

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Of**  
**Municipal Council**  
**JANUARY, 1881**

Meeting of the County Council

This corporation met at eleven o'clock a.m. in the Court House, Pictou, on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. David Matheson, Esq. Municipal Clerk proceeded to open the poll books and Returning Officer's Returns for the several Polling Sections. The Councilors declared elected were called up in order, and sworn in as follows-

No 1 – John Ferguson

No 2 – Donald Fraser

No 3 – John McRae

No 4 - (The book being opened was found to contain no nomination, no declaration, and no return further than contained in the words – “James R. Collie 87 ; R.H. Langille 19.”

No 5 – Alexander J. McKay

No 6 – (The Returning Officer's papers were not filled in. The Poll Book, however, showed a majority of votes in favor of) J. Roderick MacDonald.

No 7 – William Stevenson

No 8 – Hugh S Fraser

No 9 – (The returning Officers papers in the same condition as No.6 the majority of votes appeared for) Samuel Archibald

No 10 – (The Returning Officers duties were performed in the same fashion as those of numbers 6 and 9. A majority votes appeared for) Robert Maxwell.

No 11 - J.R. McDonald

No 12 – Colin R. Fraser

No 13 - ( No roll with '13' on the outside appeared. Two rolls not marked with numbers were opened; and one was found to be the Returning Officers duly filled in for) Angus McMillan

No 14 – Robert McNeil.

No 15 – Daniel McGillivray

No 16 - James McDonald

(A protest was here read from a member of Ratepayers of the Section, alleging that the candidate was disqualified by law. Having expressed himself willing to be sworn, the oaths of the office were administered.)

No 17 – John McDonald; Robert Willis

No 18 – Daniel McLeod

No 19 – William Smith

No 20 – (Returning Officer's papers were found in precisely the same condition as those of No 4. The Clerk here stated that he had sent circulars of instruction to all the returning officers, at one time to advise them as to the form to be complied with in the nomination; and a second time to instruct them in the forms of the election and returns. The ballot box was produced and opened to see if any more light might be shed upon the poll books; and having opened the box, the Clerk announced “Nothing in this, gentlemen, except ballots.” After considerable hesitation

the oaths were administered to the candidates having the largest figure opposite his name namely ;) Robert Bannerman.

No 21 – (Returning Officer’s papers in the same form as those of No. 6 and others referred to. The majority of votes, however, stood for) J.D. Fraser.

Mr. Fraser, under the circumstances, said he preferred not being sworn at present, but wished his case submitted to the Council for investigation. The opinions offered were to the effect that the Council had no jurisdiction in the matter, and that there was no good reason why Mr. Fraser should not be sworn at once. After advice, Mr. Fraser decided to proceed, and accordingly went forward and took the oaths.

No. 22 – Roderick McDougall

No. 23 – John MacDougall

No. 24 – David J. Meikle

The Clerk here declared James R. Collie MD elected by Sect. 4, the case being similar to No. 20.

All the Councilors, newly elected a re-elected, were sworn in precisely the same manner, the process occupying two hours.

Robert McNeil, Esq. was nominated Warden and was elected without opposition. Mr. McNeil on being sworn in thanked the Council for the honor conferred upon him.

Adjourned to half past two p.m.

### **Tuesday afternoon.**

On resuming business at half-past two o’clock, a general committee of three members, one from each township, was appointed to nominate standing committees. The general committee consisted of John McDougall, John McRae, and David J. Meikle.

The Clerk, by leave of the Warden, asked if anything can be done by this Council for the encouragement and development of the agricultural interest in the County. He cited this action of Colchester and Kings as examples of the measures that might be taken by the Municipality in this matter. The Council of the Counties named had made special appropriations for the holding of the Exhibitions. In the matter of Exhibitions, the Agricultural Society of this County has hitherto been under serious disadvantages for want of suitable accommodations. There are now adjoining the Rink, two acres of land, about to be sold for \$600. The Agricultural Society is anxious to secure the land; but their funds were all absorbed in the purchase of improved breeds of stock, and other necessary expenses. If the Council would authorize an appropriation of \$400 he would guarantee the rest by the Society; and the land would be secured in the name of the County for Agricultural purposes. At present there are no grounds available in the town, for the holding of exhibitions. There was another matter which he thought should engage the serious attention of this Council. There is a fearful, malignant, and fatal disease among cattle. For some time its ravages were confined to the town, but now it was spreading everywhere and if allowed to go on unchecked, it will eventually destroy all stock in the country. It is already producing bad effects on the market. Persons are afraid to buy beef for fear of the disease. H had himself been appointed on a committee with D. Fraser, Esq. of Acadia Farm, to enquire in, to the nature of the disease, and report results of their investigation to the editor of The Farmers Advocate, London, Ontario, with a request to have the same submitted to the Veterinary in connection with that paper. They had also reported the matter to the Provincial and Dominican Governments.

The Provincial Government had sent an officer to make the necessary examination. Investigations were made, and witnesses examined; but no practical result had followed.

Councilor D. Fraser supported the views just expressed, and urged the immediate necessity of taking some steps to arrest the progress of the epidemic.

Councilors Stevenson referred to the purchasing of land for exhibition purposes; and thought the lot referred to certainly too small for holding exhibitions; to which the Clerk replied that he coincided with the opinion that the lot was too small, but it was the largest that could be had. Councilor J.D. Fraser thought that something should be done to arrest the progress of the cattle disease. In the Section of country he represented, the valuation of properties had been reduced about one-half, solely on account of this disorder. He had observed that wherever the plant "Stinking Willis" made its appearance, the cattle disease soon broke out in all its virulence. The Incorporation Act gives the council power to take measures should at once be adopted.

The General Committee returned and submitted their report, which was on motion received and adopted. The standing committee were [??] upon announced as follows –

*Nominations* – John McDougall, John McRae, David J. Meikle

*Finance* – John McDougall, J. Roderick McDonald, David J. Meikle, and Hugh S. Fraser

*Road and Bridges* – Samuel Archibald, Alex J. McKay, John McDonald, Robert Willis, Roderick McDougall

*Public Property* – Donald Fraser, Robert Maxwell, Robert Bannerman

*Assessments* - John McRae, Colin R. Fraser, John D. Fraser

*License* – Donald McLeod, Wm. Smith, John Ferguson

The committee also nominated as Auditors – John S. McKay, New Glasgow, and James McLean, of Pictou

The burning question of Railway Damages was brought before the Council, by the Warden reading letter from S.G. Rigby, Esq. stating that the appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada had been discussed with costs. The resolution of last term was read, showing that the Council has resumed payment of the Land Damages pro tem., pending the decision of the Court; the Government at the same time guaranteeing to recoup the County in case the appeal of the latter should be sustained. It was on motion by John McDougall, seconded by J. D. Fraser.

*Resolved* – That a select committee of five members be appointed to consider the matter of the damages for land taken for the Eastern Extension Railway; and that the said Committee consult with the Wardens in the towns of New Glasgow and Pictou, before reporting to the council. The committee appointed consisted of Samuel Archibald, A.J. McKay, John McRae, John McDougall, Robert Willis.

Councilor Archibald moved, seconded by J.R. McDonald, that a committee of five be appointed on Amendments and printing of minutes.

Councilor Willis thought that the duties of this Committee might be very clearly defined. Considerable dissatisfaction had been expressed at the time of the last Municipal Election on account of apparent inconsistencies in the Bye-Laws and Amended Incorporation Act. Councilor McRae inquired if the Bye-Laws did not provide that the mover of a special Committee should be convener of the same. Councilor Archibald asked in that case be excused, as he was already on two Committee's, and read the Bye-Laws referred to showing that the mover ought to be a member of Committee, but might be excused by the Council.

James R. Collie M.D. Section 4, arrived and was sworn, and took his place in the Council. Adjourned to 10 a.m.

### Wednesday Forenoon

Council met at ten o'clock, and was opened by prayer. The Roll was called, and four Councilors marked absent. The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were then read and confirmed.

The clerk inquired of the Warden what action should be taken on the cases of members not present. Warden said the Bye-Laws, impose a fine on absentees and the rule must of course be enforced.

A letter read from the Warden of Antigonish County as follows –

Dear Sir: - In the present *financial* condition of the province, and from the fact that the largest part of the responsibility resting afore time with the Provincial Legislature is now relegated to the Dominion Legislature and County Council; it is assumed that there is no necessity or reason why each County should have more than one representative in the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia. It is further assumed that in as much as the services of such men as Young, Howe, Johnson, Archibald and many others, whose names are justly revered in Nova Scotia could be secured for \$4.00 per day, there will surely be found in our Province a sufficient number of gentlemen willing to serve their country for at most \$4.00, the more so as the more [onerous?] public duties are performed by the Councilors.

I therefore beg to ask your Council, in common with their other Councils, is the Province, to unite in the passages of the enclosed resolution and memorial, and it is hoped that by united effort, good results may be accomplished. I also enclose a resolution and memorial in reference to the Legislative Council for your consideration with leading men in several of the Countries.

I have the honor to be sir,

Yours & e

T.M. King

Warden

The substance of the resolution and memorial referred to is that petitions be presented to the Local and Dominion Legislatures, asking that the necessary changes may be made in the constitution to provide for the Legislative Council, and for reducing the representation from Counties to one member each.

A petition was read from Section No. 5, setting forth that owing to the low state of the public treasury every honorable means should be taken towards entrenchments in all branches of the public service. The petitioners commended the action of a previous Council in voting down a resolution for increased pay, and asked that a delegation be sent to the Provincial Government or that a petition be put in to have expenses cut down by reducing the number of legislators and the indemnity of members, and that the steps be taken to have a remodeling of the Assessment Law to remove the prevailing irregularities, and have all sorts of property taxed on an equitable basis.

Petitions of similar purpose were presented from Sections 6 and 7

Councilor McRae approved of the spirit of the petitions, and prepared that they lie on the table for the due consideration of members. The movement was one very much called for. He thought that this body should take place with other Councils.

The petitions, with Mr. King's letter, were referred to the Committees on Law Amendments.

Then Warden warned the Committee of Roads, that great care is necessary in order to act conformably to the provisions of the Statute Book. The Council will need to see that road

petitions are signed by the lawful number of freeholders and also that due care must be exercised by the Committee on Nominations, is the matter of County Officers.

Councilor McRae referred to the business of the License Committee, as regards the agent for the sale of Liquors. He didn't think that the Local Legislatures had power to prohibit the sale of liquors. The function of that body extended only to the regulating of shop and tavern licenses; and that the Council had no power in the present state of the law to carry out any prohibitory measures.

The Warden: "We know very well that no law gives us the power to place a run a shop where it is not wanted".

A petition was received from the Registrar of Deeds asking for relief from the payment from office rent in the County Building; Councilor Fraser (Section No. 2) thought that this matter ought to be disposed of. He was under the impression that it was intended by the Council that all officers should find their own offices. The clerk said that as regards the rent of his office it was placed at \$35.00, with the understanding that in consideration of this sum, he was to attend to the business of insurance of all public property in the county, and in carrying out that arrangement, he had succeeded in effecting, a saving to the County of about \$18.00.

Councilor McDonald understood that it had been left with the Committee on Public Property to deal with this matter.

Councilor Fraser remarked that some of the occupants of the County Building are our own officers and others are not. He was of the opinion that if the Clerk looks well after the insurance business while he does so, the money is well spent. Members of the Committee have not time for these matters, especially when their duties require their attendance at New Glasgow, Westville, etc...

The Warden directed the Committee to be very explicit in their terms and arrangements with parties having charge of public property.

A petition was read for hospitable accommodations in the Town of Pictou. The paper set forth that many cases of sickness occur in families, whose means are inadequate to provide aids and attention always indispensable to recovery. Cases of sickness appear among seamen in this port, for which no provision is made. The hospital would be open to persons from all parts of the County, and to other Counties on payment of fees. The petition was signed by "a yard and a half of name", and referred to Committee on the Poor.

The Committees on Nominations recommend the following:-

*On Poor*- Dr. J.R. Collie, J. Robert McDonald, James McDonald

*On Law Amendments and Printing* – Samuel Archibald, Robert Willis, William Stevenson, Donald McLeod, John McDougall.

A Petition was read from Bayview complaining of annoyance from cattle going at large, and asking for authority to erect a pound; saying that the institution would be no expense to the Municipality, and nominating for confirmation of the Council a pound-keeper.

Councilor McRae could see no law for the construction of pounds, although there were plenty of laws for pounds and pound-keeping.

Councilor Fraser proposed that every District be authorized to build pounds at their own expense.

Councilor J. McDougall read from the Incorporation Act to show that the Council has power to make regulations for pounds, keepers, fees, & c.

Councilor D. Fraser thought that any districts annoyed by cattle going at large should be authorized by this Council to build pounds for themselves, and any section not willing to do so should do without.

Councilor McDonald Section No. 10 suggested that the Stock Reeves have places of confinement for cattle running at large.

Councilor Smith was afraid that this plan would not work as a pound had once been in his section and the owners of stock broke into it at night and rescued their animals.

A petition was read from the Ponds, Merigomish, in reference to the carrying away of seaweed, and referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

The Warden asked the Committee on Law Amendments to note that the Law Amendments this term should be as brief as possible, as one thousand copies of the Bye-Laws had been printed, and intended to hold good for some times. Any amendments made now will require to be published with the list of Town Officers.

Warden read an account of \$25.00, over-expenditure on Sutherlands River Bridge, and stated that there is a dispute between three Road Boards whose limits intersect at said bridge.

The matter was referred to the Committee on Roads and Bridges to determine which Board is to have charge of the Bridge.

Councilor J.D. Fraser asked if the decision of the Committee will be final.

Warden said there may be an appeal to the Council from the decision of any Committees, but Committee's will be final.

Warden said there may be an appeal to the Council from the decision of any Committee, but Committees' reports generally adopted.

On motion of Councilor McRae, seconded by Councilor McDonald, that in order to give this Committee a chance to meet the Council adjourn till ten o'clock tomorrow. Carried.

## **Tuesday Forenoon 13**

Council opened in usual manner. The roll was called, and one member found absent. Late members of yesterday's a.m. gave unsatisfactory explanations. Minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and confirmed.

The Committee on Nominations named John D. McLeod, Auditor instead of Jas. McLean, who declined to act.

A petition was received from Alexander Cameron and Kenneth Cameron for redress of grievance in J.S. Fraser Road Committee, changing line of road after continuation.

Councilor Archibald excused from acting on Committee on Roads and Bridges in so far as the last petition in concerned. On recommendation of Committee, the following petitions were granted:

Alexander Munro and two others, Section 12; A. G. McLeod, Section 20: Geo. Munro, 2; J.R. McLean, 9; R Fraser, 18; A. McLeod, 20; J. Rae, 6; R. McLeod, 8; W. Sutherland, 9; G. Sutherland, 18; T. Kennedy, 12; G. McIntosh, 6; D. McKenzie, 3; G. McLeod, 18; William Thompson, 6; Duncan A. McDonald, 16; David Ballantyne, 14; John McDonald, 17; McC. Gunn, 22; John McIver, 20; Rodk. Grant, 17; John McDonald, 22; John McIntosh, 22; John Stalker, 22; John Dewar, 21; Angus McPhee, 24; Alexander McTavish, 2; Wm. McDonald, 24; Donald Sutherland, 13; James W. Langille, 4; H. Elliott and A. Munro, 2; A. Grant, 17; John Grant, 17; one half allowed; Dan J.D. Cameron, 17; J.J. Duff, 13; J.A. McDonald, 16; P. Cruickshanks, 16; J.R. McIntosh, 16; A. & J. McDonald, 15; K. McKenzie, 15; J.Densmore, 15;

Robert Wagner, 20; J. W. Hingley, 24; J.R. Crockett, 23; James Fraser, 13; one-half granted; J. McKay, 6; J.R. Porter, 8; H. Johnstone, 13; J.J. Murray, five for one year instead of two; T. McKay, 13; K. McMillan, 13, one half; J. Grant, 13; A. Sutherland, 7; A. McDonald, 19; J. Fraser, 20; J. McKinnon, and four others, 19; T. & A. G. Gellan, 5; E. Miller, 9; J. Fraser, 20.

The following roads were confirmed; Black Diamond Street to Acadia Company's Land, Westville.

Pents Roads, for Angus Cameron and T. McBean, St. Mary's for W. Rae from Pine Tree Gut, applicant to pay one half the damages, W. Robertson, Marshy Hope; A. & G. McLeod, Upper Barney's River, Road or Street, Vale colliery; Alteration, Dunn's Mill, & c. to Barneys River burying ground; (Coun. McRae was afraid the people of Barney's river are claiming damages for all the rabbit paths.) Barneys River Main Road to Avondale Railway Station; D. Sharp, near Westville, petitioner to pay damages; Road at French River Bridge; Joseph McCulloch, North Dalhousie; Hugh McPhee and others, Barney's river; petitioners to pay land damages.

On coming to the business of granting Committees to lay off Pent Roads; - H. Auld, Piedmont; James A. Meikle, Wentworth Grant; (Councilor Fraser, 2 here observed that it would be proper to read all petitions brought before the Court. Councilor Smith Considered it sufficient for petitions to be read before Committees.) Alexander & J. Haggart; Hector Murray; 18; from main road, Lorne, to Plaster Quarry: James Murray and others Hardwood Hill; Wm. Sutherland, Wentworth Grant; James A. Campbell, and others to the School House; Angus Chisholm, and others, W.B.E.R.

Petitions to lay off main roads were granted as follows –

Residents of Crairie and Watervale; Greenville Settlement to Sherbrook Road; Residents of Hopewell to change station road; to open road; Duncan Cameron, Harwood Hill, for alteration of road from Gunn's Mill to George Inglis'; Main Road to Railway Station, Stellarton; End of Drummond Road to Main Road Stellarton; inhabitants of Polling Section No. 3; James B. Gammon to pay all damages and expenses.

Petition to close part of Glenfalloch was not granted.

A plan of deviation of road at Railway Station, Mount William, ordered to be endorsed by the Court; and filed in the Clerk's Office.

A deed of James B. McKay and others to the Queen for public highway at Stellarton was ordered to be registered.

An application was received for new road limits in Section 15, and appointed overseen granted.

The following were deferred to the May Terms –

To confirm: - Alteration of road from Gunn's Mill road to post road, Black Brook; road from Geo. Bruce's E. B. Barney's River to main road in Upper B. R.; and the petition of Wm. Campbell, Westville, for a pent road.

### **Thursday afternoon**

The Warden read the Report of the Treasurer, showing receipts and expenditures of the past year, deficits & c. & c. The further consideration of the report was deferred to the May Term. It was in the meantime referred to the Auditors and Finance Committee.

The business of this afternoon was almost wholly confined to the Committees rooms. There was however, a lively breeze of excitement, towards evening, over a report of the road

committee, recommending a pent road for Joseph McCulloch, Mount Dalhousie. The proposed road is 200 feet long and 16&1/2 feet wide, and passes through lands of Mr. J. McLeod. The parties were allowed to plead their causes by counsel, J. D. McLeod, Esq. appearing for the petitioner and Chas.D. McDonald, Esq., for the owner of the land. The road as above stated was confirmed.

### **Friday Forenoon**

On motion of Councilor John McDougall seconded by H.S. Fraser, Resolved, That the Clerk notify the Wardens of the Towns of New Glasgow, to meet at the Court House, Pictou, at ten a.m., Saturday, to confer with the Committee of County Council, respecting the matter of Eastern Extension Railway Damages, and to adjust the amount of County Assessment, to be paid by the said Towns for the year 1881; and the members of the Finance Committee form the Committee on the amount of County Assessment to be paid by the Towns of Pictou and New Glasgow.

The Committee on Roads and Bridges give in the remainder of their report, as found above, under yesterday's proceedings.

In the matter of the petition of A. & K. Cameron, it was resolved that J. S. Fraser be instructed to locate the road, and make returns to the Council in May evening.

Adjourned to 2 p.m.

### **Friday Afternoon**

A road from Dalhousie Settlement to Lower Settlement was confirmed. A road form Old Road, Mount Thom, to Road to Archibald's Mill was, on the recommendation of the Committee, not confirmed. Councilor Archibald, however, strenuously advocated the confirmation of this road, and gave notice to reconsider.

Councilor McRae observed that it was too bad for a Committee to report against the benighted inhabitants of the outside world. Having access to the *centre of creation* for the want of a proper road to Watervale.

The Warden read a letter from G.W. Underwood, Commissionaire, calling attention to the prison cells in New Glasgow Jail, and suggesting propriety of the Council ordering an inspection of the same to as certain what repairs are needed. Referred to the Committee on Public Property.

As a large number of Councilors were engaged in the Committee Roads, there was no other business in open Court this afternoon.

Councilors Bannerman and McGillivray obtained leave of absence until Monday.  
Adjourned to 10 a.m. tomorrow

### **Saturday Forenoon**

The council opened with prayer; Roll called, and but two answered to their names. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The Report of John Gollan, Committee on laying out a road from Vale Colliery to Sherbrooke Road, continuing the new road already laid out, was received and adopted. This seems to be the *requiescat in pace* of a contention about which columns of correspondence appeared last year in the *Eastern Chronicle*.

Councilor Willis gave notice of a motion to be brought up Tuesday – That J. McCulloch, North Dalhousie, be required to pay full damages for pent road through lands of John McLeod. The motion was ruled out of order.

Councilor H.S. Fraser asked the propriety of taking up the question of a County Poor House.

Councilor J.D. Fraser asked an order of council to permit Overseers of Poor to build or rent poor house buildings in their respecting Sections.

Several Councilors took part in this discussion and brought out the fact that the County is at heavy charges for maintenance of harmless patients in the Insane Asylum, but who might be supported at the comparatively trifling cost in an institution near home.

Dr. Collie described the way they do in River John with their poor. Two Sections are united: their rates go into a common fund; and the poor of both Sections are maintained in one building. The plan gives complete satisfaction.

Councilor Colin R. Fraser suggested that the Committee on Public Property inquire into the probable cost and best location and poor-house, either separate or combined.

Another lively free discussion was had on the Statute Labor Law, the principle fact brought out being that men usually worked harder for a dollar than fifty cents a day.

It was agreed to give J. Gollan an extension of time till the May Term, for putting in his returns of certain road projects.

The Council adjourned to Monday, at 2 p.m.

### **Monday Afternoon**

Council opened at 2:55. Roll called and fifteen members answered to their names. The unusually large number of absentees is accounted by the storm of the past two days – making the roads impassable and delaying trains. The clerk said he had received a letter from the Hon. Provincial Secretary stating that there was a balance on hand of \$92.00 of this County's road grant.

Coun. Stevenson referred to a petition, returned to him by the Committee on Roads and Bridges, for a pent road from 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, Scotch Hill to the Old River John Road. The petition was after explanation referred to the committee, reported back to the Council and granted.

The recommendation of the committee that over expenditure on Sutherland's River Bridge be changeable, in equal proportions, to the road Boards of Section 5 and 6, was adopted.

Coun. D. Fraser (2) intimated that the President D. C. Fraser, Esq., of the New Glasgow agricultural Society was present, and had matters to bring before the Council.

On motion that he be heard, Mr. Fraser addressed the Council – Said the Agricultural Societies of New Glasgow and Pictou agreed to hold an Exhibition the present year; and he was present to ask of this Council; 1<sup>st</sup>, for the use of the land and building, fire engine room excepted; belonging to the County of New Glasgow; 2<sup>nd</sup>, that any disposal that may be made of the said building, the days of which it will be needed; and 3<sup>rd</sup>, that the Council make an appointment in aid of the Exhibition; and that should such a vote be passed that it will be with understanding that it be re-granted from year to year. In support of this latter request, he informed the Council that the Town Council of New Glasgow has granted for the purpose the sum of \$250.

Councilor D. Fraser observed that this Council should do something credible for the encouragement of agriculture. If more attention were given to this and a more general interest taken in it there would not be so many of our young men leaving the country. Truro had assessed itself \$6000. for an agricultural exhibition. He was very much pleased this afternoon to learn that a young man in Carriboo River had recently written a prize essay for the *Farmer's Advocate* of London, Ontario.

The Council adjourned

## **Tuesday Forenoon**

Council opened. Roll called; and Minutes read and approved.

Councilor D. Fraser presented a petition from the Pictou Agricultural Society for a money vote of \$400.00, to be supplemented by the Society for the purchase of a lot of land, the title to be secured in the name of the Municipality for the holding of agricultural exhibitions in the town of Pictou.

The License Committee reported that the applications for license to sell intoxicating drinks has been received; that parties in Section 23 had petitioned against granting a license in their Section; that returns from the Clerks of License in Numbers 1,2,3,4,12,15,17, and 23 were received and monies amounting altogether to \$147.02 that no returns had been received from Numbers 7, 16,19,20,21,22 and 24 and recommending that those offices who are delinquent would be dealt with as the law directs; and would recommend the enforcement of the law against agents.

A discussion took place on the powers of the Council in enforcing the law; after which the report on motion, of Councilor Archibald, seconded by J. McDougall was adopted.

Councilor J.D. Fraser stated that in so far as No. 21 was concerned, the only reason why no report had been received was that there was nothing to report. Alex McKenzie (Committee on Pent Road for Hugh Fraser, West River) was allowed an extension of time till May for making his report.

The petition of A. Fraser and Paul McDonald, for fencing for road – was not granted.

The final Report of the Committee on Roads and Bridges was received. The Committee had had before them twenty precepts for confirmation of roads, twenty-two petitions for new roads and alterations of old ones, and sixty-one petitions for statute labor on private roads. With respect to these last, the Committee so made the note of warning, saying that it is a matter very liable to abuse and would make it imperative on Petitioners in future to state the number of day's statute labor for which they are liable. They had before then 500 road returns, and see in them room for improvement in many respects, and that improvement we must have. No less than 55 returns are waiting; six are improperly and imperfectly filled up, the most common error being the exemption of property holders from the commutation of labor on the ground of ill-health. The Committee see no reason why a man, who happens to be unwell for the time being, should not be required to commute his property tax; and overseers sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties are not justified in this flagrant violation of the law. They recommend that a uniform system of qualification of road overseers be adopted; and that persons appointed to distribute road returns and qualify overseers be the parties to whom commissions are made returnable and of whom the Council shall require the due correction of improperly filled returns and their timely transmission to the Clerk of the Court. The Committee believes that it should be optional with road boards to appoint one superintendent for each section, or one for each road district. They suggest that the Road and Bridge grant should be paid into the County Treasury, and that accounts of expenditure should be there on file for inspection; and recommend, lastly that the Provincial Grant be appropriated as much as possible to the bridge service, this course being considered essential to proper maintenance of our bridges without drifting gradually but surely into debt.

Court adjourned to two p.m.

## Tuesday Afternoon

Council met pursuant to adjournment. S. Archibald's motion to reconsider this matter of the road from Mount Thom to Watervale was lost on the vote of being taken.

The report on Eastern Extension Railway land damages were handed in and read –

“The Committee appointed to consider the question of payment of the certificates issued on the tenth day of August, A.D. 1877, under chapter 70 of the Revised Statutes, (third series) for the payment of lands taken for the right of way for the Eastern Extension Railway in the County of Pictou, beg leave to report as follows – Your meeting had before them the proceedings hitherto taken and the decisions of the Courts in this matter; and after careful consideration of all the facts, are of the opinion that any further action taken on the part of the County to contest its liability for the payment of these damages, or any further delay in making provision for the payment of the same would only be incurring unnecessary expense and loss, and we would therefore recommend that the County of Pictou make arrangements for the payment of the said Certificates without further delay. Your Committee has arrived at these conclusions on the following grounds”

1<sup>st</sup> – In the suit of the Nova Scotia Salt Company vs. the Halifax and Cape Breton Railway Company, Judge Ritchie decided that the H. & C.B. Railway Company had the right of way under the provisions of Chapter 70, Revised Statutes, (third series) and that lands taken are a County Charge.

2<sup>nd</sup> – On application to set aside the appraisalment for lands taken for the right of way for the Eastern Extension Railway in Pictou County, the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia decided that “the County was stopped by the action of the Customs of the Legislature, and could no longer dispute the validity of the appraisalment which in some instances had been covered by arrangements made with the owners of the soil in the interest of the County.

3<sup>rd</sup> – The certificates have been issued without protest attached to them, and have been endorsed to and are held principally by various persons other than the original payees.

4<sup>th</sup> – The proceedings taken to incorporate the Halifax and Cape Breton Railway Company have been confirmed by an Act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia, passed in the year 1870.-

Your Committee further recommend that application be made to the Legislature of Nova Scotia for payment to the County of Pictou of all the interest on the said certificates, and all the expenses incurred by the County in contesting its liability for the payment of the same; the Legislature having passed an Act confirming the proceedings taken by the Halifax and Cape Breton Railway and Coal Company, after legal proceedings had been commenced in the Courts to set aside the appointment.

Respectfully submitted;

S. Archibald }

JNo McDougall } { **Committee**

Robert Willis }

John McRae }

The report, on motion of councilor McGillivray, seconded by Councilor Meikle was received.

Councilor J. Rod. McDonald said the Committee seemed disposed to give up the case. For his part, he would say, if there is a shadow of a chance, hold on by the shadow.

Councilor D. Fraser was somewhat of the opinion – hold on as long as you can.

Councilor McRae thought it would be idle and impolite to enter into further litigation in the matter. If by memorializing the Government, we can get clear of interest and costs, we will be in about as good a position as we can expect to be in.

Councilor D. Fraser suggested the propriety of deferring the matter to the May term, and meanwhile applying to the Government for the payment of interest and cost – this plan would not at any rate make our position worse than it is.

Councilor Rod McDougall concurred in Councilor Fraser's suggestion. He thought the Government should at least put the County where they found it. If we are to pay damages, let them pay interest and expenses.

Councilor Collie asked what guarantee is there that the Government will keep their promise in the payment of costs and interest. Until that is obtained, we should take no steps to commit ourselves. He agreed with previous speakers to put off until May.

Councilor Archibald thought that the County will have to face the matter eventually; but he agreed with the idea that it might put us in a better position to defer. One year's delay could not do much harm, He thought the Government should be asked to remit part of the principle, although at the same time, it seemed to him as if the memorial to the Government would be a virtually giving up the case.

Councilor J. McDougall observed that there might not be only difficulty but loss caused by delay, as there seem to be very favorable opportunities now of realizing money on the debentures.

Councilor Collie would like to see a vote taken through the county on the question.

Councilor J.D. Fraser; could we not assess ourselves and hold the money as a sort of reserve if required.

Council adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow

### **Wednesday Forenoon**

The consideration of the report of the land damages was resumed; and Councilor D. Fraser moved, seconded by Councilor Rod. McDougall.

That the consideration of the Report be deferred to the My Term; that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Government as to the amount the Legislature will pay for interest on certificates and cost incurred by the County in contesting its liability, provided the county pays the damages without further contest; that the committee have power to employ counsel to advise and assist them, and report at May Term; and that if the costs incurred in contesting the matter and the certificates to date be paid by the Provinces or the Railway Company, the County will forth with make arrangements for the payment of the said damages.

Councilor J. Robert McDonald referred to the agitation created by this railway business in '66 and '67. Now, as the courts have given no decision, he thought it would be well for the Council to do likewise, and reserve final action until May.

Councilor Archibald was, at first thought of the pinion that the Government ought to be asked to pay part of the principle, lent on further consideration he thought it might be imprudent to do so' It was at least morally right for the Government to pay cost and interest, and what was barely morally right he wanted to have – no more and no less.

Councilor Bannerman recalled the representation made to the Court of Sessions of this County by officers of the local Government; and on the strength of these representatives the County had contested the payment of the land damages. However, instead of bettering our position, it seems as if were only making it worse. The case suggests the idea of three boys

rolling a snow-ball, the further it goes the bigger it gets; the three boys by the way, having very large hats on, one wearing an Attorney General's hat, another a Provincial Secretary's hat, and the third, a Rigby hat; and he had only to add that the hats seemed to be all too large for their heads.

Councilor J.D. Fraser observed that officials are often charged with blundering, and not without reason. He remembered hearing a statement made at a political meeting in the Rink by the present Hon. Provincial Secretary that the Halifax and Cape Breton Railway Company was then in the position that you might as well side with the moon.

Councilor McRae was almost compelled to think the ancient virtues of justice and judgment, and righteousness too, had departed from our land, especially from the higher orders of civilization. We had been knocked about from pillar to post by governments and courts that was very difficult for Judge in the present day, with a golden bait on one hand and justice on the other to make up his mind on which way to decide, however the qualms of conscience pressing on the government within [??] the opinion pressing upon them from without, might induce them to give us our rights.

Councilor Ferguson approved of applying to the government to make good to the people, at least the extra expense their own action, in legalizing the company subsequent to proceedings being entered against it, had imposed upon the county.

The discussion was taken part in, besides those above named, by Councilors McDonald, (16) Willis, Stevenson, McGillivray, Maxwell, Smith and McMillan – all strenuously maintaining the opinion that apart from the question of the County's liability, in the first instance, there was no doubt but that the subsequent action of the legislature rendered the government both morally and legally bound to foot the bills of costs and interests.

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The resolution on being put to vote, passed unanimously; and the Committee appointed in the terms of the same, namely; Donald Fraser, S. Archibald, John McDougall, and the Warden, *ex officio*.

The Committee on Nominations reported, recommending David Matheson, Esq., *Clerk*, and D.W. McKean, Esq., *Treasurer*, and other Town Officers, the full list of which will be published, as usual. A lengthy discussion arose on the difficulties arising from the practice hitherto followed in qualifying overseers of highways, and distributing statute labor instructions; when, on motion of S. Archibald, it was resolved that it is referred to the Committee on Law Amendments, to harmonize the date of qualification with that of furnishing instructions. Council adjourned to 2 p.m.

### **Wednesday Afternoon**

On returning business, the Council received the Report of the committee on Assessments, showing amounts struck off the Assessment Rolls in the different sections; and recommending most emphatically to impress upon assessors the necessity of guarding strictly against assessing property in the name of parties who are neither owners nor occupants of property, as much money is lost to the county, and much trouble and expense incurred in fruitless attempts to recover such taxes; and that the levying or poll tax be abandoned.

Councilor Collie was excused from sitting on Committee on Poor in the matter of the petition of Overseers of Poor, Section No. 4.  
Council adjourned to 10 a.m. tomorrow

#### **Thursday Forenoon**

Council met at 10 o'clock. The report of the Committee on assessment was adopted, after striking out the clause referring to poll tax.

On the reading of the petition from the Overseers of Poor, Section 4, with the recommendation of the Committee on Poor, that an order of the council be granted to compel Nathan Langille to support his aged parents, William and Eunice Langille or, in default thereof, pay the sum of fifty cents per week for each of them, to the said Overseers; an amendment passed referring the case back to the Committee to substitute sixty-two and a half for fifty cents. Council adjourned to 2 p.m.

#### **Thursday Afternoon**

Council met, and Committee on Public property reported that they had visited the Old Court House and Jail, and found everything to be in good order, and the recommendations last year satisfactorily carried out; suggest the ceiling overhead in one of the cells to be cemented or plastered; and recommend that the rent of the offices of Registrar of Deeds and Judge and Registrar of Probated be \$45.00 each for the present year, be collected; that the Clerk of the Municipality, be authorized to collect all rents due, or maturing on rentals belonging to the Municipality and make returns of the same; that it shall be the duty of the Clerk to see that all Leases for offices, buildings, or grounds, be duly executed; and that the insurance is effected on all public buildings, of the Municipality; and in lieu thereof, that he be exempt from rent of office as Prothonotary and clerk of County Court; and the ash-pit and water-closet for the County Building, suggested last year, be built. The fence on the west side of the Market House was put up last summer, and one-half the cost charged to the Municipality. Committee recommends that a new lease be given P. Brown & Son, and that they pay \$5.00 per annum for the access to their buildings from the Market grounds, and that arrears under the old lease be collected forthwith. Twenty dollars were expended on the public wharf last summer, at Fisher's Grant, and paid by the road district, No. 1; a new wharf at Merigomish is under construction by the Dominion Government; and the wharf at Abercrombie point is out of repair. The Committee recommend further that the Commissioners of Public Property for the Towns of Pictou and New Glasgow respectively, effect necessary repairs on the bay scales in Pictou, and in the rooms of the New Glasgow Jail which had been inspected by one member of Committee; that the New Glasgow Agricultural Society have the use of the Market House and grounds for an Exhibition, next autumn, the part of the building used by the fire department excepted; that a lease be given to McDonald & Co. for 1881, at a yearly rental of \$20.00, subject to a reserve for exhibition purposes as before mentioned; that the attention of Commissioners of Public Property in New Glasgow be called to the new street, said to be partly upgraded, through the County grounds in that town, make enquiry and report to the Council in May next; that the request of John Brown of Westville for an exchange of lots be granted; that Peter Calder be paid \$100.00 for his services as keeper of the lock-up in Westville, that the High Sheriff of the County be paid \$100.00 for attending Court House and summoning jurors; that \$200.00 be paid to each of the Jailers in the Towns of Pictou and New Glasgow; that in future, no jail fees shall be charged to the Municipality, River John excepted; that the boarding of persons in any of the jails of the county

shall not exceed \$2.10 per week, without the sanction of the Council; and the public printing of the Municipality and the medical attendance in the Jails be submitted to tender in the future. The Committee also recommends the persons who are to be Commissioners of Public Property, Jailer, & c. These appointments will appear in the list of Town Officers.

The report was adopted, with the amendment that the Sheriff receives \$130.00, instead of \$100.00

The Committee on Poor reported, in the matter of petition from Overseers, Section 4, without amendment; whereupon the amendment substituting sixty-two and a half for fifty cents was passed by the Council and the order as amended granted.

The petition of Fuller Lodge, I.O.O.F. for exemption in future from taxation on their hall and property at Stellarton, was granted, until otherwise ordered by the Council.

On motion of Councilor J. McDougall, to reconsider nomination of Town Officers Section 23, Hugh McKenzie was appointed Collector of County and Poor Rates for that Section, and of police taxes for the police district of Westville.

The Committee on Poor reported returns received from all Sections, except No. 17, the Clerk being disabled by illness; that the Overseers of Section 7 had signed a voucher instead of a return; two vouchers wanting from Section 3, an error of \$10.00 appears in Section 5, also a charge of five percent, on collections and an error of \$3.00 on balance from last year; in Section 10, the balance carried from last year is greater than that given by \$41.40, also an item of \$17.00, for which there is no voucher, and the return seems to be a somewhat confused; in Section 13, Fraser's Mountain, no voucher for a bill of \$12.00; no voucher for Section 15 for five items amounting to \$9.00; in Section 19, a bill of \$10.25 without voucher, and return dated from December 1879 to December 1880; in 21, no voucher for several sums amounting to \$77.00; and no vouchers whatever from Section 22. The Committee suggested blank forms for overseers of Poor Returns. The assessments asked for the ensuing year, are as follows – Section No. 1. \$280; 2. \$50; 3. \$360; 4. \$625; 5. \$100; 6. \$356; 7. \$400; 8. \$360; 9. \$330; 10. \$150; 11. \$100; 12. \$200; 13. Churchville, \$160, Fraser's Mountain \$80; 14. \$120 15. \$100; 16. \$00.00; 17. \$150 18. \$550 19. \$160; 20. \$280; 21. \$250; 22. \$80; 23. \$750; 24. \$150; total \$6061. Committee recommend that Section 24 pay to section 21 the sum of \$50.00 for this year, for the support of old paupers; and that a committee be appointed to enquire into the matter of a Hospital in Pictou, this Committee not being able to come to any definite conclusion upon it.

The report was adopted, with the amendment of \$55.00 for \$50.00, in the matter between Section 24 and 21.

A minority report of committee on Poor, signed by J.R. Collie on the subject of a county Poor House and Hospital, was read and adopted. The report set forth that there are about 130 paupers in this County, costing \$6325; that this sum would go far towards supporting a County Poor House; that the inmates might be engaged in some profitable employment; that many inmates of the Lunatic Asylum, chargeable to the County, might be cared for at less expense; that the cost of supporting the Poor would be equalized through the County, some sections being now taxed heavily while others are paying scarcely anything; that there can be no doubt of the necessity for a public hospital as shown in a petition from the inhabitants of Pictou Town; that this County and its towns are sufficiently large to warrant the erection of such an institution; that a poor-house and a hospital might be advantageously combined, under a board of directors, partly from the County, and partly from the Towns; that the medical men of the towns have volunteered their services gratuitously; and that a committee be appointed to see what steps are necessary to secure these objects.

The Committee on Assessment reported on appeals that John McKay, River John, be refunded 52 cents he being under age at the time the new rate was levied; that on the appeals of Isabella Denoon, Hugh Denoon and J.J. Logan, against excessive valuation, and applications of Mrs. William Austin, E.C. Leahy, Mrs. Donald McIntosh, and Henry McIntosh, for remission of taxes, the Committee are unable to recommend any action, as the appeals and applications were not presented in the forms required by law; that the petition of Fuller Lodge, I.O.O.F. Stellarton, for exemption of taxes be dealt with by the Council; that Simon Bannerman, Barney's River, be allowed a reduction in his valuation of \$100.00; that a notice be published with the list of Town Officers that in all cases of appeal against the levy of assessment, due notice be given to the Clerk, and that all such appeals be founded on affidavit, setting for the ground of complaint and duly signed, when attested to before a Justice of the Peace, in the manner required by law. The report was adopted.

The Committee appointed to confer with the Wardens of New Glasgow and Pictou, for the purpose of settling the amounts to be paid by the said towns for their shares of the expenses of the County for the year 1881, reported that it was agreed that the town of Pictou pay \$2637, and New Glasgow, \$1758, being respectively 12 and 8 per cent of the whole amount chargeable for Town and County purposes, the above sums being exclusive of Eastern Extension Railway Law Damages. The report was signed by the mayor of Pictou Town, subject to the right of the town to dispute its liability for E.E. land damages.

The memo of assessment for 1880 is \$24,710 less off for Clerk, \$300; Treas;\$250 Auditors,\$50; Assessors, \$335; Collectors, \$400; Warden & c. , \$500; Elections, \$100; Road Damages, \$300; Contingencies, \$200; Printing, \$300; total \$2735, leaving \$21,975.

### **Friday**

After approval of the minutes, it was resolved - That the Warden be authorized to procure a SEAL for the Municipality and submit the same at next May Term for approval of the Council.

The report of Committee on Law Amendments recommended the Council to take action in the proposed amendments in the constitution referred to in the letter from the Warden of Antigonish County and in the petitions from Sections 5, 6, and 7, for the abolishing of the Legislative Council, and reducing the number of representatives and also the indemnity of members of the Local House.

The petition of the inhabitants of Ponds, Merigomish, is granted in an order to apply to the whole County - That no person or persons gather or remove sea-weed except on or from their own properties, between sunset and sunrise, under a penalty of eight dollars for each offence; and on the petition from Bayview, recommend - That pounds be erected by districts, where none exist, if required, that the pound keeper may procure a suitable building or enclosure (subject to the approval of overseers of Poor of such district) in which to confine any animals legally brought for impounding, and such building is, and shall be constituted a pound.

The Committee find themselves prevented by the statute from taking any action towards making a change in the term of office of overseers of highways, although it would be a useful amendment to continue and overseer in the office it May in each year. The commissioner appointed to distribute statute labor instructions shall be the party to whom they are returned, and he shall see that all returns are properly made out and the com. suggest the first Saturday in April as the day on which overseers shall receive their instructions. Com. further recommends an application by the Council to the Legislature at its first meeting - 1<sup>st</sup> to pass an act confirming the Electoral Lists and Grand and Petit Jurors Lists for the Country for 1880, and also the

Assessment Rolls for 1881; 2<sup>nd</sup>, to amend Chap 21 Revised Statutes (4<sup>th</sup> series) by adding to Sect. 84, the words – “And the property of any residents of an incorporated town within any county shall be assessed as the property of a non-resident property”; also Section 22 said of Chapter, by substituting the words “15<sup>th</sup> day of December “ for the words “tenth day of January”; and 3<sup>rd</sup> that the County Incorporation Act and the Auditors oath of office be so amended as to permit the same Auditors to hold office or be appointed for two or more years in succession. Adopted.

The Auditors reported that they had examined the County Treasurer’s Books, accounts and vouchers, and found them current and kept in a systematic and satisfactory manner; that there is balance, cash on hand, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1881. of \$2744.18; that they find some of the Returns from Overseers of Poor very unsatisfactory; and they call the attention of the Finance Committee to the “Contingent Account,” some items of which they think should have been submitted to the Finance Committee before being paid; and they also call attention to the difference in charges in the accounts of the Pictou and New Glasgow Jails; and particularly direct the attention of the Finance Committee to the accounts of Magistrates And other law officer; with regard to the charges in criminal prosecutions. The Auditor’s statement is regard to the County’s Assets and Liabilities is embodied in the Financial Committee’s report.

The Report was adopted.

The Finance Committee reported, on the petition of William Robertson, Barney’s River, respecting a debenture for E.E. railway damages delivered by mistake to the wrong person; and recommend that the County Clerk issue to the petitioner a certified copy of the same, No. 150 for \$54.50, with an endorsement thereon that the original was delivered to the wrong person entitled thereto; and also recommend that certificate No. 166, for \$ 21.80, payable to William Robertson, for damages for lands for E.E. railway be cancelled, the said William Robertson having given an order to Herbert Robertson to receive the same and certificate No. 150, for \$54.50 having been delivered by mistake to the said Herbert Robertson, instead of certificate No. 166; that the County clerk deliver to the executors of the late Alexander Douglas, certificate No. 169 for \$190.80, for right of way, E.E. Railway; and Committee cannot recommend the petition of Andrew McKay for fencing, or the petition of John D. McLean for increase of commission as Collector; and recommend that the petition of Duncan Fraser for payment for building a bridge be deferred to May Terms.

The Committee having examined the accounts placed before them, and the report and references of the auditors, recommend that the following accounts be paid: - Assessors for 1880; Fisher’s Grant, \$8.00, Pictou Island, \$4.00.

Each of the Section’s 2, 3, 4, 915, 16, 20, \$16.00 Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, \$14.00. Sections 17, \$18.00; Section 24, \$10.00; total \$348.00

Revisers for 1880 – Sections 1, 2 and 7, \$24.00; 3 and 4, \$15.00; 5 and 6, \$12.00; 8 and 9, \$12.00; 10 and 11, \$15.00; 12, 13 and 14, \$24.00; 15 and 16, \$15.00; 17, 18 and 23, \$24.00 19 and 20, \$20.00; 21, 22 and 24; \$15.00; total, \$176.00

Medical Men and others; - Doctor Campbell, \$93.00; do, \$10.00; Dr. Stewart, 10; Dr. Johnston, 5; Dr. J. MacMillan, 5; Dr. Wm. Fraser, 5; Dr. Miller, 10; Dr. F. McMillan, 25; Dr. Kirkwood, 3.50; and to K.J. McKenzie, 5.35; D.D. McDonald and W.C. Olding, 0.50; J.T. Paulin, 3.00; David Marshall, 4.50; Hugh Ross, 6.00; total \$185.86

Jailors and others; - Jailors Baxter, 502.21; Campbell, 32.05; Olding, 355.25; Calder, 103.00; D. Munro, Commissioner lock up, Westville, 61.50; Sheriff Harris, 350.00; Peter Brown fencing 10.00; Commissioner New Glasgow Market, 33.88; John Marshall, verifying Scales,

1.60; J. Marshall, clerk of Market, 20.00; D.T. Cameron, Clerk of Market, 25.00 D. Cuish, life-boat, 10.00; C. Dwyer & Co.; interest on note, 4.70; W.H. Harris, Commissioner Court House, New Glasgow, 13.98; W. McKenzie, repairing Market, N.G., 3.50; total \$1667.97.

Sundry Services: - Commissioner Stellarton Police District, 6.00; Jeffery McColl, expenses to Halifax, 11.26; J.D. McLeod, Pictou, 25.75; D. Foote, 5.00; Charles Byrne, 10.00; H.S. Fraser, J. McDougall and D.J. Meikle, revising Jury Lists, 64.00; D. Matheson, H.R. Narraway and J. McRae, preparing tickets for jury boxes, 9.00; G.H. Elliot, 4.25; Committee on Bye Laws, 42.00; total \$177.36

Printing: - *Colonial Standard*, 172.15; *Eastern Chronicle*, 28.48; total \$146.00

Municipal Elections: - Presiding Officers for municipal election, 98.00; D. Matheson, for do, 48.00; total, \$177.36

Bushing Ice on Harbor, 1881: - River John, 10.00; do 12.00 Cariboo, (1879) 9.00; Meagher's slip, 4.00; Cariboo, 9.00; Pictou, 32.75; Merigomish, 21.99, total, \$98.74

Laying off Roads: - G.A. Lowden, 10.00; J.S. Fraser, 7.40; J. Roy, John Forbes and M. Copeland, 4.50; J.A. Marshall, J. Crockett and D. Ballantyne, 3.00 A. Cameron, H.H. Bruce and J.D. Murray, 4.50 I A McLean, 1.00; W. MacKenzie, 26.80; D. Miller, J. Fraser, and D. McDougall, 6.00; J.W. McKenzie, 75.00; total, \$141.20

Constables: - McGillivray, 0.60; Smith, 4.00; Roy, 1.84; Fraser, 6.93; McLellan, 3.78; McNab, 3.50; D.T. Cameron, 4.66; Cummings, 39.20; Grant, 4.52; Donaldson, 2.00; do., 8.00; Gordon, 14; McMillan, 5.00; total, \$185.03.

Witness Fees; - J. McNeil, 4.80; J.W. H. Cameron, 4.80; A. McKay, 2.50; C. Skinner, 84; J. Fraser, and others, 11.42; total \$32.36.

Justices of the Peace and Prothonotary; - H.R. Narraway, 26.90; D.W. Culton, 3.10; J.D. McDonald, 3.10; J. Mitchell, 1.00; James McRae, 5.84, Angus Sutherland, 2.20; D. McKay, 1.00; D. Munro, 4.00; A.M. Fraser, 23.70; D. Matheson, Prothonotary, 120.80; total, \$191.64.

Wardens; - representatives of late D. Hockin, for Warden, 1880, 25.00; R. McNeill, Esq., for the same, 25.00; total, \$50.00.

Abstract of the above: - Assessors , \$48.00; Revisers, 176.00; Medical Men & c. 185.85; Jailors and others, 1667.97; Sundry services, 177.36; Printing, 200.63; Municipal Election, 146.00; Bushing Ice, 98.74; Laying of Roads, 141.20; Constables, 185.03; Witness' Fees, 32.36; Justices of the Peace Prothonotary, 191.64; Wardens, 50.00; - Grand total, \$3600.73.

The Committee further recommends that the Treasurer keep a special account for Road and Bridge service, to enter all payments for this service, and all fines, forfeitures, license fees, etc. that the following accounts be paid out of fines etc., on Road and Bridge Service Account : Wm. Fraser, \$2 ; R. McDougall, \$6; George McKay; \$11; J. Chisholm, \$6; total \$25; that hereafter no Jail Fees be paid by the County, except at River John, at that Jailors be paid as under; - At Pictou, for keeping County Jail and Old Court House, and attending criminal and civil suits, per year, \$200; at New Glasgow, for the like service, \$200; at Westville, for do, \$100; - That commissions paid collectors of County Rates, for current year, be as follows – Section No. 17, two percent; other sections, three per cent; that the Treasurer demand of the Town of Pictou immediate payment balance due on last year's County Assessment; that medical attendance on prisoners in Jail at Pictou be put up to tender by the year; that all printing required for County purposes be put to tender as far as practicable; that payment in Treasurer's account as contingencies for 1880, be approved of; that \$450. be assessed on Westville

for police purposes for current year; that the amount due from the collector of Section 5, for 1879, be collected as speedily as possible; and that the Treasurer notify all collectors and their bondsmen to settle up their accounts at once to the end of the year 1879; that Section 7 of Bye Law IV be printed in the List of Town Offices in 1881; that the salaries of the Clerk and Treasurer for 1881 be fixed as follows - Clerk, for services, \$450; postage and stationary, \$25; that \$20 be granted to maintain a suitable ferry between Carriboo Island and the mainland, subject to the approval of the Councilor for District No. 2, and the regulations of last year; that the prayer of the petition of the Pictou Agricultural Society be granted on the conditions set forth in the petition.

The Committee find that many Justices of the Peace make no returns of criminal convictions in summary causes as required by law and that the fines imposed do not, in many instances, find their way into the County Treasury, and the Committee have deferred the consideration of some accounts for this reason, and recommend that this matter be more fully investigated at the May Term.

The indebtedness of the County at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 1880, is; for excess of liabilities over assets, (estimated) \$2191.59; for accounts for 1880, as above \$5600.78; for fines, penalties, & c., to be transferred to Road and Bridge Service, account as per Bye-Laws, \$418.57; total, *deficit* 46,210.94. The exact indebtedness cannot be ascertained, Lunatic Asylum accounts not having come in for quarter ending December 31, 1880.

The estimates submitted for the services of 1881, and recommended to be assessed, be: for Salaries – County clerk, \$450.00; Treasurer, 400.00; Auditors, 40.00; Sheriff 130.00; Jailors at Pictou, 200; New Glasgow, \$200; Westville, \$100; Clerks of market – Pictou \$40.00; New Glasgow, \$30.00; total \$1590.00; Revisers, \$165.00; Assessors, \$400; Collectors, 600; Warden and councilors, 525; Inquests, 200; Sending Lunatics to Asylum, 250; Lunatic Asylum, 6000; Grand Jurors, 209; Petit Jurors, 500; Civil and Criminal Prosecutions, 500; Public Buildings, Insurance, Repairs, Fuel, & c., 400; Printing, Stationary, and postage, 300; Bushing Ice, 100; Board and Bedding Prisoners, 600; Exhibition Grounds, 200; Contingencies, 400; old debt and interest due, 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1881, 2,315; Schools, 10,115; total amount to be assessed, \$25,660.

J. Rodk. McDonald objected to increase of salary of Clerk.

The report was received and adopted.

On motion of Councilor J.D. Fraser, seconded by C.R. Fraser, it was *resolved* – That the clerk be authorized to strike off from the Assessment Roll, the names of all widows whose property does not exceed \$400, all non-resident poll-tax names and all other inaccessible property; that instructions, under Section 16, Chap, XXI . Revised Statutes, to assessors, be more explicit, more especially the part referring to widows, minors, and school teachers; and if such instructions cannot otherwise be conveniently given, that they be published in the List of Town Officers, in words or sentiment, as follows; - If, in the opinion of Assessors, the property of widows, minors, and school teachers, in actual service, is not of the value of \$400.00, their names are not to be entered on the Assessment Roll; but if the value of their property exceeds that sum, the full amount, and not a part of it, is to be set forth ; but in no case to interfere with section 18, sub-section 4 exempting persons unable to pay taxes.

It was resolved, on motion of Councilor, A.J. McKay, seconded by Councilor J.R. Collie, that the Committee appointed to confer with the Government on E.E. Railway Land Damages, also present with the petitions, brought before this Council, relative to reducing the number of representatives and the indemnity of members of the Local Legislature, and also the abolition of the Legislative Council.

On motion of Councilor Archibald, seconded by Councilor McRae, it was resolved that the sum of \$25.00 be paid THE PLAIN DEALER Newspaper, New Glasgow, for the reporting and printing of proceedings of Council; said proceedings to be published in full, in one issue of said paper on alternate pages.

The Clerk and Treasurer presented the names of their respective sureties, who were approved by the Council.

The names of the sureties of the several Clerks of License were also presented and accepted.

The appointment of a Committee, to enquire respecting a County poor house and hospital was deferred to May term.

S. Archibald moved, seconded by D. Fraser that the Bye-Laws be amended so as to provide for the division of the Municipality under seven road boards, and that one Superintendent of roads and bridges for each district or each polling section, as the Board may decide, shall be annually appointed by this Council deferred to the May meeting.

A motion was made by Councilor McRae, seconded by Councilor Bannerman, that whereas it is a disputed question what really constitutes personal property, and whereas the present system of assessment does not equalized the assessment rolls of the several sections, resolved that the Legislature be requested to amend the act so that such ratepayer shall assess himself by a system schedule or otherwise and under oath if thought necessary, and also define more explicitly what is personal property.

An amendment was offered by Councilor Archibald, seconded by Councilor Collie, that whereas the present system of Assessment is unsatisfactory and defective, and it is desirable, in the prospect of increased burdens of taxation in this county that a just and equitable assessment laws be speedily obtained.

Therefore resolved – That the Council respectfully invite the attention of the Local Legislature to the importance of passing a new Act, or of amending the present one by removing its objectionable features and rendering the working more efficient and satisfactory.

The amendment was withdrawn with the understanding that this matter come up for further consideration at the May meeting.

The vote was taken on a motion to defer Councilor McRae's resolution to the May Term; and on a call for "names", there appeared for the motion to defer, Councilors Fraser, 2; Ferguson, Collie, Stevenson, Fraser 8, Archibald, Maxwell, McDonald, 11, C.R. Fraser, McMillan, McGillivray, McDonald, 16, McDonald, 17; Willis, McLeod Smith, Fraser, 21, R. McDougall, Jno. McDougall, Meikle, 20 against deferring, Councilor McRae, McDonald, 6. McKay, Bannerman, - 4. The motion to defer was accordingly declared carried.

The Council then adjourned to May next.

Robert McNeill, *Warden*  
D.W. Matheson, *Mun. Clerk*