

MAY 8, 1883
COUNTY COUNCIL

May 1st

Council met at 11 a.m. All present except Councilors J.C. McKay, J. McDougald and Thomas McDonald.

The Warden addressed the Council stating the business that would be brought before them this term, and urged the Councilors not to take up any business that was not absolutely necessary. The Clerk read a list of the business laid over from January term and the matters were referred to the various Committees. Correspondence and statement of Mr. Cooke, Fraser's Mountain, about his duty as Surveyor of Roads and Limits was read and after some explanations was handed to the Road Committee. To this Committee was also handed the matter of a road at Dalhousie.

An abstract of the Treasurer's Report of the Finances of the County at this date, which will appear in full in future issue. Committee on County Poor House and building for the harmless insane reported and report read, and Wednesday morning appointed for discussion of the same. Committee on cost of keeping criminals in County jail reported partially and promised to report more fully when negotiations now going on between Dominion and Local Governments were concluded. Council adjourned till 2 p.m.

At 2 p.m. Council again met. Minutes of forenoon session read and approved. Warden read a letter from Deputy Provincial Secretary, which showed that on the 7th of April there was to the credit of the Municipality in the Provincial Treasury \$8,393.00 on account of the Road and Bridge Service. Council adjourned for an hour to allow several parties from outlying districts to go before the Road and Bridge Committee and allow some other Committees to work. Council resumed, and it was moved by Councilor McColl and seconded by Councilor J.D. Fraser,

Whereas by an Act of the Legislature passed on the 19th of April, 1883, the Municipal Council have to decide as to the manner in which the road moneys are to be expended.

Therefore Resolved, that the moneys granted by the Legislature for Roads and Bridges be expended by a Supervisor for the whole County, assisted by a Deputy from each Polling Section, and that the County Supervisor be the Deputy for the district in which he resides.

It was decided to lay this over until Wednesday.

Council adjourned till Wednesday May 2nd, at 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY MAY 2

Council opened at usual hour; all present but Coun. J.C. McKay and John McDougald. Minutes of the preceding day read and approved.

The Warden asked the Committee on Assessments to ascertain as to whether the bondsmen of Collectors, who were behind in their accounts, were liable, if they had not been notified within a certain time.

Several petitions were referred to different committees to deal with.

Coun. Davies asked for information regarding the bounds of Road District's disputes having frequently arisen regarding them.

A letter was read from the Town Clerk of New Glasgow concerning the dilapidated state of two important Bridges in the vicinity, and asking the Council to take action thereon.

Coun. J.D. Fraser spoke regarding the necessity of spending the road monies at that time of the year when it would be most serviceable to working people.

Coun. McColl moved the adoption of the report of the Committee appointed to consider the advisability of erecting a County Poor House and Insane Asylum and spoke briefly in its favor reading extracts from reports received from Yarmouth and elsewhere to show that the change recommended in the report would be in the interest of economy.

Coun. R. McDougall was in favor of the adoption of the report. He considered that it would be better to pay interest on money for buildings than large sums towards the Insane Asylum. He thought if a building was erected, all sections of the county ought to be allowed to send their poor there.

Coun. D. Fraser thought the change would be beneficial. It had worked well in Antigonish. His only fear was that the property might be run extravagantly.

Coun. D. Ferguson considered that the time had come when a change should be made, the present system. We have too many lazy poor.

Coun. Dewar said that if the question was the cure of the harmless insane, the matter should be approached very carefully, and the cost taken into consideration.

Coun. J. Rod McDonald did not think the poor should be sent to the building, and was satisfied with the conditions of the affairs in Sec. 6 as far as regards to the poor.

Coun. Meikle thought a building for the harmless insane would be sufficient at present.

Coun. Collie agreed with the other. Speakers, who thought a small building sufficient at present. The idea of the Committee was to bring definite plan before the Council and the particulars could be afterward attended to.

Coun. McMillan was against making the poor a county charge and thought the additional taxation should be made as light as possible.

Coun. T. McDonald was in favor of a building for the insane alone, he knew Sec. 16 would not be in favor of putting the poor and insane together.

Coun. McColl suggested that adjoining counties might send some of their harmless insane, and some revenue might be raised in that way towards the support of the building.

Coun. J.D. Fraser supported the report on the ground of necessity, and considered that sections should be allowed to send their poor to the institution if they wished.

The first four clauses of the report, in which the principle of building an Asylum was affirmed, then passed unanimously.

The report was then adopted as a whole, by a unanimous vote.

A long discussion took place as to whether Commissioners should be appointed to carry on the work, and it was finally decided that the matter be referred back to the Committee to decide in what way the work should be superintended.

Council adjourned.

Council met at 2 p.m.

The resolution moved by Coun. McColl on the day previous was then taken up.

The Warden thought it was generally admitted that the system divisors was best, and that present division of the county into Road Districts be also considered was satisfactory. He thought if a consultation was held by the different Road Boards to ascertain their opinions, they could discuss the resolution more intelligently.

Accordingly Coun. McColl moved that the Council adjourn for half an hour to give the different Road Boards an opportunity to meet. This was carried and the Council adjourned.

Council met again at 3 p.m.

It was then moved by Coun. R. McDougald and seconded by Coun. Collie, “that the Road monies of this municipality is expended under the inspection of Supervisors.

This was passed unanimously.

Some discussion then took place in regard to the number of Supervisors to be appointed. Road Board No. 1 with the exception of Coun. J. Rod McDonald considered one general Supervisor would be best.

Road Board No. 2 unanimously resolved that a Supervisor should be appointed for each Polling Section.

Road Boards No. 3 and 4 came to the same conclusion as Road Board No. 1.

After a long and exhaustive discussion, it was agreed that the matter be laid over till tomorrow morning in order that Road Board No. 2 might define the limits of the districts under Supervision.

It was moved by Coun. McColl seconded by Coun. Fraser and resolved “That the Road and Bridge monies be divided on the same scale as last year.”

The following scale for road work was then determined on by resolution of Coun. Smith.

1. - Foreman.....	\$1.25
2. – Laborers.....	1.00
3. – Horse, Cart and Driver.....	1.50
4. – Pair Horses and Plough.....	2.50
5. – Mechanics.....	1.50
6. – Pair Horses and Wagon.....	2.50

The above amounts to be the outside limit to be paid for work.

It was also determined that then hours be considered a day’s work.

Coun. McColl brought to the notice of the Council the fact that no returns have ever been received in regard to the “Poor” or “Road District” of Albion Mines; also that the Surveyors of Roads and Limits for that district having resigned, whether it would be legal or not to appoint a person from outside the district.

Council adjourned on motion of J. Rod McDonald

THURSDAY MAY 3

Council opened in the usual way, Minutes of preceding meeting read and approved on motion.

Some discussion took place as to whether the wages, allotted by resolution yesterday to foreman of road work, were sufficient, but no action was taken in reference to the matter.

The Warden asked the Road Committee to consider the advisability of giving Supervisors the power to call out Overseers of Roads and Limits, if it should be necessary, after the regular Statute labor for the year has been alone.

A letter was read from the Trustees of Sea View Cemetery asking that the Supervisors appointed last winter to lay lout the road to their cemetery be instructed to proceed with the work.

On motion the prayer of the petition was granted.

The Warden laid before the Council the report of the Committee on Public Property (in the Township of Egerton), who had been authorized in January last, to ascertain whether there was any infringement on the rights of the county in the alterations in the dam of the Eureka Woolen Mills Company.

The report did not state anything in regard to any damage received by the public, and, being considered unsatisfactory and not relevant to the question at issue, on motion of Coun. McColl it was resolved.

“That the matter be handed back to the committee to ascertain whether the damage was caused by the Eureka Woolen Mills or other parties, and notify these parties to repair the damage immediately; and if they did not comply with this request, that the Warden be empowered to proceed against them and recover the amount of damages.”

Councilor McColl read the further report of the Committee on County Asylum, and moved that it be received, giving brief explanations of the various clause.

After a short discussion, Coun. R. McDonald, in a short speech, moved by adoption.

Coun. D. Fraser did not think that the Commissioners should be bound down to the use of hot water in the building.

It was then moved that the matter be laid over until the afternoon.

Moved in amendment that the report be handed back to the committee to amend clauses 5 and 7.

The amendment was carried.

Road and Bridge matters were then taken up.

The Warden said that the Supervisors of the different districts were asking for about \$16,000 for work on Roads and Bridges, and he would only have about \$8,000 to meet this with.

Coun. McColl said that the estimates of some of the Supervisors were incorrect. In some cases estimates were made at Jan’y 1st and were incorrect, as large bridges have been carried away since that time.

While awaiting the report of the Committee on Roads and Bridges, the report of the Committee on Assessment was read by Coun. D. Ferguson (chairman). It recommended that certain sums be refunded to MacIntosh and Dewar, and Edwin Stewart. The petition of John J. Sutherland for reduction in valuation was recommended to be not granted. It recommended that the bondsmen of collectors who were behind in their accounts be notified of the fact, special reference being made to Sec. 3, 7, 23.

On motion of Coun. McColl the report was received.

Council met at 2 p.m.

Minutes of the morning meeting read and approved.

The committee appointed to consider matters in reference to the New Lock-up at Stellarton, reported and recommended that the matter be placed under the Supervision of a committee consisting of Couns. J. McDougald, John McDonald and J.C. McKay.

This report was received and adopted.

A part of the report of Road and Bridge Committee was read. They recommended that the following sums be appointed to the different road districts: - as arranged May term 1881 see [??] report

Road District No. 1.....	\$2373.00
“ “ “ 2.....	1543.00
“ “ “ 3.....	2598.00
“ “ “ 4.....	1578.00
Total.....	<hr/> \$8392.00

The Treasurers percentage to be deducted from these amounts

The Committee on Poor reported that sixteen of the poor districts had complied with the law in reporting the state of matters in the different districts, and recommended that the clerks of the Poor throughout the County be required to send their returns to the clerk of the Municipality before the 30th April of each year.

Coun. McColl read the amended and final report of the county Poor House Committee. The report was taken up clause by clause.

The clause deciding that the buildings should be located outside the municipalities of Pictou and New Glasgow excited a great deal of discussion.

Coun. Collie advocated the expunging of this clause, on the ground of convenience for medical assistance etc., and moved that it be struck out.

Coun. D. Fraser seconded this.

Coun. Dewar considered if this clause was not put in, a great deal of jealousy would arise between the two towns, as to which of them should have the building.

Coun. Collie motion was last on being put to vote.

All of the clauses were discussed very thoroughly, and the report finally adopted unanimously:

The following motion of Coun. Maxwell, seconded by Coun. D. Ferguson was then passed:

Resolved – That the section of the Bye-Laws in reference to the provisions for the county is hereby amended as follows:

There shall be one Supervisor each for Road Boards No. 1, 3 and 4, and the boundaries of the same and the compensation of the Supervisor shall be same as last year.

Road Board No. 2 shall be sub-divided as follows, and one supervisor shall be appointed for each of the districts, viz :

Polling Sections No. 7, No. 8, No. 9 No. 10 No. 11 and the compensation shall be Ten Dollars for each Supervision in that Road Board, and five percent on the amount expended by him.

The boundaries of such Polling Sections shall be the boundaries now established for such Sections, except that Loch Broom Bridge will be included in No. 7.

Ten Mile House Bridge will be included in No. 8, Bridge at Salt Springs in No. 10. Bridge at Gairloch Church in No. 11, Bridge at Gairloch Lake in No. 10, Bridge at Donald McPherson's in No.11, Bridge at Watervale in No. 9.

The whole number of Supervisors for the county shall be eight and the Supervisor for the sub-division of No. 2 Road Board shall be styled for Polling Section No. 7, No. 2; for No. 8, No. 5; for No. 9, No. 6; for No. 10, No. 7; for No. 11, No. 8.

The final Report of Road and Bridge Committee was read.

Council adjourned

Friday, May 4th 1883

Council opened at the usual hour. Minutes read and passed. Coun. Fraser read report of Com on Public Property, recommending the application of C.R. Fraser & Vaux for leave to purchase from McDonald the lease of the Market House at New Glasgow, be granted, the said C.R. Fraser & Vaux to be responsible for the rent of the market and C.R. Fraser be appointed Clerk of said Market. They recommended that the acct. of the Inspector of Weights and Measures for inspecting Hay Scales be paid. The report passed.

The final report of the Com on County Asylum was read as follows:

To the Warden and Councilors of the municipality of Pictou.

Your committee on building for harmless insane be leave to further report.

1. That for the purpose of carrying out the report adopted at yesterday's meeting five commissioners be appointed.
2. That the Town Councils of Pictou and New Glasgow is respectfully requested by the clerk of this council to nominate a commissioner for each of those towns respectively and such nominations to be certified by the mayor and warden of the towns respectively, and the warden of this municipality on receipt of such certificates to accept such commissioners as the appointments of this council. The remaining three commissioners to be appointed at the present meeting of the council. Three of the commissioners to form a quorum for the transaction of any business.
3. That the commissioners have power to purchase a farm, build or have built a suitable building and furnish the same, provided the cost of the whole complete farm, buildings and furniture and does not exceed \$10,000 and of that they must be satisfied before commencing.
4. That the superintendent of Provincial Lunatic Asylum be consulted, and his suggestions as far as possible be followed before the plans of building are adopted.
5. That if plans of building cannot be determined on so that the cost of them may come within the amount appropriated the commissioners shall have a special meeting of the council called by requisition and submit the plans and estimates they approve of for further consideration.
6. That the commissioners receive as consideration for their services, five per cent commission on the cost of the building and furnishings fees the cost of obtaining a plan and specifications but no commissions to be paid them on the cost of land.
7. That the commissioners' report from time to time to the warden of the county the progress made and that the accounts and papers in connection with the building be at all times open to the inspector of said warden.
8. That the building to be erected be of wood of a plain finish and that unless some new and better plan be adopted it be heated with hot water.
9. That the building be erected as near the centre of the county as possible (except that it is not to be within the town limits of Pictou or New Glasgow) regard being had to a good supply of water and convenience of access by main road to railway or otherwise.
10. That a bill be prepared and sent to the next meeting of the Legislature by which we will be enabled to issue bonds for the pavement of the cost of the buildings & c., in accordance with the 6th clause of the adopted report of this committee.
11. That in the meantime if the money is required before we get such legislation the Government be communicated with and asked if they will advance the amount.
12. That a committee of this council be appointed to confer with the Government or Board of Public Charities and ascertain from them if they will carry out the suggestions contained in the report of the superintendent of the insane asylum as to the bonus of 58 cents per head per week for the number of patients that we take in the Asylum.
13. That a committee of this council be appointed to attend to the carrying out of sections 10, 11 and 12 of the Report and that this committee be an advisory committee of this council for the commissioners if they should require any advice or assistance.

JOHN R. COLLIE
WILLIAM SMITH
JEFFREY MCCOLL

A long discussion took place in regard to the manner of appointing the commissioners necessary under the report. J. Rod McDonald moved that they be appointed by the nominating committee.

Coun. McColl moved in amendment that they be appointed in open Council.

The original vote was passed by a vote of 11 to 8.

Their being only two members of the nominating committee present, the Warden named Coun. McMillan as the third member and they retired to deliberate.

Coun. McColl brought up the question of whether the county council should take advantage of the provisions of the Bridge Bill passed at the last session of the Local Legislature. He did not think it would be advantageous to the Municipality to do so.

Coun. D. Ferguson said that two large bridges would have to be built in his section and all that he agreed with Coun. McColl's remarks.

Coun. J. Robt. McDonald thought that the county could borrow if needed, and that it would be advisable for road Boards to spend the Provincial Grant on bridges this year.

Coun. McPherson referred to section 8 of the act which provides that one or more inspectors have to be appointed and that contractors have to pay them.

The committee on nominations having reported the following persons were appointed commissioners for the purpose of superintending the erection of the proposed asylum for incurable insane; John McQuarrie, Stellarton; John Forbes, Miller, F. River; and Robert Morrison, W. River.

Coun. J. Rod McDonald asked how the sum of the assessment had arranged an omission and had been made by the assessors of Section 9, and which would cause a loss to the county of upwards of \$52.00. He spoke of the necessity of assessors doing the work more carefully, as frequently the county was compelled to pay out money owing to their mistakes. He concluded by moving a resolution in reference to the subject.

Coun. J.D. Fraser objected as the resolution had reference to the report of the committee.

The resolution which was passed unanimously was as follows:

"Whereas the assessors of Section 9 have not complied with their instructions or their oaths, and as there has been a loss to the county of \$52, by their neglect of duty, therefore

"Resolved that the matter be reconsidered at the January term of 1884 and that the Warden be requested to ascertain the law in such cases."

Coun. H.S. Fraser moved that Wilson Smith in Section 8 be permitted to do his Statute Labor on the road leading to Four Mile House. This was passed.

Council adjourned.

In the afternoon the report of the committee on nominations was read and adopted as follows:

REPORT

Constable, Geo, Donaldson

Ferryman, Geo, Bailiff, see 2.

Surveyors Highways, P. District 3, limit 70, Thos. Clarke instead of Henry Kelly,

P. District 4, Limit 92, Robt. Holt instead of Robert Hall.

P. District 5, Limit 115, John R. Ross instead of James Sutherland, 30 David McKenzie instead of John Rae.

P. District 7, limit 193 ½ Duncan McKenzie (meadows) from Carson's corner to Alexander McDonald's B's.

P. District 9, limit 224 Alex Campbell instead of Paul McKenzie 233 John W. Tupper instead of Wm. Matheson.

P. District 12 limit 313 John W. Fraser instead of Joseph Vaux, 314 Howard Kennedy instead of James R. Porter 316 Wm. McPherson instead of John Douglass P. District 13 limit 325

John Horne instead of Duncan Ross, 326 Michael Finnesey instead of Michael Finnesey (misprint)

P. District 17 Gregor Chisholm from Alexander McKenzie's south line to bend of settlement including Urquharts and Chisholm's road. Daniel McQuarrie from Hugh Fraser's cross road to Charles McQuarrie's West line including McKay and McQuarrie road.

P. District 15 limit 353 Donald Ross instead of Murdoch McLellan. 376 ½ Donald McDonald junior on New road brooding from School house at V. Colliery to Sherbrooke Road.

P. District 16 limit 402 James McDonald in place of Peter McNab, limits to be from Campbell's Road to McPherson's Mills.

OVERSEER POOR

*P. D. 10, William G. Millar in place of Wm. McKenzie

CLERK POOR

Section 10 Hugh McLean

PRESIDING OFFICERS OF NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Pol. District 3 Nelson Sutherland

OVERSEER POOR

P.D. 17, James W. McDonald instead of James McDonald (misprint)

SUPERVISORS OF HIGHWAYS

Road District for 1 Allan McQuarrie, Toney River

{7 Adam McKay RH

{8 David McLean, W.H.

{9 Hugh McLean M.B.

Polling Sections {10 Daniel McKay M.B.

{11 Dan A. McKenzie Gairloch

Road Districts 3 James W. McKenzie

4 James W. McKenzie

CLERK OF MARKET NEW GLASGOW

Colin R. Fraser

Committee on building for harmless insane; Jeffrey McColl, John McDonald, J.R. Collie, Robert Maxwell, William Smith,

Submitted

H.S. FRASER } Com

D.J. MEIKLE }

Coun. R. Maxwell asked what was to be done about bridges. A desultory discussion then occurred on the subject but no action was decided upon. None of the Councilors seemed disposed to have anything to do with the Bridge Bill so that matter dropped on the understanding that the Road Boards would have to borrow if necessary, and that the amounts borrowed would be a first charge on next year's approbation.

After reading of minutes, Council adjourned.

Robert McNeil, Warden

D.W. Matheson, Mun. Clerk

Pictou Court House

4 May 1883