

Quarterly Meeting May 7th 1901.

The Statutable Quarterly Meeting of the County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Court House Wexford on Tuesday May 7th 1901.

Present - In the Chair - Sir Thomas H. Grattan Comonde B^t M.P. Chairman of the Council, and subsequently Mr Edmund Hore, Vice-Chairman.

Other Councillors Messrs Daniel Dempsey, James C. Mayler, Michael Browne, James Donohoe, John Cummins, William Whitty, Patrick O'Connor, Daniel Power, James B. Hearn, James Sinnott, James A. Doyle, Charles H. Peacocke, Laurence Murphy, John F. Walsh, Patrick Ryan, M. J. Redmond, Michael Hickey, James Codd, Lord Stopford Capt J. J. Walker, C. M. Doyle and Thaddeus Bolger.

Capt Pigott Secretary to the Council Mr R. M. Elgee Solicitor and Mr Henry Webster County Surveyor were also present.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council was read and confirmed.

Proposed by the Chairman (Sir Tho. H. G. Comonde) seconded by Mr Browne, supported by Mr Cummins, and adopted in silence - "That we express our deep regret at the loss of our esteemed colleague, Lord Maurice Fitzgerald, and that we desire to convey our sincere sympathy to Lady Maurice Fitzgerald and his family in the great affliction, that has fallen upon them, and that a copy of this resolution be communicated by our Secretary to Lady Maurice Fitzgerald."

Abseonding of Coll^r Mr Grath

The following resolutions of a special meeting of the Finance Committee of the Council, held on the 1st May to consider the case of collector Mr Grath, who had absconded, were read, and confirmed.

Proposed by Mr Hearn, seconded by Mr Walsh -

That we direct our Solicitor, Mr R. M. Elgee to apply to the General Accident Assurance Corporation (Limited) Perth, for payment of £711 - 19 - 4. (being the amount ascertained

up to the present) as the default of Collector M'Grath, for whom the Corporation are sureties under a bond. That the Finance ^{Committee} reserve the right of making a further demand on the Corporation, provided further investigation discloses Mr M'Grath has left any other sum unaccounted for."

Extradition of M'Grath

Proposed by Mr Hearn seconded by Mr Cummins:-

That we direct our Solicitor, to inform the General Accident Assurance Corporation Perth, that if in the case of proceedings against collector M'Grath, it is necessary that he should be extradited, the Council will be favourably disposed to adopt this course, provided that the expenses of the Council will not exceed £50. and that the Corporation give an undertaking to be responsible for any further expense beyond this amount, as it is the mutual interest of the County Council and the Corporation that M'Grath should be made amenable to the law."

Mr Elger said he had received the following letters from the Accident Corporation Society

I have your letter of the 3rd inst and note contents. I presume that you will forward us a certificate under the hand of the Auditor of the District, stating the amount of the default for sums proved to have been paid M'Grath, in the usual manner, after which the claim will be referred to my Board "

"I have your letter of the 3rd inst, which will be referred to my board at their next meeting on Monday. I may say however that I think there is no doubt they will be disposed to favourably consider

your suggestion, or some modification of it. I entirely agree with you as to the desirability of making M'Grath amenable to the law."

"At the request of the Chairman, M^r Kelly District Inspector R.D.B. attended before the Council and explained that in the opinion of the police there was no doubt but M'Grath had absconded, and it was believed that he had gone to America. His description had been sent round Ireland, and published in the *Hue and Cry*. In cases of embezzlement, it was necessary, if the offender was to be extradited that all expense should be guaranteed by the person making the charge."

During the course of proceedings a telegram was received from the Accident Assurance Corporation Company that they were satisfied to contribute £50 to the cost of the extradition of M'Grath, if the county council would give a similar sum.

"On the motion of the chairman it was agreed that M^r Elgee Solicitor, to the Council be directed to give a guarantee to the police up to the sum of £100 for the expenses of M'Grath's extradition, of which the Council will contribute half, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board."

The following resolution from the Irish County Councils General Council was read and on the motion of the Chairman ordered to be inserted on the minutes.

"Resolved - That the best thanks of the General Council of the county councils of Ireland is due to the Wexford County Council, and its Chairman Sir Thomas Esmonde, for their spirited and successful action in resisting the Local Government Board, and preventing it from over-riding the county councils in fixing the salaries of their officials."

The following resolution from the county council of Carlow was read and ordered to be inserted on the minutes:-

Proposed by Col Vigors, seconded by Mr Patrick Hanlon - That a cordial vote of thanks be passed by this Council to the County Council of Wexford for the very successful manner in which they opposed the illegal order of the Local Government Board of Ireland with respect to the increased salaries directed to be paid to the Assistant County Surveyors of their County."

On the motion of the Chairman it was decided that the Secretary be instructed to acknowledge the receipt of the above resolutions, and return the thanks of the Wexford Council for their adoption.

Resolutions were read from the County Secretaries of Sligo, Clare, Wicklow, and Limerick, stating that their Councils had approved of the resolution of the Wexford County Council that payments by the Councils should be made half yearly instead of quarterly as at present.

Half yearly Payments

On the motion of the Chairman the Secretary was directed to call the attention of the Chief Secretary for Ireland to the fact that four of the County Councils in Ireland, had up to the present, expressed their approval of half yearly payments.

Kilmore Pier

Copy of report of the Engineer to the Board of Works (No 4715 01) under date April 26th as to his inspection of the groyne at Kilmore Pier was read. The report stated that the injury to the groyne occurred so far back as 1898, and should be attended to at once, as delay would lead to an extension of the injury. The funds at the disposal of the Board were intended for the construction of piers and not for their repair, and the Board did not discover any circumstances in this case to justify a grant for the repairs now necessary.

Mr Webster said that when the structure showed signs of falling he had had it repaired, but without any effect. It was the internal portion was bad, and for that reason outside repairs

were of no use."

The Secretary was directed to write to the Board of Works declining on behalf of the Council, to put the breakwater into repair, inasmuch as the work could not be efficiently carried out, and the defect was caused by the action of the Board of Works and not by the County Council, owing to the extremely bad material used in construction. So far as the County Council can see it is impossible to repair the groyne, and the Council consider that the Engineer should have inspected the Breakwater, which was the subject matter of correspondence with the Board.

Compulsory Education Act - Gorey.

A resolution from the Gorey Rural District Council asking that the compulsory clauses of the Irish Education Act of 1892. be adopted in the Gorey Rural District, with a notice of motion to the same effect in the name of Lord Stopford were considered.

Lord Stopford moved his notice of motion which was seconded by Mr Redmond.

Mr Browne proposed as an amendment That the consideration of the matter be postponed till next quarterly meeting of the Council, and in the meantime the Gorey Rural District reopen the subject, and forward their views to the Co. Council."

The amendment was not seconded, and the resolution on being put to the meeting was declared carried, there being some dissentients.

The following resolution from the Enniscorthy Rural District Council was deferred for further information

Schedule of Presentments

That the Members of the Rural District Council of Enniscorthy be supplied with a schedule of presentments each in the future, immediately after each County Council quarterly Meeting, as was formerly supplied to the associated co-operators."

School Attendance Committee - Enniscorthy

The following names. (submitted by the Enniscorthy Rural District Council) as representatives of the County Council as Local Authority under the School Attendance Act (Irish Education Act 1892) were approved -

Messrs Thaddeus Bolger, P. Milltown Ferns, Daniel Joseph O'Callaghan, Ballindaggin, Thomas Cleary, Ballyvake Glenbryan, Tho Asple, Galbally Bree and Arthur Goff, Ballycorley.

The sample regulations from the Commissioners of National Education for the guidance of the School Attendance Committee of the Enniscorthy Rural District were approved, and it was decided that the Committee should consist of 10 members. They are to serve from the 1st June 1901 to the 1st June 1904, half are to be appointed at a meeting of the Local Authority not later than the 7th May in every third year, and the Commissioners of National Education shall appoint the second half before the first of June following.

The following names were submitted by the Rural District Council of Enniscorthy, for appointment by the Commissioners of National Education, and approved of by the County Council.

Rev. James Kenny. C.E. Kilmyshall Newtownbarry, Rev Patrick Shill. P.P. Bree, Very Rev Canon O'Brien P.P. Ballymurren, Rev. A. H. Cooper, Killann, Rev Thomas Meehan. P.P. Ballindaggin and Rev Robert Fitzhenry. C.E. Enniscorthy.

Cottage of Mountgarrett Bridge

With reference to a vacant cottage at the Kilkenny side of the Mountgarrett Bridge, Mr Elgee mentioned that the County Council of Kilkenny were anxious that it should be given to Michael Doyle.

"It was decided that Michael Doyle be selected tenant, and that the Secretary communicate with the Secretary of Kilkenny Co. Council on the subject."

Store Licence

Messrs M'Alpine and Co. Railway Contractors, applied for a store licence for mixed explosives at Great Island, near Campile.

County Inspector Talbot. R.D. C. wrote that the store

had not yet been completed, and when it was, he would cause it to be inspected and a report sent to the Council.

on the motion of the Chairman it was decided that the Secretary be directed to issue the license in question on receiving a report from the County Inspector of the Constabulary that the legal requirements had been complied with."

List of Proposals etc.

Mr Dempsey moved and Mr Broune seconded the following resolution- That the several proposals sent up by the District Councils of the several Rural Districts of the County be approved as set out in schedules A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I and J. and that with regard to the proposals for new works in Schedule E. from the Enniscorthy Rural District Council that No. 1 contract- To keep in repair for four years and eleven months 936 perches of the road between the District bounds and Garrystough cornmill and the lane in the townland of Ballinamona, which was given to Mrs Eliza Doran, be rejected, on the grounds that the Enniscorthy Rural District Council, without sufficient reason, refused to accept the lower tender, sent in by Mr O'Connor in this particular case.

Mr Power proposed that the schedule be confirmed without change and this proposition was seconded by Mr Bolger.

On a poll the following voted for Mr Power's amendment Messrs Redmond, Doyle, Walker, Stopford, Bolger, O'Connor, Sinnott, Hickey, and Power - 9.

Against:- Messrs Mayler, Murphy, Broune, Donohoe, Hore, Peacocke, Dempsey, Codd, Whitty, Doyle, Cummins, Hearn, and the Chairman. - 13.

Declined to Vote - Messrs Ryan and Walsh

The Chairman declared the amendment lost, and having put the resolution declared it carried.

Proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr Hore and adopted:— "That the several Proposals sent up by the Proposal Committee of the Co. Council as regards expenditure chargeable to the County at large be approved subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Expenses - Re Mr Grath's Books.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Hore. That the expenses incurred in connection with procuring collector Mr Grath's collecting books and amounting to £2. 3/- be paid, and that same be embodied in the Proposals of Payments.

Payments of J. J. Committee

Moved by the Chairman seconded by Mr Hore and adopted. That the items of Expenditure in connection with the Technical Instruction acts, as recommended by the County Technical Instruction Committee amounting to £14. 8^s. 10^d be paid and embodied in the Proposals for Payments.

Tenders - District

It was decided to put into the Charge of the County Surveyor the following works for which no tenders had been received by the Rural District Councils or the Proposals Committee
Ennisecorhy - No 3. To repair the bridge over the millstream at Cooladine not to exceed £33.

No 9 - To repair a small bridge near Kilcothy not to exceed £2. 10/-

No 11 - To repair the footpath level and enclose with stone Kerling and pave waterable from Ennisecorhy Urban boundary to Mr Murphy's gate near Blackstoops, about 82 perches, not to exceed £41.

Gorey - No 3 - To underpin the footbridge at Annagh on Michael Brielawn's road not to exceed £2.

Proposals Committee - No - To keep in repair for one year and eleven months, from 30th April 1901 to 31st March 1903. 20 perches of the roadway and footpaths of the Rosbercon end of the New Ross bridge not to exceed £9 per annum.

The road in the Enniscorthy Rural District for which Miss Doran had been accepted by the Rural District Council and rejected by the County Council was also given in charge of the County Surveyor for three months.

The minutes of the Proposals Meeting and adjourned meeting were read and confirmed.

Miss Proschwitzky's claim

They included a resolution referring to the action by Miss Proschwitzky the late Motion of the District Asylum against the County Council to the Asylum Committee, and which as a matter of urgency had been brought before the Proposals Committee, which is a Committee of the whole house.

Also a resolution from the Enniscorthy Urban District Council agreeing to undertake the entire maintenance of 148 perches, and 48 perches of main roads in their district at the rate of 5/- per perch.

Co. Council v. L. G. B.

Acknowledgements of the resolution of the Co. Council calling attention to the judgment of Chief Baron Pilles in the action of the County Council against the Local Government Board, wherein he referred to the powers of the Local Government Board, were received from the Chief Secretary of Ireland, the Lord Lieutenant, and the Right Hon. the First Lord of the Treasury.

Dates of Meetings

The following dates were fixed for the quarterly meetings of the Rural District Councils and County Council.

Wexford District Council July 6th - 10.30 o'clock
 Ennisceorthy " " 9th - 11.30 "
 New Ross " " 11th - at noon
 Gorey " " 10th " "
 Proposals Committee " 17th " 2 o'clock
 County Council August 6th

A resolution from the Cork County Council with reference to the offer of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction to advance loans to creameries for equipping them with Pasteurizing plant was marked "read"

Letter N^o 4433 from the Department of Agriculture etc on the same subject was also marked "read"

The scheme from the Department of Agriculture etc, with reference to the Improvement of the Breeds of Sheep and Swine was referred to the Live Stock Committee for the County

Checking Rate Collectors' a/c's

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee was unanimously approved -

That the work of checking the Rate Collectors accounts be done by the officials of the County Council, and that the Local Government Board be asked to allow a certain amount to cover expenses in connection therewith

On the motion of the Chairman the following was added to this resolution - "and that the Local Government Board, be requested to allow the Secretary or the County Council officials appointed to do this work the same rate of remuneration as was paid to the clerks of the Unions, as this matter was not taken into account in fixing the salaries of any of the County Council officials"

Collector Doyle, - suspension

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee with reference to collector Doyle was considered

That we recommend that collector Doyle be suspended, on account of the

unsatisfactory manner in which he has discharged his duties. On several occasions he failed to have his books checked and the Local Government Auditor (Cap^t Gibson) had to call the attention of the Council to the unsatisfactory way in which he was performing his duties.

His last lodgment of £662 - 14 - 5 shows that he did not comply with the N^o 2. Poor Rate Collectors Order, or the directions of the Local Government Auditor.

"As an amendment Mr Hearn moved and Mr Cummins seconded:-
"That we disagree with the resolution of the Finance Committee, and that this Council inform Collector Doyle that any repetition of the irregularity complained of in future, shall be visited without further notice by suspension"

On a poll the following was the voting

For the Amendment- Messrs Mayler, Ryan, Murphy, Redmond, Browne, Bolger, Hore, Peacocke, Dempsey, Codd, O'Connor, Whitty, Doyle, Cummins, Hearn, Hickey, and Power - 17.

Against- Messrs Doyle, Walker, Stopford, Walsh, Donohoe, and Sinnott - 6.

The Chairman who did not vote declared the amendment carried, and on putting as the substantive motion stated that the "ayes" were in the majority.

Collector J. Barron's Bond

The Finance Committee recommended that a letter from Collector James Barron with respect to his bond should be referred to Mr Elgee.

Mr Barron appeared before the Council, and it was stated on his behalf that the reason why his bond had not been executed was because the gentleman whom he had named to replace Mr Donovan deceased, was in England in bad health. He was now prepared to

offer as his sureties Messrs Thomas Courman of Boderin, farmer, and Mr Bryan Hennessy, New-Ross.

Mr Hearn moved - That these names be approved of, as he knew they were perfectly solvent.

Mr Cummins seconded the motion, which was adopted.

John Barden, collect Mr Grath's arrears.

Mr Hearn moved and Mr Dempsey seconded that Mr John Barden of Corse, be appointed, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, to complete the collection of Collector Mr Grath, who had absconded, and that he be paid at the rate of 7^d in the £ the appointment to be made on the clear understanding that it is only to deal with the balance of Collector Mr Grath's collection in respect of the half year ended the 31st March 1901.

Security of Co. Council Officials

On the motion of the Chairman it was decided that the question of the sureties of the County Council Officials be gone into by the Finance Committee who are requested to present a report to the County Council as the result of their investigation.

Striking the Rate.

Proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr Hore and Resolved:-

"That we hereby strike the rate for General and Separate Charges, as already agreed to by the Council, in respect of the half year ended the 30th September 1901 and affix our seal to the Rate Books. That we also sign the Warrants of the Rate Collectors"

Leave to erect Railing

Mr Thomas Doran, Hon Sec of the Gorey '98 Centenary Club, wrote asking permission to erect an iron railing round the '98 memorial Cross on Grattan Square Gorey.

At the meeting of the Finance Committee the permission sought for was granted on the motion of Sir Thomas Esmonde seconded by Mr Cummins and this recommendation was unanimously confirmed.

Coll. a Barron - E.O. Kellusk

A communication was received from Collector Alexander

Barron asking to have the Electoral Division of Killesk in U'Grath's Collection district allotted to him.

The Finance Committee had considered this matter and had recommended the Council to make no change in the collection districts."

The recommendation was confirmed by the Council

Enniscorthy Court Keeper's remuneration

With reference to the application of Mr Aidan Lacey Courtkeeper Enniscorthy, for extra remuneration in consequence of increased duties caused by the frequent meetings of the Enniscorthy Rural District Council recommending that Mr Lacey should receive an increase of £2 per year.

at the meeting of the Finance Committee a recommendation was made that Mr Lacey be granted £1. per year, the same amount as had been voted the New Ross Court House Keeper under similar circumstances

MC

This recommendation was unanimously confirmed

Gorey Court Keeper's remuneration

With reference to the application of J. Valentine Court House Keeper Gorey for an increase of salary under the same circumstances, in respect of the Gorey Rural District Council the Finance Committee had recommended that the application should be refused as applicant had been appointed since the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 had come into force.

The recommendation was confirmed

Contribution to Councils General Vol

The Finance Committee also recommended that the Wexford County Council should contribute a sum of £5 to the funds of the Irish County Councils General Council to defray the necessary expenses to carry on the General Council from the 1st Sept next.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was unanimously approved.

Solicitors' Costs

With reference to the Bill presented by Mr J. J. Healy

Solicitor, for £25. for professional costs in regard to the late Inquiry. - The Finance Committee had recommended that the Bill should be taxed. The following resolution was adopted in reference to this matter Mr Healy consenting -

"That we request Mr Elgee, to include Mr Healy's bill in the amount of his costs for the Inquiry, and if on taxation, this amount be not allowed in full. Mr Healy undertakes to refund to Mr Elgee any portion of the sum of £25, which may be disallowed by the Taxing Master"

Rosbercon road

With regard to the application of the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway to be allowed to substitute a level crossing at Rosbercon road, instead of an overhead bridge as provided by the Act of Parliament, the Finance Committee recommended -

That the permission asked for be granted subject to the conditions contained in the following resolution of the New Ross Urban Council being observed.

That the railway Co. put up a foot-bridge for use of foot passengers whilst gates are closed for passing of trains; the railway gates to be of modern design, automatic working; that the level crossing be not used for shunting, nor the gates kept closed during shunting.

County Bridges

With reference to the detailed report of Mr J. H. Ryan M.P. 22 Nassau St Dublin, as to his inspection of the County Bridges, and the observations of Mr Webster thereon, the Finance Committee, which had considered the matter for a long time had made the following recommendation:-

That having regard to the fact that the County Bridges viz, Deepo, Ferrycarrig and Wexford, have cost for the past five years £1106. 5/- for maintenance and to the report of Mr Ryan C.E. that Ferrycarrig

bridge would require an outlay of £500. to have it put in perfect order, and whereas Mr Webster at the meeting of the County Council on the 7th August last, stated that £40. would make the bridge perfectly safe, and on the 6th November that it would take £216 16^{/-} 9. to do the same work, and also having regard to the fact that Mr Webster stated to the Committee of investigation that they would find the Weeford bridge in perfect order though Mr Ryan stated it would take an outlay of £105. to effect this, under above circumstances we are of opinion that he has shown incompetence and neglect of duty of such a character as deserves dismissal.

We consider he is not a fit servant for this Council, and would point to the fact that on the 6th August he admitted he was to blame for his neglect of Ferry carrig Bridge, though he gave the futile reason that a great deal of extra work had been put on him for the previous six months, and in view of all these circumstances we recommend the Council to call upon Mr Webster to resign his position.

Mr Broune proposed that the discussion of this recommendation of the Finance Committee be postponed until the next quarterly meeting - Lord Stopford seconded - The motion was adopted.

Col^l Mr Barden's Sureties

The names of Mr Andrew Barden of Corse and Mr John J. Kehoe Main St Weeford were submitted to the Council and unanimously approved as sureties for Mr John Barden.

Ferry carrig Bridge

Capt Walker referred to the dangerous condition of Ferry carrig bridge, and stated that if some of the repairs suggested by Mr Ryan, their expert Engineer,

were not carried out at once, and an accident would be very likely to occur, and the Council might find themselves in a very awkward position.

Mr Webster in reply to the chairman said he believed if the bridge was left in the hands of the contractor, it would be perfectly safe until the next quarterly meeting. He had seen heavy loads go over it recently.

Capt Walker proposed that a special meeting be held to consider the question of the repairs to Terycarrig bridge and expressed his disappointment that such a very important matter was not brought on earlier in the day. He had raised the question some hours ago and he was told it would be better wait until the recommendation of the Finance Committee came on.

It was decided that the matter be considered at a special meeting, when the Council will be brought together for the appointment of a rate collector vice Michael M'Grath, and that it be set down on the agenda paper as the first business to be transacted.

Mr Brown proposed that as most of the members of the Council had left and only something like a quorum remained he would propose that no other business be taken except the signing of the rate books and their sealing, the signing of the paying Authorities, and the recommendations of the Finance Committee to transfer a sum of £250 to the subsidiary a/c. Mr Dempsey seconded the motion which was adopted.

Subsidiary a/c.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee to transfer a sum of £250 to the subsidiary account was then confirmed, and the paying authorities, and the rate book signed, and sealed. The warrants of the collectors were also signed and sealed.

auditors' report. District Bd's & unions

Report of Mr J. A. Baker Local Government Board Auditor as to his audit of the accounts of the Enniscomthy.

and Gory Unions, Enniscorthy, New Ross, and Wexford Rural District Councils, Enniscorthy District Asylum and New Ross Urban Council were laid before the meeting by the Secretary.

Wm. H. O'Connell

13 June 1901.

Special Meeting May 22nd 1901.

A special meeting of the County Council was held in the Council Chamber, Court House Wexford on Wednesday, the 22nd May 1901. at eleven o'clock.

Present:- In the Chair: Sir Thomas A. Grattan Esmonde B^t Ch^m
Other Councillors- Messrs Edmond Hore vice-Chm. James Codd, C. H. Peacocke, Daniel Dempsey, P. O'Connor, James Donohoe, William Whitty, James A. Doyle, J. B. Hearn, Michael Browne, John Bolger, M. J. Redmond, P. Ryan, James E. Mayler, J. F. Walsh, and J. Cummins.

Capt. Pigott Secretary to the Council, Mr R. W. Elgee, Solicitor and Mr Webster County Surveyor, were also in attendance.

Ferryarrig Bridge

With reference to the report of Mr Ryan C. E. as to Ferryarrig bridge, and the observations of Mr Webster, the latter in reply to Mr Donohoe, said he did not consider the bridge was dangerous to traffic. He went twice to the bridge and failed to find the beam which Captain Walker said was broken across. He wrote to Captain Walker and asked him would he kindly tell him where this beam was, and he wrote to say that it was perhaps a transverse beam, but that whichever it was, the bridge was leaning down more to one side than another.

That had been the condition of the bridge so long as he could remember, and people before he came to the County could say the same. It did not effect the strength of the bridge, and only showed that when the piles were put down they were not put down regularly, and that in one case the cross head is not horizontal.

That was not due to a beam being broken or defective, but was simply due to the way the bridge was built, or the way the piles must have sunk after the bridge was built. The bridge was not dangerous to traffic and he had seen heavy loads of timber up to 20 cwt crossing the bridge.

Mr Healy Solicitor, on behalf of Martin McDonald, contractor asked that some arrangement should be made with his client for the future repairs of the bridge.

Mr Hearn proposed- That the question of making any arrangement with the Contractor or determining his contract be deferred for the present.

Mr Donohoe seconded. Passed.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee were then taken up.

Sealed Orders Sealed orders from the Local Government Board increasing the salary of Mr Webster County Surveyor by £196. Mr Murphy Assistant County Surveyor by £65. Mr P. Leary, do. by £62 and Mr M. H. Jones, do. by £61 " were read."

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr Hearn seconded by Mr Donohoe:-

"That we express our surprise and regret at the receipt of the sealed orders from the Local Government Board requiring the Council to increase the salary of the County Surveyor by £196 and that of the Deputy Surveyors by an aggregate sum of £188 in face of the decision of the Council that these officers are not entitled to an increment of salary, because there had ^{not} been, in the judgment of the Council, any increase in their duties, since the inception of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898. That we request the Local Government Board, to supply this Council with a copy of the report of their Inspector on which the increases of these salaries have been based; also an analysis of the items of the different increases with the money value of each. That we do not determine until the receipt of this report what course may be advisable to adopt to enable the Council to transact their own business in a manner reasonable and just."

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee was also adopted.

"That the Council take the opinion of Mr M. J. Dunne, B. L. on the legal question."

Miss Broschwitzky's claim

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr Donohoe seconded by Mr Redmond:-

"That we recommend the Council to agree to the resolution of the Managing Committee of the Asylum to grant Miss Broschwitzky

an annuity of £35 per annum in settlement of her actions against the Wexford County Council for wrongful dismissal and personal injuries.

Mr Elgee said he had received a letter from Mr Moffat Solicitor, to Miss Prochowitzky saying he would accept the amount proposed.

Poundage

The following recommendation was made by the Finance Committee, moved by Mr Peacocke, seconded by Mr Dodd -

"That the poundage of the incoming Rate collector be fixed at the rate of 6^d in the pound, and that the appointment be made at the annual Meeting."

Mr Hearn moved and Mr Cummins seconded that -

"The sum of 7^d in the £ be allowed to the new collector"

On the amendment being put it was declared lost and subsequently the Chairman declared the recommendation of the Finance Committee carried after taking the opinion of the meeting.

Writ against Assurance Co.

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee was considered, - moved by the Chairman seconded by Mr Hearn

"That we instruct our Solicitor to issue a writ against the Assurance Corporation Ltd Perth, for the recovery of the default in Mr McGrath case"

On the motion of the Chairman the recommendation of the Finance Committee was altered so as to read:-

"That counsel's opinion having been read we instruct our Solicitor to issue a writ against the Assurance Corporation Ltd Perth, and that the Secretary of the Council be directed to communicate with the Local Government Board and ask them to send down their Auditor at once to examine Mr McGrath's accounts as the Corporation have expressed their willingness to pay on his certificate and that Mr Elgee make arrangements with the Assurance Corporation to pay the expenses of the Auditor in connection with the matter"

Half yearly contracts

Arising out of consideration of circular No 27612/1901. Miscellaneous from the Local Government Board with accompanying copy of Provisional Order for annulling and varying certain provisions of the Local Government (Procedure of Councils) Order 1899, the following Notice of Motion by Councillor Hearn was accepted by the Chairman:-

"That for the quarterly reports supplied to the District Councils by the County Surveyor half yearly reports in future be made in connection with the altered payments for contracts from three months to six months

County Bridges

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee Meeting of the 7th May 1901 was moved for confirmation by Mr Hore, seconded by Mr Dempsey:-

Recommended:- "That having regard to the fact that the county bridges vizt Deeps, Ferrycarrig, and Wexford have cost for the past five years £1106. 0/- for maintenance and to the report of Mr J. H. Ryan B.C. that Ferrycarrig bridge would require an outlay of £500 to have it put in perfect order, and whereas Mr Webster at the meeting of the county council on the 7th August 1900 stated that £40. would make the bridge perfectly safe and on the 6th November that it would take £216. 16/- to do the same work and also having regard to the fact that Mr Webster stated to the Committee of Investigation that they would find that the Wexford Bridge was in perfect order, though Mr Ryan states it would take an outlay of £100. to effect this purpose; under above circumstances we are of opinion that he has shown incompetence and neglect of duty of such a character as deserves dismissal. We consider he is not a suitable servant for this Council, and would point to the fact that on the 6th August 1900 he admitted he was to blame for his neglect of Ferrycarrig Bridge, though he gave the futile reason that a great deal of

"extra work had been put on him for the previous six month. And in view of all these circumstances we recommend the Council to call upon Mr Webster to resign his position."

Mr Webster said this matter had come very suddenly upon him because he understood this resolution had been postponed till the next quarterly meeting. He would like to refer to the minutes to see if that were the case or not. In consequence of that he had not done anything in the way of looking into the facts and figures. It was only on Monday morning he had received notice that this matter was to be discussed and he would have had time from then to go into it only that he had arranged with contractors to meet them to lay out new works, and had spent the whole of Monday and yesterday until late in the evening at this work, so that he was not prepared to go into any statement with reference to this resolution, it having come on so suddenly. However -

Mr Hearn -

I rise to a point of order. Unless Mr Webster is prepared to discuss this subject fully I think we should not have any statement from him.

The Chairman said that probably the situation was due to a misconception or to the way in which the discussion was concluded at last meeting. At the time the resolution was first brought forward he thought it unfair to Mr Webster that it should be discussed there and then as the hour was late and some members of the Council had to catch a train. In consequence it would have been impossible to do justice to the question and he suggested that it should be postponed to the next meeting. Some other councillors proposed that the question of Ferrycarrig Bridge should be postponed till the next quarterly meeting. He put his resolution that this question of Mr Webster's resignation should be postponed till the next meeting and it was carried but the two questions got mixed up and Ferrycarrig bridge discussion was put down as postponed to the special meeting of that day, and discussion affecting Mr Webster to the next quarterly meeting, whereas it should have been vice versa. Mr Broune - It was proposed that it should be postponed

till the quarterly meeting and I was defeated.

Chairman - However in view of all the circumstances of the case I certainly do not wish to treat Mr Webster with any harshness or unfairness and it would be only in justice to ourselves and Mr Webster that this question should be postponed inasmuch as he considered and quite justifiably considered that it was postponed till the quarterly meeting, and therefore made no preparation to deal with it. The resolution has been moved by Mr Hore and seconded by Mr Dempsey, and I move that any further discussion thereon should be postponed till the annual meeting on the 13th June.

Mr Webster said he would prefer the discussion should take place at a quarterly meeting when there would be a full attendance of members.

Mr Hearn seconded the Chairman's proposal.

Chairman - If Mr Webster is not ready by the 13th June and requires that the matter should be postponed to the quarterly meeting, I would ^{not} personally be against it.

It was then decided that the consideration of the resolution be postponed till the 13th June, and that it be put on the agenda paper immediately after the business prescribed by statute to be transacted at the annual meeting.

Ratepayers and Printed Receipts

On the motion of Mr Donohoe seconded by Mr Hearn the following resolution was adopted:-

"That a notice be inserted in the local papers that the Ratepayers be cautioned not to pay Poor Rates unless on receiving a receipt from the collector."

Checking Collectors' A/c's

With reference to the checking of the Rate collectors Accounts the following minute of the Finance Committee was considered:-

A letter was read from Mr Owen Connolly Black Ennis-corthy Union, objecting to any change in the method of checking the collectors accounts. Letter No. 29492/1901 Wexford County, under date 17th May 1901 from the Local Government Board on the same subject was read.

The Finance Committee recommended -

"That this matter should be referred to Mr Elger and considered by them at a subsequent meeting"

The Chairman said that from representations which reached him it appeared they had acted in this matter without full consideration of the question and he moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee for a full investigation. That this meeting of the Committee be held on May 29th and that the persons checking the accounts up to the present be invited to attend the meeting to be held at 2 o'clock

Sanction of Mr John Barden.

Letter No 29213 1901 (Wexford County) under date May 21st 1901 from the Local Government Board sanctioning the appointment of Mr John Barden as temporary Poor Rate collector was read.

Advertisements

The following notice of motion by councillor Cummins was ruled out of order by the Chairman as Mr Cummins had not complied with the terms of standing order 24. when giving it "That the resolution giving the contract for advertising to the Free Press and People be rescinded"

Subsequently Mr Cummins having obtained the requisite seven signatures for this Notice of Motion, handed it in for consideration at next quarterly meeting of the Council on the 6th August.

It was decided that the annual meeting of the Council be held at 2 o'clock on June 13th 1901.

Thos. E. O'Sullivan

13 June 1901.