarding the following resolution which had been adopted by the New Ross Urban District Council:-

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

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

"That, as regards application from New Ross for supplemental Grant under scheme for improvement of trunk roads, the County Surveyor be directed to furnish report to next meeting of the Council."

Canceled Road Grant £ 3,510.

Under date 26th February, 1924, letter no R/S/4/32, was read from the Ministry of Local Government (Roads Department) stating that as the works proposed to be carried out under Road Fund Grant £ 3,510, provisionally allocated to County Wexford, for Trunk Road improvement, had not been commenced, the grant was to be regarded as cancelled.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr^m Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-

"That, with reference to the decision of the Minister of Local Government as stated in letter, under date 26th February, 1924. No R/S/4/32, as to cancellation of Road Grant, we desire to point out to the Minister that the council have now agreed to the wages fixed by the Government in connection with work on Trunk Roads viz 28/- per week, and, in the circumstances we would request the Government to reinstate Grant of £ 3,510."

Proposed Purchase of Road Machinery

The following Minute was submitted from Finance and Roads Committee:-

"The County Surveyor submitted tenders for supply of six living vans - James Casey, New Ross, tendered at £15 for one van. The Wexford Timber Co., Wexford, at £110 per van. No tender was received from Enniscorthy Co-Operative Agricultural Society Limited."

In regard to the tenders for engines submitted from English firms, an understanding had been arrived at by the various firms for the supply of engines as an identical figure. This did not apply to the vans so much the case.

Manufacturers were offering to supply vans at £60 each. He had at one time, considered that it might be advisable for the County Council to make their own vans but he found it would cost practically £100 per van."

"Tenders for six engines, convertible to rollers, at £1,131.6:0. per engine total £6,487.16.0 were received from:-

"Aveling and Porter, Rochester."

"Clayton and Shuttleworth Lincoln."

"John Fowler & Co. Leeds."

"Garrett's Heston"

"Barclay, Gt Yarmouth Norfolk."

"Messrs Clayton and Shuttleworth tendered also for one traction engine at £862"

The County Surveyor stated he had also received quotation for second hand engine at £500.

Quotations for two breakers were received as follows:-

Goodwin Barby & Co. Leicester, £600 per breaker and £20 for erection: and Messrs Duckers Limited (who had recently purchased the Dublin dock yard) at £600 per breaker and £30 for erection."

Representatives of the various firms came before the meeting and made statements to the committee relative to the various makes and engines etc.

After discussion, a letter was submitted from the representatives of Messrs Clayton and Shuttleworth that, provided their tender for engines, was accepted they would be prepared to supply six living vans at £55 per van.

The County Surveyor stated that, if this tender was accepted, they would save £330 which could be utilised for the purpose of building necessary machinery shed and coal store on the County Council premises and which would give local employment."

The following recommendation was unanimously agreed to:-

That the tender of messrs Blayton & Shuttleworth, Lincoln for six engines at £1,131. 6. 0 each, total, £6,786. 16. 0; and six living vans at £55 each, total £330; be recommended to the Council for acceptance, subject to grant (P48) already applied for to the Roads Department of the Ministry of Local Government, being forthcoming.

The County Council be further recommended to purchase one stonebreaker at £600 from Goodwin Barsby & Co., Leicester, and one stonebreaker at £600 from Messrs. Winkles Limited also to provide forks for erection of Goodwin Barsby stonebreaker and £30 for erection of Winkles machine.

That we further approve of the purchase of second hand traction engine at a cost not exceeding £500

This recommendation to be contingent on the County Council being able to obtain a loan of two thirds of the cost of machinery dealt with in this resolution viz., £5,912 and from Government sources £2,956 one third of cost.

Under date 7th March, 1924 the following circular letter was read from Ministry of Local Government:-

With reference to the proposed Road Reconstruction Scheme this department has decided to purchase all the Road Plant and Machinery required by each County on the Amalgamated Purchase system, in order to get the best possible prices.

We would be glad, therefore, to have full particulars of your requirements with specifications where necessary. This information is urgently required as some Councils have already placed their orders with us.

The recommendations of Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr J J O'Byrne provided the circular letter of the Ministry of Local Government was dated 7th March 1924 as to purchasing machinery under Amalgamated Purchase system does not cover.

machinery which is required for ordinary county purposes.

Confirmation of Tenders for Road and Works.

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

"That the several proposals for new works and for the maintenance of ~~same~~^{works}, as appearing on Form 20 received from the proposal committee and the Rural District Councils be and are hereby agreed to, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initiated by the chairman."

Wexford Bridge

In connection with proposals for roads and works approved at this meeting, a letter was read, under date 6th March, 1924, from Mr. Browne, Town Clerk Wexford, stating that a deputation consisting of Alderman Hadden, Blaney and Sinnott, and Councillors Hayes and Billington, from the corporation, proposed attending the meeting of the council to advocate the erection of a new bridge from the quay to Ferrybank.

A. resolution was also received from the Wexford Rural District Council, urging the County Council to proceed with the erection of a new bridge at Wexford which appeared to be more economical than spending money in repairing the present bridge.

Mr John O'Byrne proposed and Mr John J. Byrne seconded:-

"That the deputation from Wexford Corporation, relative to Wexford Bridge be received."

Passed.

Alderman Hadden and Blaney and Councillor Hayes were the members of the deputation who attended.

Alderman Hadden pointed out that the old bridge was something like 60 years old, and, being built of timber was a continual source of outlay while each year the expense would become greater. The corporation felt that the redemption of loan and interest for the building of a new bridge would be almost equal to the expenditure on the old one. The corporation considered the new structure should be of pre- concrete. He believed it was the feeling of the County Council to take into account the wishes of the inhabitants of any portion of the County affected by their works, and the people of Wexford would greatly welcome the rebuilding of the new bridge on the old site.

Alderman Blancy mentioned that the erection of the new bridge would relieve unemployment, a question which was extremely acute at present.

Mr Hayes said it was a waste of money to be spending £4,000 or £5,000 on the old Bridge at Wexford. The old Ferrycross Bridge had cost in repair what would have rebuilt three Bridges.

The chairman pointed out that whenever the opportunity arose for rebuilding on the old site it would have the support of everybody concerned. The council were at present trying to find out what assistance they would get from the Government. The estimate for the new bridge was £90,000, and, assuming the Government would give them one-third, they would have to borrow £60,000 which, on an annuity loan for 35 years at 4½ per cent would mean an annual charge of £3,436. There was quite a wrong impression amongst the people as to the amount which had been spent on Wexford Bridge, as for the past ten or twelve years this was only £500 per annum. As against this, an annual charge of £3,436 was a big item, and it required very careful consideration before being imposed upon the ratepayers.

The County Surveyor stated that, in connection with the discussion which had occurred at a previous meeting as to the road passing the bridge being scheduled as a trunk road this had now been done.

Alderman Hadden thanked the Council for hearing the deputation. It was a great gratification to them to have received an expression of opinion that the old site for the bridge was desirable. They should have a great claim upon the Government more particularly, as the Council had been obliged to shoulder a loan of £11,000 for Waterford Bridge and, in the present instance, Wexford would have to bear exclusively the huge expenditure necessary in connection with a new Bridge.

Mr Gorish pointed out the amount, which had been spent yearly on Wexford Bridge was merely for the purpose of preventing deterioration. If it were attended to properly, it would cost £3,000 a year. Of course the great objection to repairing it was that it was quite unable to bear the traffic of the present day.

The County Surveyor said that the actual amount which had been spent on the structure for ten years was £4,462. The amount, £4,500, which he had brought before the last meeting of the proposal committee was merely to repair the damage which had been done to the bascule during the recent troubles.

It was decided to make no order pending reply from the Ministry of Local Government as to what assistance the Council might be able to count upon in case they should decide to erect a new Bridge on the old site from the Quay to Gerybank.

Closing down of Quarries in New Ross District

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

That the following resolution adopted on 10th September, 1923 be rescinded and that the Council pay men in quarry amount in lieu of notice

of termination of services. "That the County Surveyor be held responsible to this Council for repayment of money paid to men in grants whose services were discontinued without proper notice."

The Secretary stated that a letter in connection with this matter had been written by the Ministry of Local Government on 30th Nov. last but by some mischance never reached the Co. Council office.

It was as follows:-

I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant relative to the question of the Wexford County Council's paying the sum of £22-16 0 in lieu of notice to men employed in the Council's Quarries in the New Ross District, which are being closed down, and I am to state that in the special circumstances mentioned the Minister will raise no objection to the payment of the amount by the County Council but the case should not be regarded as a precedent. Presumably the County Surveyor will be careful in future to see that the County's finances will not be prejudiced in a case of this nature."

An application was received from the South West Wexford Branch of the Transport and General Workers Union on behalf of the men concerned that they would not allow the payment of the men to remain in abeyance and threatened to take legal proceedings.

In moving the motion Mr. Blaney stated that Mr. Barry had acted hastily but really in a manner which was in the interests of the Council. In the circumstances he believed Mr. Barry should be relieved of the responsibility.

Mr. J. Byrne seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Salaries of Council Officials.

The following notice of motion stood in the name of Mr M. M. O'Donohue:-

I propose to have the salaries of all the council officials reconsidered with a view to adjustment at next meeting March 10th, 1924". (This notice was received ~~at~~ the 4th March, 1924)

In connection with this matter the chairman called attention to Standing order No. 3 which stated:-

"Any member of the Council may submit an original motion relevant to the business of the Council on giving notice in writing signed by himself to the Secretary of the Council fourteen days preceding the day of meeting or at a previous meeting of the Council."

It was decided that the matter be adjourned to next ordinary meeting of the council.

Road Grants and Rate of wages re same.

Under date 6th March 1924. the following was read from the Ministry of Local Government (Roads Department) (R/SB/32) :-

I am directed by the minister for local Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo relative to the maximum wages which may be paid to labourers employed in County Wexford on work under the above mentioned Grant.

As the maximum wages which can be paid for work under the Grant announced on the 18th ultimo had been fixed at 20/- per week any application from the County Council for the restoration of the Grant of £3,510 can only

be considered on the basis of the acceptance of these wages.

The Minister cannot authorise payment of wages at a higher rate for work under the Grant in County Wexford than 28/- per week."

Mr. Borish said he would be in favour of proposing that a conference be held between representatives of the Co. Council and representatives of the workers, with a view to fixing upon an agreed wage for Road workers. In regard to Government Grants on the last occasion when wages were under consideration the matter was dealt with successfully by a similar conference.

Mr. James Byrne pointed out that Mr. Borish had accused the Council at a public meeting of having connived with the Government to pull down the wages of workers.

Another class of workers who had performed a good deal of service in Black and Tan times were the small farmers and at one time they were informed they could not get work on the roads unless they joined the Transport Union. Mr. Borish had made an attack on the members for New Ross area at a recent labour meeting which he considered highly unjustifiable.

The Chairman said they should object to any member of the Council attacking any member outside and in other organizations.

Mr. O'Donoghue protested against an attack which had been so specially made on Mr. Blaney at New Ross Labour meeting.

Mr. Borish in reply stated when he attended any public meeting he was prepared to face facts. It was disgraceful for a man in Mr. Blaney's position to advocate a wage of 28/- per week for

a labourer with a family.

Mr Blaney stated his proposition was to meet unemployment; he could not understand why a labour organization should advocate a higher wage for a small number of men.

Mr Bonish held that Mr. Blaney's proposal did not provide for the employment of a larger number of men, because Mr Blaney had already stated that any saving was to be employed in the reduction of the Road Estimates and the same number of men would be employed.

Mr Bulleton said a vote of censure should be passed on any Government which held that 28/- per week was sufficient for a worker with a family. It was absurd to fix such a figure in view of the cost of living. The Government were doing nothing for either Farmers or Labourers and should be called upon to abdicate.

The Chairman pointed out that the Ministry of Local Government had made a hard and fast ruling as regards the 28/- per week and it was quite evident that unless the council was prepared to agree to this figure they would lose the Grant.

Mr Hayes proposed that a committee of the council be appointed to meet the workers concerned and ascertain if an amicable arrangement could be arrived at as regards rates of wages for workers on Roads and in Quarries in respect of Government Grants.

Mr P. Byrne seconded.

Mr Blaney proposed as an amendment:-

That the council agree to pay wages at the rate of 28/- per week in connection with work under Government Grants on the basis

of the letter of 6th March, 1924 from the Ministry of Local Government.

Mr Hall seconded, stating that he did so in order to secure the Government Grants for the County.

The Chairman said that the County Surveyor had explained at last meeting that a saving of 4/- per week on wages would represent the employment of 25 extra men.

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

For:- Messrs Lawlor, Hall, O'Donoghue, M. Byrne, James Byrne, J. J. Byrne, Blaney and the Chairman.
(8)

Mr Cummins had left the meeting when this vote was taken.

The amendment was declared carried.

The Chairman then put the amendment as the substantive motion and declared it carried.

Application mileage Allowance Assistant Surveyors.

Under date 12th February 1924 the following was read from the six Assistant Surveyors of the Council:-

"We the undersigned District Surveyors, find it impossible to run motor cars at the reduced rate of sixpence per mile. At the present time petrol costs more per gallon than when we first started running those cars at the rate of ninepence per mile. Accordingly we now beg to make application that the old rate be reverted to viz ninepence per mile."

In asking you to consider this matter we would also point out that at present we were paying part of the running expenses of the cars out of our salaries. This, we certainly cannot afford to do, and we, √

are of the opinion that this was not the intention of the council when they directed as to purchase these cars.

We think it will be generally admitted that the increased supervision possible with those cars has resulted in a considerably increased efficiency in the work all round, a result that could not have been achieved under any other circumstances.

In conclusion we would point out, while we are most anxious to meet the council in every way, and thereby insure the continuity of the present good work, yet it will be impossible to do so at the present mileage rate.

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

That our Secretary be instructed to communicate with the Ministry of Local Government and ascertain if they have yet dealt with the mileage allowance to Surveyors.

Rate collection

The following Minute of Finance and Roads Committee was submitted:-

The state of the Rate collections was laid before the meeting. A resolution was adopted recommending the County Council to fix 15th May 1924 as the last date for closing current collection.

That Deputy Collectors of Rate Collectors Accounts be requested to furnish information as to how collectors in their districts have distributed their Demand Notes and that collectors be directed to state date upon which the last demand notes in respect of current collection were distributed.

On the motion of John J. Byrne seconded by Mr. Conish the foregoing recommendations of the Finance and Roads Committee were adopted.

Ministry and Poundage.

Under date 6th March 1924 the following (G.8338/1924 Wexford County) was read from the Ministry of Local Government:-

Advertising to your letter of the 21st ultimo on the subject I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to state that in deference to the strongly expressed wishes of the Wexford County Council he has sanctioned the payment of poundage to the Rate Collectors as requested in the Council's minutes of the 10th December last, on the understanding that the Collectors will proceed without delay to close their warrants for the year 1922/23 and will prosecute a vigorous collection of the current year's rates. The Collectors should be required to enter into Bonds as prescribed by the Public Bodies Order 1904 for the coming year's collection."

Poundage claim - Brothers Rowe.

The following minute was submitted from Finance and Roads Committee:-

A letter was read from Mr Edward Rowe, Ballymear New Ross, stating he understood that portion of the poundage due in respect of period he acted as Collector was to be paid to his brother, Thomas. He objected to this and he claimed full poundage in respect of period he was in office.

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

That as recommended by our solicitor poundage be paid to the Lowe brothers in proportion to the amounts they have collected. That if Thomas Lowe, who has been acting as Deputy for his brother Edward, has any claim against the latter in respect of lodgement of Rates the council cannot consider same as any such would be a private transaction between the brothers.

On the motion of Mr J. J. O'Byrne seconded by Mr Boish the foregoing recommendation was conformed.

Execution of Warrants for Poor Rate.

The following minute of Finance and Roads Committee was submitted:-

At the last meeting of the council the following resolution was adopted:-

That the District Justice be requested to enquire from the Clerks of the District Courts if any decrees for rates had remained unexecuted as it is so reported to us."

Under date 25th February, 1924. Mr Tappy D.J. wrote that in two or three cases in Enniscorthy District and two or three in Wexford District the Civic Guard had gone to defendants lands to seize under warrant and had been met with receipts for the amounts and which were paid after the commencement of the proceedings. The Garda complained that except in Kilkenny District, they had not been assisted by the Rate Collectors in levying the warrants. In one district (Flosslare) the Garda were informed by four different persons to whom

they went with warrants that the collector had come to an arrangement with them and was taking the amount of the decree in each case by instalments. This was being done apparently behind everyone's back.

Mr. D'gee stated that the Wexford collectors had refused to give any assistance to the Garda in pointing out lands or stock of defendants.

A resolution was unanimously adopted directing the Secretary to summon Mr. P. J. Gartlon, Rate Collector, to the meeting of the Council on the 10th instant and also calling the attention of the Council to the fact that the Civic Guard were doing what was possible to have the warrants for rates executed but were not in some instances receiving assistance towards that end from certain Rate collectors."

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

Mr. P. J. Gartlon the Rate Collector concerned came before the meeting and stated that he had reported to the Garda immediately he had made arrangements with the Rate Payors to accept decrees by instalments and he could not understand why a complaint should be made now. There were two cases involved not four.

The Chairman said the meeting would regard Mr. Gartlon's explanation as satisfactory.

Rate Collection No 15 District

Under date 6th March 1924, the following was read from Mr. P. J. Fitzpatrick, Rate Collector, No 15 District:-

I beg most respectfully to apply to you and through you to the bo bouncil for reinstatement to the Position of Rate Collector formerly held by me and to which position Mr Sean Gannon was appointed as substitute during my interment.

The agreement between Mr Sean Gannon and myself as stated in my letter to you of the 9th February still holds good. He is quite satisfied for me to be reinstated.

I beg also to apply to you for Poundage due to me I need same badly at present if the bouncil can see its way to let me have same.

It was decided to adjourn consideration of this letter to next meeting of bo bouncil.

Rate Collection No 4 District.

A long communication was received from Cathal Brugha Sinn Fein blab in connection with Sealed orders removing from office Mr R. J. Sinnott, Rate collector for above Rate collection district.

On the motion of Mr James Hall seconded by Mr James Byrne it was decided that the matter be referred to next meeting of the Finance and Roads Committee.

Rates on Burned Out Railway Stations

Considerable correspondence was read from D.S.E Railway company, the rate collectors and Mr Wood, Valuation Department, as regards rebate of Poor Rates on Railway stations which had been partially destroyed.

The bouncil had already adopted a resolution that in any such cases in which compensation claim has been lodged.

by the Railway company no rebate should be allowed.

Mr Elyer explained that so far as he knew all the compensation claims by D & S E Railway Co. had been withdrawn.

In view of this the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Patrick Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:-

That on receipt of the necessary certifications from the valuation department claims for statement of Rates in connection with Burned out Railway stations in the Wexford Rural areas be allowed."

Proposed Agreement to Council and to Insurance Committee

The following Minute of Finance and Roads Committee was submitted to meeting:-

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

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

That we recommend the council to appoint a small committee to consider the advisability of the council entering into an agreement with the Co. Insurance Committee for the treatment of Tuberculous Persons more especially in regard of the safeguarding of non-insured persons".

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. J. Hall the following Resolution was adopted:-

That the question of agreement between the Tuberculosis Committee and the Co Insurance Committee relative to sanatorium and surgical treatment of patients be referred to next meeting of the Finance and Roads Committee.

Government Grants.

Letter No. 87050/24 under date 16th February, 1924 giving particulars as regards Government Grants due was read:-

Letter dated 25th February, 1924 from Ministry of Local Government forwarding negotiable Receipts for £ 18,295. 19. 8 made up as follows was read:-

Agricultural Grant half year ending 31st March 1922.	£ s d
	12,022 : 10. 0
advance in respect of half year ended 30 September, 1923.	6,539 : 7. 9
Total.	<u>£18,561 - 17 - 9</u>

Deducted in respect of amounts due by Rural District Councils in repayment advances made by Irish Land Commission under Labourers (Ireland) acts as follows:-

Enniscorthy R.D.	£ 90 - 0. 10
Gorey R.D.	131 - 17. 6
New Ross R.D.	43. 19. 9 265 - 18. 1

Net amount payable £ 18,295. 19. 8

The Irish Land Commission wrote under date 4th March, 1924 (No 2211096/24) showing the amounts deducted from Local Taxation Account in respect of instalments due by R.D. Councils under Labourers acts as follows:-

✓	Enniscorthy R.D. Council	£ 1,357. 4. 0
	Gorey R.D. Council	1311. 3. 11
	New Ross R.D. Council	663 - 0. 0
	Wexford R.D. Council	584 - 14. 8

The arrears due on 1st December, 1923 by County R. D. council amounted to £31. 5. 10. There were no arrears in the other Rural Districts.

The Secretary stated he understood that under a new arrangement Grants will not in future be retained so long in the Guarantee fund.

Local Offices and Employments order 1924.

The following minute was submitted from Finance and Roads committee. Under date 14th February, 1924. (G.5308-1924 Miscellaneous) the Ministry of local Government forwarded above order, which supersedes Local Offices and Employees Order, No 1, 1923."

"The following recommendation was adopted on the motion of Mr Hayes seconded by Mr Byrne"

"That in connection with the Schedule to the Local Offices and Employments order 1924, the County Council should ask for a direction on Nos 2 and 3, as to whether it is necessary to obtain, the sanction of the Ministry to the appointment of road gangers and temporary clerks for the writing up of Rate Books etc., in fact whether every person earning a weekly wage is meant to be dealt with in the Schedule."

On the motion of Mr John Byrne seconded by Mr Hall the foregoing recommendation of the Finance and Roads Committee was agreed to.

Disused workhouses.

The following minute of Finance and Roads Committee was submitted:-

Under date 15th February 1924 (No. P.48503) 1924 the Ministry of local Government forwarded "The County Council

(Desused workhouses) order 1924 under which it is necessary for a County Council to take steps to maintain and insure desused workhouse premises and appoint a fit person to act as caretaker.

The Secretary stated as regards Wexford only one workhouse was at present unoccupied viz New Ross. Gorey workhouse was used as a Military Barracks. Wexford workhouse as the present County Hospital and Enniscorthy workhouse as the County Home.

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

That we recommend the Co Council to request our Chairman and Secretary to attend next meeting of New Ross Rural District Council to discuss with latter body what steps should be taken to carry out directions of Ministry of Local Government Board as to appointment of caretakers etc re desused workhouses.

That the Clerk New Ross Rural District Council be asked to issue notice to members of his council of the attendance of representatives of the council at next meeting of R.D. Council and of the purpose of their visit.

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

Local Elections

Under date 28th February, 1924 the Ministry of Local Government wrote (no 79411/1924 Miscellaneous) forwarding Order fixing dates of election of local Bodies.

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

That we request the Ministry of Local Government to fix a date other than the

15th July, 1924, on which to hold election of Urban councillors. From the experience of members of this council it would be almost physically impossible to carry out in the one Polling Booth election of County councillors, Rural District councillors and Urban councillors. The present order of the Minister in this regard will only lead to confusion and dissatisfaction".

Union Amalgamation Scheme

The following minute was submitted from Finance and Roads Committee:-

"The Secretary mentioned that Mrs. Askins, late Portress of Enniscorthy Fever Hospital had been awarded a Gratuity of £100 whereas the provision under circular 53 entitled her to £168-1-6. He could not find any report of this case having been dealt with by the Ministry."

On the motion of Mr. Cummins seconded by the Chairman the following recommendation was adopted:-

That our Secretary communicate with the Ministry of Local Government (Public Health Section) and ascertain if they have made any award in the case of Mrs. Askins, late Portress of Enniscorthy Fever Hospital."

Under date 21st February, 1924 the Ministry of Local Government wrote (No. P 4385/1924 Wexford County) that as the right to and amount of Gratuity did not appear to have been disputed the function of the Ministry in regard to same did not arise.

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

That we agree to payment of the amount of compensation to Mrs. Askins, late Portress of Enniscorthy Fever Hospital as fixed by Enniscorthy Board of Guardians.

Liabilities Wexford to Infirmary.

Under date 16th February, 1924 Ministry of Local Government wrote (P. 3333-1924) that the Minister did not see any objection to the proposal of the Wexford County Council in regard to the liabilities of the late Committee of Management of Wexford to Infirmary.

No Order.

To Surveyors. Examination.

Under date 19 February, 1924. (No R 8204 R. 29) The Ministry of Local Government forwarded Regulations for examination for County Surveyors to begin 3rd April 1924.

Mountgarrett Bridge

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

"That, as the rebuilding of Mountgarrett Bridge is a matter of extreme urgency, we request the Ministry to sanction the loan of £6,000, necessary to provide for the Wexford share of the cost of erection of same."

Affairs of New Ross Urban District.

In connection with the proposal of the Ministry of Local Government that pending the local elections, the County Council should administer the affairs of New Ross Urban District Council, which had been dissolved, the following letter under date 20 February, 1924 was read from Mr. Michael Byrne one of the administrative committee appointed by the County Council for the purpose

I received your letter notifying me of my appointment as a member of a committee

to administer the civic affairs of the urban area of New Ross of which fact needless to say I was aware when I reluctantly consented to act at the last meeting of the bo council. When I undertook this in response to strong representations of my colleagues I was determined to face all the odium and unpopularity that would naturally attach to the position to try and help the people to resume control of their municipal affairs.

Before the ink of the resolution appointing us was dry a clique in the town calling themselves the Ratepayers Association set out to undermine our authority. Next evening after the usual wirepulling the action you saw described in the Press took place my name being made use of without my authority.

On consultation with some prominent citizens who can speak with authority I find that it was the same clique who undermined the authority of the defunct Urban council and rendered futile the efforts of the members who were honestly endeavouring to discharge their duties to the public and I am aware that as far as they dare attempt it they tried to prevent the bo council functioning when as you know to your cost they were engaged in death grips with the Black and Tans.

Under the circumstances I must ask the bo council to relieve me of any further responsibility in the matter.

The following recommendation was submitted from Finance and Roads Committee:-

That our Secretary draw up a statement explaining that the efforts of the administrative committee appointed by the bo council would have been directed to placing the affairs of New Ross Urban District Council in a satisfactory

position and to safeguarding the interests of the people of that town, and that the members of the Committee consented to act after great pressure from their colleagues on the Co Council. Further if the people of New Ross fail to recognise that it is only the Administrative Committee can save them from the appointment of a Commissioner, they must only abide by the consequence. That the statement in question be forwarded to the Town Clerk, New Ross, and that he be requested to convene a meeting of the representatives of the various organisations interested in the town and lay the facts of the position before them. Should no assistance be forthcoming from this meeting to help the Administrative Committee, no further action be taken by the Co Council.

A long discussion took place. Mr Finn Town Clerk New Ross who was present gave the meeting every information in connection with the affairs of the Urban District.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr James Byrne seconded by Mr Michael Byrne:-

That we dissent from the recommendations of the Finance and Roads Committee as regards making another attempt to administer the affairs of New Ross Urban District Council through the County Council, as we believe organised efforts have been made to prevent our Committee from functioning in a proper manner. Owing to the present position of affairs in New Ross, the County Council do not find it possible to accept any responsibility in this matter,

and would be glad if the Minister of Local Government would take such steps to have this bouncil administered as he considers most advisable in the circumstances.

Sealed Order - Compensation W. G. Smith.

Under date 23rd January, 1924 the local Government Department forwarded Sealed Order (810-1924) fixing the gratuity payable to W.G. Smith, late Master, New Ross, Workhouse at £634-0-11.

Cutting of Hedges.

Under date 8th March, 1924, the following letter was read from the County Surveyor:-

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

on Road 4 R

on Road 12 R

on Road 12 R

on Road 23 W

(on Road 38 W)
(and 237 W)

on Road 21 L.

on Road 7 L.

Patrick O'Shea Ballyanne

Miss Power 40, Brogue Lane New Ross

Patrick Delaney Justown New Ross.

Mrs Meyer Rocksbrough Wexford

Nicholas Pettit Rathmore

Matthew Whelan Courtown Harbour

John Byrne Grenville Annagh Inch

Mr O'Donoghue complained that he had received notice relative to cutting of a hedge, of his, portion of which had been badly damaged by the Gangs of the County Council and his workmen last season.

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

That the County Surveyor be directed to inspect hedge in respect of which Mr O'Donoghue has received ten day notice to cut and report to next meeting of the Finance and Roads Committee

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

"That the County Surveyor be empowered to proceed against the persons named in his letter of the 8th March, 1924, read for this meeting, in regard to the cutting of hedges, should he consider it necessary to do so."

Mr O'Donoghue gave notice of his intention to move the following:-

That the resolution of the Council as to cutting of hedges be rescinded.

Employment Trade Unions on Roads.

The following minute of Finance and Roads Committee was submitted:-

Under date 11th February, 1924 Mr William Vennard, Wexford Organiser Transport Union, were stating definitely that Moses Kenny who had been reinstated by County Council as a Road worker was not a member of the Union and was therefore not eligible for work under the County Council.

Mr. Martin Kehoe, Secretary, Enniscorthy Branch Transport Union appeared before the meeting stated Kenny was £4-7-6. in arrears with his contributions; that he had been "turned out"

of the Union and therefore not entitled to any work on the Roads.

The Finance Committee considered it was unnecessary to make any ruling on this matter as they were of opinion everyone concerned is bound by resolution on books of the County Council that no man can be employed as a Road worker unless a Trade Unionist.

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

Dates of meetings

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. J. O'Byrne the following dates of meetings for Rural and County Councils were agreed to:-

Enniscorthy R.D.C.	Thursday 17th April 11 o'clock
Gorey R.D.C.	Saturday 5th April 11.30 o.b.
New Ross R.D.C.	Wednesday 9th April 11.30 o.c
Wexford R.D.C.	Saturday 19th April 11.0 block
Proposal Committee County Council	Monday 11th April 10.30 o.b.
County Council (Half yearly meeting)	Monday 14th April 11.0 block
	Monday 5 May 11 o'clock

Owing to the lateness of the hour the consideration of the remaining items on agenda paper was adjourned to next meeting.

Edmon O'Boyle

14/4/1924