

COUNTY COUNCIL

Pictou, May 2, 1882

The County Council met the Warden presiding. Meeting opened as usual with prayer. The Warden made reference to the amendments passed at last session of the Legislature by which the provincial road grants are placed more directly under the control of the Council. Suggested that the changes necessary to be made in the mode of expenditure of road moneys be as few as possible for the present, this being the last term of service of this Council.

The Provincial Secretary's statement of the county road account was read and referred to the Road and Bridge Committee.

The Report of John Fraser on the condition of the new Court House and recommendations for needed repairs, with estimates cost \$250.00, was read and handed to Committee on Public Property.

Councilor Smith stated that Alex McDonald, who had been appointed in Jan'y term to collect arrears of assessments in District No. 19, was unable, as yet on account of illness, to attend to his duties.

On motion, a special committee was appointed to examine the bonds of Collectors of County and Poor Rates.

A number of other matters were brought forward and tabled for consideration at subsequent sessions.

It was determined to appoint one or more Clerks or License in each Township; the omission to make such appointments at the January term having been in anticipation of the Scott Act being in force in the county.

Adjourned at 2 p.m.

Tuesday Afternoon

The Treasurer's report on the finances to April 30th was read. Due on Collector's rolls Dec. 31, '81, \$2701.48 of which \$2234.09 was from the town of Pictou. Struck off January term; \$328.61. Commissions \$57.58. Paid in by the Collectors, of the above, \$1902.26, by the town of Pictou, 400, leaving a balance due from the town, April 30th, of \$1834.09 and from County Collectors \$438.42. There was received for rents \$10, fines \$1, and from relative of insane patients \$77. Total receipts to date, including \$3739.94 cash on hand January 1st, 6133.20.

Paid schools for '81 \$589.97, general account for 81, \$62.70; general account and salaries, current year, \$1624.13; road damages, current year \$56, and same for previous years \$29.20 contingent expenses, \$346.02; Councilors fees, \$241.50; witness fees, 50 cts; insurance, 56.88; road and bridge service, \$81.22; appeals '81, 1.14, '82 \$3.57; revisers for last year \$8, jurors 6.80; total \$3112.68; leaving a balance on hand of \$3020.57.

A keen discussion took place on the matter of extra charges by revisers for furnishing duplicate copies of electoral rolls for election purposes. The opinion seemed to prevail that no further appropriations can be made for revisers services at this meeting, but that all accounts for extra work must be presented and passed upon in the regular order at next January term.

An order for the removal of certain paupers from Mount Thom to Truro had been given on behalf of the Overseers of poor of Section 9, against which an appeal was made by the corporation of Truro. The case having been settled by the parties, J.D. McLeod, Esq., appeared, on the town of Truro asking that the order for removal be withdrawn and the appeal quashed by the Council. The overseers, through their counsel concurring, the request was granted.

On motion of J.D. Fraser and C.R. Fraser, a committee was appointed to report on the ravages of the cattle disease during the past year and what has been done to stay its progress. Committee J.D. Fraser, Donald Fraser and J.C. McKay.

On motion of J.R. Collie and D.J. Meikle, the County Treasurer was instructed to furnish the several Collectors of the County with a list of the Banks whose notes the county will receive at par also those on which there is a discount and the amount of discount. Adjourned.

Wednesday Forenoon

A letter was read from Coun. Bannerman stating his inability to attend the present term on account of illness. Excused.

The Com. appointed to examine collectors bonds reported all satisfactory except No. 1 Pictou Island, and No. 23. The former was not signed. The Clerk explained that the roll had not been delivered owing to the navigation not being opened. The sureties on bond for No. 23 were not sufficient, and it was resolved that the Clerk be authorized to have the roll of Sect. No. 23 returned to him for the purpose of getting a new bond with sufficient sureties to be approved by the Councilor of the District.

The position of Wm. Baxter, Marshy Hope, for compensation E.E.R. damages to his mill property was received and deferred to January term.

A memorial was read from the Pictou Town Council, asking for a portion of the Provincial road grant, and referred to the road and bridge committee.

The \$203 P.E.I. Bank notes on hand were left to the Treasurer and Warden to be disposed of as they may deem best for the interests of the County.

Wednesday Afternoon

The several committees being at work, no business was transacted in Council. Remained open until the hour of adjournment.

Thursday Forenoon

A letter was read from J. MacDougald, M.P. assigning legislative duties as his reason for absence from the present term. Absence excused.

Committees on the cattle disease reported they were much pleased to find that the Dominion Government took action on the suggestions of the com. of last May and had sent a veterinary surgeon to the localities in the County where cattle were affected. In August last, an investigation and enquiry were held by Dr. McEachern, Inspector of the Dept. of Agriculture and Dr. Lawson one of the professors of Dalhousie College. (The full reports of these inquiries were printed in the STANDARD last week). Com. find that the sum of \$20,000 placed in the Dominion estimates of the current year to provide for the stamping out of the disease, and think that the Government is determined to deal with it in an energetic manner. Statistical reports have been made which go to show that 1396 cattle have died of this disease, the value of which at \$20 per head amounts to \$27,920. Of these 203, estimated value \$4000, died in 1881. These figures should be sufficient to convince every inhabitant of the county of the necessity of enforcing the laws relating to the disease and thus prevent it in spreading any further. Attention is asked to the remarks of Dr. Lawson respecting a European weed naturalized around the Town of Pictou and other localities. In some cases, it fills whole fields to the exclusion of other herbage. The Dr. observes that the range of this plant is generally coincident with the cattle disease, though no evil effect is attributed to it in Britain where it is of common growth. It is

finally recommended that a committee consisting of one from each township be appointed to keep the progress of the disease in view and report to the County Clerk from time to time, and that he be required to impress the necessity of immediate action on the part of the Government to carry out the suggestions of the veterinary surgeons.

The report was adopted and a committee appointed, viz., Couns. Donald Fraser, J.D. Fraser, and C.R. Fraser

The report of the Com. on Public Property was read and laid on the table.

One of the Com. visited the jail regularly and found the premises in good order and prisoners well cared for. The estimates of repairs made by John Fraser, carpenter, of Stellarton, on the Court House, are embodied and recommended. The sills in front, end and west side are entirely rotten, and for the safety of the building should at once be replaced and where the posts are decayed at lower ends, new ones should be put up along side from the sills up to the girth under the window. All the outside buttresses at the bottom of the building should be taken off entirely and replaced with sheathing same as body of the building. The columns of portico should be taken out altogether and replaced with large wooden brackets properly fastened to the walls for support to the roof, the portico roof will require to be covered a new with good roofing tin. The entire outside walls throughout will require two coats and the new wood three coats of best lead paint, mixed with pure linseed oil. The probable cost of the above \$250. The estimated cost of gas fittings, say \$200, the Com. think should be dispensed with in the present state of the county finances. No report received from the Commissioners of Public Property, New Glasgow.

Thursday Afternoon

Coun. Archibald seconded by R. McDougald, moved the report on public property be returned to the committee for completion in accordance with the resolution of last meeting of council, requiring negotiations with the Town Council of New Glasgow in reference to the market building. The motion was lost, and the report adopted, the matter of the N.G. building being left in charge of the Com.

The Committee appointed Tuesday to enquire into the matter of the Sea View Cemetery reported: 1. The charges against the present Trustees are not specifically set forth. 2. They did not find that the Trustees have refused or neglected the performances of their duties. 3. That the trustees in enforcing the collection of the assessments were only carrying out the suggestions and resolutions of the annual meeting of May, 1881. 4. That at the last annual meeting, held on the 2nd inst., no complaints were made against the Trustees, this meeting being held since the petition was signed. The Committee did not think it wise to advise the Council to grant the prayer of the petition for the reasons enumerated. The report was adopted unanimously, and a vote passed that the prayer of the petition be not granted.

Committees on roads and bridges reported four petitions for private statute labor, which could not be considered, as they were contrary to order of Council made in January term. Of the returns not in January term, there have since been received, 279, 309, 370, 315, 681, 561, 551, 63, 179, 373, 367 372 ½, 377, 396, 312, 191. Returns 179 and 387 are irregularly filed, not showing that labor was actually performed; No. 312, in which there is a large amount of money involved, gives a very general report, not specifying anything; the material used and what it was used for not being described, and the Overseer not qualified. A number of returns are still wanting but the committee have been credibly informed otherwise at the labor was performed in nearly every case.

Petitions for new roads were granted as follows: David Langille, Sec. 4., pent road; Daniel Fraser, etc. alteration of road Elgin to Lorne; Robt. McLeod, etc., widening road Battery Hill to Stewiacke road; J. Sutherland, etc., public road, Marshy Hope to Bailey's Brook.

Roads confirmed are: Main road to railway station, Stellarton; pent road, Alex. Munro, and others, River John. Statute Labor to be performed thereon, James B. Gammon paying the damages assigned to himself and to make the road on his west line passable to the satisfaction of the supervisor; pent road William Chisholm, etc.; pent road James McKay and Alex McQuarrie; alteration of road J. Cameron to Black Brook road St. Mary's; alteration of road Dunn's Mill to George Inglis', Barney's River; road alteration Kenzieville to Avondale.

Petitions, polling sections 5 and 6, for a money grant for road and bridge Plainfield to River John, recommend to the consideration of road board; Jas. McDonald for removing obstructions on pent road to be attended to by Jas. S. Fraser, supervisor of public grounds and reported on at next meeting of Council; to define road limits in east Johnville, no action taken at present; H.S. Poole and others, Stellarton, referring to statute labor, no action taken.

It was resolved that no private statute labor petitions be granted this term.

Deferred to January next, - pent road Vale Colliery to Sherbrooke road; pent road John Munro, Carriboo River; petition from Jas. McKay and Alex. McQuarrie, also from Wm. Chisholm and others to be constituted into separate road limits timely notice to be given to interested parties.

To be registered, - Road alteration and plan at Big Gut, deed Donald McLeod and John Potter to the Queen for lands for a road.

Road District No. 1 to have the expense of keeping Boat Harbor and Big Gut bridges in repair, also that Dist. No. 3 have charge of Sutherland's River bridge and bear any expense in connection therewith.

The apportionment of the Provincial Road Grant for the current year: District No. 1, Pictou, \$3075 less \$37.80 over expenditure, \$3037.20; Dist. 2, West River \$2000; Dist.3, Egerton \$3757 less \$157.50 over expenditure, \$3599.50; Dist. 5, Maxwelltown \$2046. The report and Recommendations as above were adopted.

The Committee on nominations reported amendments and additions to the list of Town Officers of last January term, as follows:

Surveyors of Highways – Polling station No. 1, Pictou Island road limit No. 5, Hugh McDonald instead of Hugh McLean; road limit No. 6, Dan McLean instead of Malcolm McCallum; polling sections No. 2 road limit number 13; Neil Curry instead of Alexander Talbot, leaving the place; polling section no. 3, road limit 82, Jacob Bigney instead of Ingram B. Salisbury, left home, polling section 7, road limit 212, Adam McKean instead of Daniel Mclean, left the place; polling section 13, road limit 358, James Cameron Tyson instead of Donald McLean, over age; polling section 16, road limit 382, J.R. McIntosh instead of Donald McIntosh, infirm; road limit 394 John Fraser; road limit 403, Duncan McDonald instead of William Grant, gone to the United States; polling section 17, road limit 410, Alexander McKenzie instead of D. McLellan, having statute labor on private road; polling section 18, road limit 448, Alexander Fraser instead of Hugh Murray, removed from limits; polling section 21, road limit 515, Alex McGregor instead of John Smith left home: road limit 528 John D. Grant instead of W. Sutherland, Mail Courier; polling section 22, road limit 546, David Fraser instead of Donald Fraser (error in printing).

Clerk and Treasurer Churchville poor district, John Murray; Clerk of Poor, section 15, Robert Campbell.

Constable, section 23, James Roy, senr. Instead of Hugh McKenzie, left the country. Pound Keeper, Section 5, Daniel Campbell; Assessors section 13, Thomas McKay, Weavers Mt. instead of Wm. McDonald, left the country. Assessors section 15, left over from January term, Alex McHardy Esq. John Forbes, John McDonald, Turner Marsh.

Clerks for License – Districts 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. James McRae; districts 3, 4, 5, Robert Sutherland; districts 12, 13, 14, 15, A.M. Fraser, Esq. N.G.; districts 16, 17, 18, 23, A.W.A. McBean Esq. districts 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24. William Turner, French River East.

Agent for the sale of intoxicating liquors for medicinal and other lawful purposes, John D. Gould, Esq.

Presiding officer Municipal Election, polling district 14, John McQueen instead of John Grant deceased.

Surveyors of Highways – Road district No. 1, Allan McQuarrie; district No. 2, William McKay, West River; district No. 3, John Fraser Stellarton; district No. 4, James W. McKenzie, Barney's River. This report passed unanimously.

Friday Forenoon

Councilor Archibald having given sufficient reasons for his absence Tuesday and Wednesday was excused.

Committee on Poor reported return of Section 5 mislaid last term, is to hand and found satisfactory; returns of Sections 6 and 24 sent back for rectification, received and also satisfactory, the balance against Section 6 being \$178.87.

In the matter of a County Poor House, there has been considerable correspondence with the officials of Mount Hope Asylum, the Municipal Officers of Yarmouth, Antigonish, Pictou, and New Glasgow and others from whom information on the subject might be gathered. The poor rates of the County exclusive of the towns of Pictou New Glasgow and Albion Mines amount to \$6,000 per annum; the maintenance of insane patients for 1880 amount to 5,688.37 and this last item seems to be on the increase every year. The rate for board in that institution is, males \$104, females \$130; clothing being charged additional. More than one third of the patients in the institution have been reported by the medical superintendent as "harmless" and might be maintained at much less expense in properly regulated County poor houses. Owing to the crowded state of the Asylum, a large number of patients considered incurable are refused admissions so that the County jail is the only remaining public institution where insane persons can be cared for and kept under control, and as a matter of fact such persons have been confirmed in the Pictou jail within the past year, while it is needless to state that the jail is not the proper place for them. The opinions expressed by persons who have had an experience in the management of County poor houses all concur on the following points: 1. That poor houses properly conducted have a tendency to lower poor rates to a larger extent; 2. That the poor as a rule are better cared for in County Poor houses than by other methods adopted to their maintenance; 3rd, That there is no special difficulty in properly caring a county poor house for such insane persons as may be harmless and peaceable and such as may be incurable. The only officers required in a county poor house would be a board of overseers, and one keeper with such help as could be obtained from the inmates themselves. A large outlay would be necessary to start the system. Plans have been received from Mr. Busch, Architect, when we consider to be

on too large and expensive a scale for our requirements; and the Com., are therefore not in a position to name any specific sum, and some time would be needed to fix an estimate of the cost.

Should the scheme meet with the public approval, Coun. Recommend as essential to its success on economical grounds, 1st, That the building should be of plain brick and stone; 2nd That a farm of not less than 50 acres should be attached; 3rd That there be but one poor house for the county, the results of experience showing that the expenses per head are decreased by centralizing the service; 4th that a central locality be selected for the building with a good water supply, and within convenient reach of medical attention, 5th that the matter of erecting a poor house be fully paid before the rate payers, and ample time given to consider the matter; 6th and the Com on Poor – or a special Committee – be appointed to take the matter in charge. Report adopted.

The Finance Committee reported an error of \$5.00 in J.W. McKenzie's account rendered last term, and recommended the same as corrected, also the account of Alex. Fraser \$8.70 mislaid last term to be paid. In consideration of the additional bonds required of the County Treasurer for the Provincial road grant hereafter payable to the Municipality, Com. recommended that the Treasurer receive, in addition to his present salary, a commission of one percent of the said road grants. Salaries of road supervisor payable out of the Government road grants, for their respective road districts to be paid per annum; Dist. No. 1, \$70; dist.3 \$50; dist 3 \$90; dist 4 \$65; with five per cent of moneys expended by them.

Two members of the committee, couns. McDonald 6, and McDonald 11, not fully agreeing with the recommendations expressed in the report, did not sign it.

On motion of Coun. Smith, seconded by J.D. Fraser, a vote passed that the addition to the Treasurer's salary be three-fourths of one instead of one per cent of road grant. A motion offered by Coun. Collie, sec. by A.J. McKay that the supervisors of road board No. 2 receive \$50 instead of \$70, which was lost. The report as amended was then adopted.

The Warden and Coun. McDouald 23, were then appointed a committee to prepare blanks for road supervisors.

On motion of R. McDougald, sec. by D.J. Meikle and passed unanimously, the sum of eight dollars is to be paid. N. Logan, for furnishing a full account of the proceedings of the meeting of Council to proceedings of the meeting of Council to the *Eastern Chronicle* and COLONIAL STANDARD newspapers.

Friday Afternoon

The Committee on assessments reported no appeals received. To be struck off Daniel Munro's roll, Section 2. 1880, \$3.28; of Angus Bruce's roll Section 2, 1879, \$1.03; John Park to receive from the Treasurer; on demand, a refund of \$1.56, his valuation having been reduced \$200 last term. Adopted.

The course formally pursued with respect to supplying notices to councilors for calling town meetings is to be continued.

Pages 151 & 152 are missing out of the Pictou Minutes Book

Moved by Coun. Smith, seconded by Coun. McDonald, 16, *Whereas* an act of the Legislature has been passed amending the County Incorporation Act where by the pay of County Councilors may be advanced to two dollars per day.

Therefore, Resolved that the County Treasurer be directed to pay to the several Councilors for each day's attendance at the present term, at the rate of two dollars a day with lawful traveling expenses.

An amendment that the pay remain as it was put to vote and lost. A call of names was had on the demand of Coun. McDonald, 6, seconded by Coun. Stevenson.

The names when taken on the original motion appears as follows: *For* – Couns. Stromberg, A.J. McKay, J.R. McDonald 11, C.R. Fraser, A. McMillan, J. McDonald 16, J.C. McKay, Smith, J.D. Fraser, D.J. Meikle 10. *Against* – Couns. Ferguson, J.R. McDonald 6, Stevenson, H.S. Fraser, Archibald, Maxwell, J. McDonald 17, McLeod, R. McDougall 9. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

Couns. Collie and McGillivray were absent, and Coun. D. Fraser, excused from voting, for reasons stated.

In consequence of Coun. Bannerman's inability, through illness, to act on the Committee of Public Property Coun. J.D. Fraser was appointed to act in stead.

Minutes, as read from day to day, were adopted as a whole, and the Council adjourned sine die.

Robert McNeil *Warden*

D.W. Matheson *Mun. Clerk*