

MEETING OF COUNCIL

The Municipal Council met at the Court House, Pictou, on Tuesday, 13th Jan. 1885, at 11 o'clock, a.m.

The ballot boxes being opened and the returns of Presiding Officers read, the following named persons were declared duly elected, sworn into office by the Clerk, and duly signed the roll.

For Polling Sec. 1, C. Dwyer; 2. Donald Fraser, 3, Jas. Kitchen; 4, Chas. McLennan; 5. Alex J. McKay; 6. John Rod McDonald; 7. Hugh D. Danoon; 8. Hugh S. Fraser; 9. Colin Fraser; 10. Robert Maxwell; 11. George M. McKay; 12. Jeffrey McColl; 13. John Weir; 14. Robert McNeil; 17. James McKay, 17 Alexander Grant; 18. Alexander Fraser; 19, D.G. McDonald; 21, John D. Fraser; 23, John McDougald; 24, Alexander McHardy.

Robert McNeil, Esq., was re-elected Warden of the Council. Mr. McNeil took his seat on the bench and addressed the council. Abstract of the Treasurer's report was read by the Warden.

Hugh S. Fraser, John McDougald, and Rod'k McDougall were appointed the Nominating Committee.

It was moved by Coun. McColl, seconded by Coun. John McDougald, and resolved, that a committee be appointed to examine Statute Labor returns and accounts of Supervisors of Roads.

Moved and seconded that the Council stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Council met at 2 p.m. this 13th Jan A.D. 1885, pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes of forenoon meeting read and adopted.

John McPherson, Coun. For Sec. 15, Alex Fraser for Sec 18, and Robt Dewar for Sec 20, having arrived, were duly sworn and signed the roll. Coun. McHardy read and file a protest against Roderick McDougall, Esq., taking any action as Councilor in consequence of the presiding officer for his section (22) not having completed his report of the election, and returning him as duly elected.

The Warden called the attention of the Council to the necessity of amending the bye-laws of the Municipality.

Coun. Dwyer called the attention of the Council to the principles of Assessment as acted on throughout the county, complaining that property was not so highly valued in the country districts as in the towns.

The nominating committee reported recommending: For County Auditors – Smith Copeland, of Pictou; and William Cameron, of Sutherland's River. Com on Finance – Colin Fraser, Hugh S. Fraser, Alex Fraser, John McDougald, and Rod McDougall. Com on Roads and Bridges – A.J. McKay, John Rod McDonald, R. Maxwell, James McKay and J.D. Fraser. Com of Public Property – Donald Fraser, John Weir and Robert Dewar. Com on Assessment – James Kitchin, Alex McHardy, and Thos. McDonald, Com on Licenses – C. Dwyer, John McPherson, and Alex Grant. Com on Poor – Chas McLellan, Jeffrey McColl, and Hugh D. Denoon, Com. on Statute Labor and Supervisor's Accounts – Donald Fraser, Chas McLennan, D.G. McDonald, Jeffrey McColl and George McKay.

Signed H.S. FRASER
JOHN MCDOUGALD
R. MCDOUGALL

Report received and adopted.

Resolved that the matter of reporting the proceedings of council be left to committee on Finance to report tomorrow morning.

Moved, seconded and resolved that his council do stand adjournment till tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

REPORT OF WARDEN

To the Council Assembly January 1885

As retiring warden, I have written out a few statements of what transpired since last meeting of council. Also a few suggestions which I place before the new council. Formerly any suggestions were made verbally, but to give the members of council an opportunity of considering the matters brought before them, and adding any improvements that to them might seem proper, I have written this paper which I submit to you.

At the last meeting of Council I was authorized to sell the old lock-up house at New Glasgow. In the autumn I received an offer of \$250.00 for the lot and building. After consultation with the Chairman of Com. on Public Property and Commissioner in charge, we considered it a fair price. The transfer was made and the money paid to the treasurer of the municipality. The lock-up at Stellarton authorized two years ago was completed in a manner creditable to the commissioners, and taken over by the County. The accounts, vouchers, and title deeds of the same will be laid before you.

In accordance with resolutions of council, negotiations were entered into with the Town Council of New Glasgow concerning the market building and grounds drafted by the Town Clerk of New Glasgow and submitted to Chairman of Com. on Public Property, County Clerk and myself. We added some minor clauses and returned to the Mun. Clerk of New Glasgow, and was informed by him that it had to be submitted to the Town Council before they could take any more action on it. Since then we have not heard from them.

As regards the money voted for agricultural exhibition, it was distinctly understood that it was only to be paid on condition of land being purchased and permanent buildings erected, in which the County was to have an interest. No land being purchased or buildings erected, consequently no money was paid by the County, as the exhibition com. had the market building and grounds free of charge, the county may be considered as contributing a fair share towards the exhibition.

There was \$1500 put in the estimates last year for the purpose of buying land and erecting building for an asylum for the harmless insane. I have not been aware of any action been taken by committee in charge since last May meeting of council. The others expenditures have been about as usual and will come before you in detail.

I would now call your attention to matters vital importance to this County and trust they will receive your most careful consideration.

The County Incorporation act has been in force for five years, and I must say the Councils heretofore in this County deserve a great deal of credit for the manner in which they have divested themselves of party feelings, and tried (without exception) to put into operation one of the crudest pieces of legislation that was ever put on an intelligent people. We have tried in several ways to have the Act amended but have always failed thus far.

I would recommend that a committee on bye-laws be appointed, and that our bye-laws be amended, and we may get some of the changes required legalized with them. I will mention some of the changes that require immediate action.

1st - On exceptions from serving in Municipal Office. See Sec. 20, sub. Sec 1 and 2 Co. Incorp. Act.

2nd – On appointing Auditors and their duties, see sec. 44 and 45.

3rd – On Surveyors of Highway – defining duties and responsibilities and making returns, also time of entering on duties of office. See. sec. 47 and 45, also sub. Sec. 3 of sec 83 and sec 79 for power to make changes.

4th - On time of printing lists of Town Officers, see sec 52 (I have referred to Chap. 56 Revised Statutes 5th Series. You will find the same in Incorporation Act 1879 under different Sections.)

We also require legislation on the time revisers should make their returns so that all applicants' names should be added to the assessment roll of that year. On the duties of general assessors and allowing the council to fix time and place, also the equalizing of Town and County assessments and fixing the time assessment Rolls shall be finished and posted up, that persons feeling aggrieved may have legal time to appeal to Council. These are some of the changes that it seems possible we might get (at least some of them) in our bye-laws, which would make the act work more smoothly than heretofore.

Believing that these recommendations will receive your most careful consideration and wishing that other members of council may offer such suggestions as they may deem desirable, I now leave the matter in the hands of the council.

Robert McNeil
Retiring Warden
Pictou, January, 1885

PROTEST OF CONCILOR MCHARDY

In the County Council of Pictou

January meeting 1885

“Whereas there has been no return made by the presiding officers for Polling District number twenty-two in this County for the election of a Municipal Councilor for said Polling District at the election held under the law on the 18th day of November, A.D., 1884. And whereas the former Councilor Roderick McDougall having appeared here and claimed the seat of Councilor for said Polling District No. 22, but as no return has been found after the Ballot Box was opened, the said Roderick McDougall was not sworn in as a Councilor for said district. Yet not withstanding these facts herein before recited the said Roderick McDougall took part as a Councilor at this meeting of the Municipal Council and as a Councilor moved that R. McNeil be appointed Warden and further that the said Roderick McDougall was as a Councilor appointed by the said R. McNeil the Warden as one of the Nominating Committee in said Council I therefore the undersigned a member of the Municipal Council of the County of Pictou do protest against the said Roderick McDougall taking part in or acting as a Councilor in any form way or manner until he produce evidence of his being legally and duly elected to such office according to law.

ALEXANDER MCHARDY
Councilor No. 24

MORNING SESSION

Council met this Jan. 14th, A.D., 1885, at 10 o'clock a.m. The minutes of yesterday afternoon's meeting were read and adopted.

The auditors were duly sworn to the discharge of their duties, and instructed by the warden. The Committee to whom was referred the matter of reporting the proceedings of council, recommended that the minutes of council, including the list of town officers, be printed in pamphlet form, - three copies to be supplied each councilor, also that a reporter be employed to copy the minutes and furnish a report for the press at a cost not exceeding twenty-five dollars; report received and adopted.

Moved by H.S. Fraser, seconded by John McDougald, and carried: “*That whereas*, Neil Gunn, appointed a municipal presiding officer for polling district No. 22, at January term, A.D. 1884, has made no return or report of his doings as such presiding officer as by law required.

Therefore resolved, that the said Neil Gunn be required to make his said return, or report to the municipal clerk forth with – the clerk to give immediate notice of this resolution by mail to the said Neil Gunn.

Moved by Hugh S. Fraser, seconded by A.J. McKay, that Monday next, at 4 p.m., be the time up to which petitions & c. be received for this meeting of council – Passed.

Accounts, petitions, & c. were distributed among the different committees into which the council was divided for the purpose of expediting the work of the council, by the warden, he having just read the caption to each.

It was moved, seconded and resolved, that, in order to give the different committees time in proceeding with their work, this council do stand adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o’clock, a.m.

REMARKS ON PROCEEDINGS

Coun. McHardy objected to the minutes of the previous meeting being adopted, as he considered Coun. Roderick McDougall was not legally elected as he showed in his protest. Coun. Hugh D. Denoon was of the opinion that the Council should consider well at this stage what they were doing, as if there was an irregularity it might lead to greater ones if not rectified now. The Warden said that the matter was ratified by the whole council and the discussion dropped.

The Warden, in handing the petitions for laying out and confirming roads, reiterated the suggestion made at a previous session of council, that is, that roads be ordered to be laid out only at the first session of each Council so that they could confirm their own work.

Coun. Dwyer gave notice that to-morrow he would bring before them something in reference to the disaster at Pictou Island last fall.

Coun. McHardy thought that an improvement could be affected in numbering and filing the Statute Labor returns. If they were numbered from one upwards to the highest in each polling district they could be referred to more easily and also that the approximate number of miles in each road district should be shown by them.

The Clerk in answer, said that if the returns were made in time they could be referred to without trouble as numbered as present.

On motion, two petitions from Stellarton which are to go before the Legislative Assembly, were read by Coun McColl. He gave also the approximate cost of the bridges built in the county during the year under the Bridge Act, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Gray’s Bridge..... | \$1,660.00 |
| Alma..... | 4,550.00 |
| Stellarton..... | 3,900.00 |
| River John..... | 6,650.00 |

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Vale..... | 994.00 |
| Moore's Ford..... | 1,900.00 |
| McLeod's..... | <u>2,633.00</u> |
| | \$22,287.00 |

Some complaints were made by Councilors of the narrowness of bridges built under the Act. It was explained, however, that if they were made wider it would add 30 per cent to their cost.

Couns. Dewar and J.D. Fraser expressed themselves as being afraid that the Township of Maxwellton would not get its proportion of the money since over \$22,000 out of the \$35,000 allotted to the County have already been spent in the other townships, and none in it.

MORNING SESSION

Council met this Thursday 15th day of January 1885, at 10 o'clock a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

The minutes of yesterday's meeting were read, approved, and adopted.

Coun. Thomas McDonald was sworn in and signed the roll as Coun. for polling Sec. 16.

Read letter from George Underwood, Esq., N.G., Commissioner Public Property, as to the necessity for shingling the Court House, and asking to be relieved from his appointment as such commissioner.

Read letter from Dr. Reid, Superintendent Insane Asylum, Dartmouth, as to the capacity of the institution for accommodation of chronic insane patients.

Moved by Jeffery McColl, seconded by John D. Fraser, and resolved that, whereas this council on some misunderstanding on the part of the committee on roads and bridges have illegally confirmed a road through the lands of one Angus Chisholm and others, that all proceedings of this council in reference to said road be expunged from the minutes and that the matter be referred to a special committee.

The nominating committee recommended that a special Committee consisting of James Kitchin, Hugh Danoon, George M. McKay, Robert Dewar and Alexander McHardy be appointed on the road laid out through the lands of Angus Chisholm and others, was adopted.

In order to allow several committees to get on with their work, it was moved and seconded and passed that this council do stand adjourned until 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Council met this Thursday, p.m., 15th day of January, at 2 o'clock, p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Read minutes of forenoon meeting which were approved and adopted.

The special committee to whom was referred the matter of the road laid out through the lands of Angus Chisholm and others W.B. East River, reported recommending that all the proceedings including confirmation of the report of committee dated Jan. 1884, as confirmed by your council of the county of Pictou, as your committee consider that they are irregular and illegal, which report was received and adopted.

Coun. Dwyer after making some preliminary remarks, moved that \$200 be paid by the county for the erection of a suitable monument in the East End of Pictou Island in recognition of the humane and praiseworthy act of Captain James Curry, James Hogg, Donald McCallum, Andrew McFarlane and William Wales saving the lives of three drowning men while attempting to land from the wrecked Steamship *Inveralt* at Pictou Island in November last.

No person seconding the said motion after several remarks from different councilors, the matter was allowed to drop.

It was moved seconded and passed that this council do stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

REMARKS

Coun. Dwyer in referring to the Pictou Island petition said that Mr. Shedd the person complained of treated those people with contempt, not removing the obstruction which hindered them from getting to the shore.

Coun. McHardy asked if the General Assessors submitted any statement of what they have done, other than thief report which only dealt with generalities. He had heard that they added 15 per cent to the country districts of Sec. 15.

Council met this Saturday, 17th Jan. pursuant to adjournment.

Presiding officer for Polling Section 22 having reported certifying that Rod McDougall, Esq., of Blue Mountain, in the election held last November, was legally nominated and elected. Councilor for Polling Section No. 22 for the Ensuing Term, Mr. McDougall was duly sworn and signed the Roll.

Road report of the nominating committee recommending that James Kitchin, Jeffrey McColl, Roderick McDougall, John McDougald and R. McNeil be a committee of this council to meet the Town Councils of Pictou and New Glasgow be notified to meet with said council at the Court House Pictou on Tuesday the 20th inst., at 2 p.m. and the town council of Pictou be notified to meet with the same committee on the same day and at the same place at 7 o'clock p.m. which was received and adopted.

It was moved by Coun. McHardy seconded by Coun. Kitchin that –

Whereas, a Committee was appointed by a former Council of this Municipality to select and purchase a site for an Asylum for the Harmless Insane.

And Whereas, the said Committee having failed to carry out the objects for which it was appointed and its powers having ceased by the expiring of said former Council.

Therefore Resolved That a Committee of three members of this Council with these three Commissioners be appointed to confer with representatives from the Towns of Pictou and New Glasgow on the subject of a suitable site for an Asylum for the Harmless Insane and report thereon to this Council.

On Motion it was resolved that this lay on the table until next meeting on Monday.

At this stage the Council on motion adjourned for 2 hours to allow the several Committees to proceed uninterruptedly the auditor's report was presented, when it was moved, seconded, and resolved that at 1 o'clock this Council do stand adjourned until Monday next at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

County Council met again yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock and after receiving the auditor's report, re-appointing the insane asylum committee, and disposing of other matters, allowed the committees to go to work, Mr. McColl moved a resolution asking the local representatives of the County, and the Mayor of Pictou, and Warden of New Glasgow, or other persons appointed by each Council, to meet with the County Council on Thursday to confer about any necessary legislative amendments. Coun. Dewar's railway resolution was ruled out of order by the Warden, and on appeal the Warden was sustained in his ruling.

Band at the rink to-night.

Drunkenness, or the Liquor Habit, can be cured by administering Dr. Haines' Golden Specific.

Council met this Monday the 19th Jan. A.D., 1885, at 2 o'clock p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Read Saturday's a.m. minutes, which were approved and adopted.

The Warden read the endorsements on the various accounts, petitions, & c. which accumulated in clerk's hands since previous adjournment, and distributed the same to the different committees.

Read also the Auditor's report, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

It was moved by Coun. Dewar, seconded by Coun. Dwyer.

"That in view of the distress, loss, and inconvenience caused by the non-payment of wages due the laboring men who worked on the Short Line Railway,-

"A committee of this council be appointed to respectfully ask the Dominion Government when making payment to the contractors of said Short Line Railway, that such conditions be made by the Government with said contractors as will secure payment to the labourers of the balances due them."

The Warden ruled the said motion out of order, whereupon a protest was made against the decision of the Warden, when the question arose: shall the Warden be sustained: and a vote with names taken. The following appeared for sustaining the Warden: Councilors Fraser (2), McLennan, McKay (5), McDonald (6), Danoon (7), Fraser (8), Fraser (10), Maxwell, McKay (11), McColl, Weir, McPherson, McDonald (18), McDougall (22), McDougald (23), McHardy, in all 20. Against Councilors Dwyer, Dewar and J.D. Fraser.

Moved in amendment to Coun. McHardy's motion by Coun. A.J. McKay, seconded by Coun. McPherson, and resolved that –

Whereas, The commissioners on the County Asylum have not completed their report, and as there is a strong probability that a site for the asylum can be agreed upon before this council adjourns, -

Therefore Resolved, That Councilors Jeffery McColl, Robt. Maxwell and John McDougald continue as members of the Council committee on the County Asylum, with Councilors Charles McLennan and D.G. McDonald, appointed this Term.

It was moved by Coun. McColl, and seconded by Coun. McLellan, that –

Whereas, we have from year to year in this Municipal Council passed resolutions asking for amendments in certain laws of the province, but no notice appears to be taken by the Legislature or the members of the county.

And Whereas, It is necessary that for the right carrying out of the County Incorporation Act, and for the good government of this municipality some legislation must be had at once to remedy the defects of the present laws, more particularly the County Assessment Act, and the Statute Labor Law, -

Therefore Resolved, That the members of the Provincial Legislature, together with the Mayor of Pictou and the Warden of New Glasgow, or such other parties as the Town Councils of Pictou and New Glasgow may appoint, be respectively requested to meet with this Council on Thursday 22nd inst. at 11 a.m., for the purpose of having a conference on the matter.

On motion the council adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

REMARKS

A petition from Hopewell Woolen Mills Company was read by the Warden, complaining of over assessment. He stated that the assessment was raised from \$7,000 in the previous year to

\$15,000, and that during that period there has been no appreciable rise in the value of their property.

In order to ascertain whether the assessors fulfilled the law relative to the assessment of incorporated companies, the Clerk was instructed to notify them and also the agent of the Company to appear before the Assessment Committee on Wednesday at p.m.

Regarding the duties of Auditors, there was a difference of opinion whether it devolved upon them to decide upon the legality of accounts coming before the Finance Committee.

Coun. McColl said that there was one account of \$100 for a prisoner in "Pictou jail, which by the B.N.A Act of 1867 the Dominion Government was liable for, and he intended to raise the question upon it.

The Warden said that it was too deep a matter for the Auditors to decide upon, so by motion it was referred to the Finance Committee.

Coun. Dewar spoke in favor of his resolution. He said that the people of the country trusted that the Short Line Co. was reliable on the ground that the Council granted them a right of way two years ago, and it was therefore the duty of the Council to do what they could to enable those who lost the work to recover the amounts due them.

Coun. McColl gave notice that to-morrow he would bring up something in reference to the land damages along the Short Line Railway.

MORNING SESSION

Council met this Tuesday, the 20th Jany., A.D., 1885, at 10 o'clock, a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Read minutes of yesterday p.m., meeting, which were approved and adopted.

Council was engaged all the forenoon in committee work.

At 1 o'clock the Council was adjourned till 2 p.m.

(Continued...)

(Continued from first page)

Council met this Tuesday, 20th Jan., A.D. 1885, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment

Council McColl read report of committee on Statute Labor and Supervisors. Returns received and ordered to lie on the table till tomorrow morning.

Coun. McColl gave notice that he will move to-morrow morning a resolution in reference to right-of-way taken for the Short Line Railway.

"Whereas, This council, at a special meeting in February, 1883, agreed to pay the right of way of the Great American and European Short Line Railway. -

And Whereas, Since that date not action has been taken to test that right of way of said railway company although a large quantity of land has been forcibly taken for that purpose contrary to law, -

And Whereas, The parties whose lands have been taken have no recourse in any form for payment of such lands and their farms are in many instances badly injured, and the owners put to great inconvenience and loss, -

Therefore Resolved, That this council request the Dominion members of the County to endeavor to get the government to withhold from the contractors such an amount from the subsidy as will compensate the owners for such damages as they have sustained in case no further progress shall be made with such Short Line Railway.

Council adjourned by motion until 10 a.m. to-morrow.

Council met this Wednesday, the 21st day of January, 1885, at 10 o'clock a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Read minutes of yesterday's p.m. meeting, which were approved and adopted.

Committee on Nominations reported, nominating the Warden, Jeffrey McColl, John McDougald, Hugh S. Fraser, and Alex McHardy as a Committee on Law Amendments and By Laws, which was passed as amended, by substituting the name of Alex McHardy for that of J.D. Fraser.

Council took up the consideration of report on Statute Labor. Moved by Coun. McColl, seconded by J.D. Fraser, and Resolved, that the further consideration of this report be delayed until May meeting of this Council.

Took up consideration of resolution moved yesterday by Coun. McColl, and seconded by Coun. J.D. Fraser, in reference to right of way taken for Short Line Railway. It was agreed to withdraw the resolution herein before last referred to, and the following substituted therefore:

Whereas, This Council at a meeting held in February, 1883, authorized the Great American and European Short Line Railway Company to take in the County of Pictou the lands required for the said Short Line railway, under the provisions of Chap. 23 of the acts of the Nova Scotia Legislature for 1882 –

And whereas, Lands have been entered upon in the County of Pictou, and damage thereto by the parties building the said railway, without having first taken proper steps to vest the land, so entered upon by the said company, or to enable the owners of such lands to obtain the value of the same, - and *Whereas*, The Legislature under which the said company was authorized by the Council to take lands for the right of way passed by the Local Legislature, and as work is suspended on this said railway since July 1883, -

Therefore Resolved, That the special attention of the members of the Nova Scotia Assembly for Pictou County be directed to the present condition of the lands entered upon as aforesaid, with the view of securing such legislation as may protect the interests of the County and of such land owners, and that this council request the Dominion members of this County to endeavor to get the government to withhold from the contractors such an amount from the subsidy as will compensate the owners for such damages as they have sustained, in case not further progress shall be made with such Short Line Railway.”

Moved by George McKay and seconded by Jeffery McColl.

The Council adjourned on motion till 2 p.m.

REMARKS

The report of the committee on Statute Labor brought out some discussion on the duty devolving upon the councilors in seeing that the returns were filled properly, before coming into the hands of the clerk.

Coun. McColl said that the returns were very loosely made up and he thought that the councilors should attend to the matter, and have the returns tabulated so that the committee could get through with their work speedily.

Coun. John McDougall did not think that by law the councilors could distribute Statute Labour instructions as it is an office of enrollment.

Coun. Dewar remarked that the Statute Labour was their only dependence for keeping roads in repair, and that it should be carefully looked after. Coun. Dewar also objected to the clause of the report which would make the roads and bridges a County charge, as the people could not bear the increased taxation it would entail.

After several suggestions as to the disposal of the report, it was at last agreed upon to defer the further consideration of it until May.

REPORTS

*To the Municipal Council of Pictou County,
January Term, 1885*

Your Committee to whom was referred the Statute Labor Returns, beg leave to report.

1st – On Statute Labor Returns

They have as carefully as time would permit gone over the returns and find them generally very imperfectly filled up, and in not one case is there a tabulated statement, so that every return has to be looked over, before conclusions can be arrived at. This we attribute entirely to the carelessness and indifference of the Councilors, and causes a great loss of time of the committee, and when so hurriedly done cannot be vouched for as correct. They find the following Statute Labor returns waiting: In Sec. No. 4, 91; 6, 135; 139, 152; 9, 228; 17, 423, 428; 18, 433, 442, 447; 19, 474; 20, 506; 24, 563, 579.

Your committee feel that had the recommendation of the committee of last year been adhered to by the Council, and it was made imperative on the Councilors to distribute the Statute Labor instructions and see that the instructions were properly filled in and tabulated; that in addition to at least one day's loss of time of the committee there is also a very unsatisfactory state of affairs.

From the returns in, there is shown the following results:

| | Persons liable to Statute Labor | No. days liable for Statute labor |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| In Sec. No. 1. | 127 | 370 |
| 2, | 244 | 800 |
| 3, | 583 | 1456 |
| 4, | 272 | 990 |
| 5, | 176 | 578 |
| 6, | 202 | 874 |
| 7, | 286 | 1123 |
| 8, | 109 | 539 |
| 9, | 194 | 824 |
| 10, | 151 | 753 |
| 11, | 77 | 311 |
| 12, | 308 | 1361 |
| 13, | 190 | 702 |
| 14, | 132 | 563 |
| 15, | 298 | 926 |
| 16, | 196 | 775 |
| 17, | 241 | 867 |
| 18, | 130 | 680 |
| 19, | 187 | 668 |
| 20, | 193 | 778 |
| 21, | 153 | 579 |
| 22, | 183 | 672 |
| 23, | 382 | 1083 |

Your committee feel that this County at all events has come to the point, that there must be radical change in the Statute Labor Law.

The basis of the number of days to be performed after the Poll Tax of two days is levied, is the Assessment Roll and with an Assessment Roll on which property is only valued at one-half its real value, one-third to one-half nearly after Statute Labor is lost, after the Poll Tax is counted.

Your committee would recommend that the Legislature be applied to for an amendment to the present Statute Labor Law by having the whole repairs to the roads and bridges made a county charge, to be kept as a separate account by the treasurer's and made up of a Poll Tax, on all persons 21 years of age and upwards and the remainder required assessed on the County as other county rates.

An estimate of what we would get from the Poll Tax, would we think be based on 8,000 persons and that with the amount received from the Provincial Grant would in our opinion go much farther under a good system of supervision than what is down at present.

Your Committee feel that some system of this kind will have to be adopted immediately unless we intend to allow our roads and smaller bridges to become impassible or else follow the example of our Provincial Legislature and borrow money to put and keep them in repair, leaving the payment to future generations.

Another question that we would like to bring to the notice of the Council is the liability of the Municipality in case of an accident happening on our roads and bridges if not kept in repair. Unless the decision of the courts are reversed or some further legislature had at once, your committee think, that Surveyors of Highways should be instructed, that whenever it is known that a road or bridge is unsafe, it should be at once fenced off, so that there may be no liability of the Municipality.

If this course were adopted and carried out the Legislation would soon have to step in and provide some way by which our roads and bridges can be made safe.

Your committee in making these suggestions do not feel the duty devolved on this Council to make them, but think we should let the members of the Assembly know that we are willing to work with them in any way that will benefit the County.

The petition of inhabitants of Pictou Island, in reference to a building of W.F. Shedd, said to be on the Public Highway, we would recommend to be handed to the Supervisors of Public Ground for the District, and that the law should be enforced and the resolution of last year of this Council be rescinded.

2nd – Expenditure of Provincial Grant

Petitions have been presented to us for the payment of amounts of \$40.00 and \$20.00 said to have been expended by the authority of one of the late members of the County, previous to Incorporation and which accounts have been vouched for by one of the present members as never having been paid.

Your Committee would recommend that the accounts be handed to the members in the Provincial Assembly, and if they are in order, they authorize the Provincial Government to deduct the same out of the Provincial Road Grant for the present year.

The several Road Boards not expecting that their accounts would be required before the May Term were not prepared to submit them.

Your committee would recommend that the Chairman of the Road Boards should send complete accounts of their expenditure of the Provincial Grant to the Chairman of this committee

before the first of April, so that the same may be published in the newspapers of the County before the May Term.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| | { Donald Fraser |
| | { Chas. McLennan |
| Committee | { Jeffrey McColl |
| | { Geo. M. McKay |
| | { D.G. McDonald |

Council met this Wednesday, 21st Jan., at 2 o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Read minutes of forenoon meeting, which were approved and adopted.

Read letter from G. H. Elliott, Esq., Clerk of Pictou Town Council, to the effect that they will agree to the sum of \$2496.70 as the amount to be paid by the town in full of all County rates for the year 1885.

Resolved, That this letter be referred to the committee appointed to adjust the rates between the towns and the County.

Read Jail limits for the County as fixed by the Committee of Council. Ordered to be passed and signed by the Warden.

Resolved, That the petition of inhabitants of Pictou Island, in reference to a building of W.F. Shedd's said to be on the Public Highway, be handed to the Supervisors of Public Grounds for the district, to decide on; and the law enforced, and that the resolution of last year of this council in reference thereto be cancelled. Moved by Coun. McColl, seconded by Coun. Dwyer. Passed.

Resolved, That the accounts for over expenditures on Public Roads said to have been ordered by one of the late members of the County previous to incorporation, and which accounts have been vouched for by one of the present members of the County as never having been paid, be handed to the Provincial Assembly and if they are correct they authorize the Provincial Government to deduct the same out of the Provincial Road Grant to the County for the present year. Moved by Coun. McColl, seconded by Coun. Donald Fraser. Passed.

Report of committee on roads and bridges read and received.

Coun. R. McDougall asked leave to have the bridge at Gunn's on the St. Mary's River placed provisionally under the act respecting bridges passed in 1883, and the construction of the same be proceeded with this year.

Petitions for private committee on Statute Labor passed as certified, by the committee *en bloc*.

Report of committee on Licenses received and adopted.

Report of committee on Poor received on motion.

Moved, seconded, and resolved, that this Council stand adjourned till to-morrow at 10 o'clock a.m.

The following report of the Road and Bridge Committee is hereby submitted.

1. Kenneth Davidson, pent road, leading from Jonah Langill's road near West River Station. Not granted.
2. Road leading from public road, Concord to Stewiacke. Not confirmed.
3. Pent road at James Ritchie's, West Branch, Confirmed.
4. Pent road from Delhi Shore, Carriboo. Confirmed.
5. Wm. McKay and Robert McLeod, Carriboo River, for Pent road. Confirmed.

6. Public Road from Quarrie road to 2nd Division, Bay View. Confirmed.
7. Alteration of road from old road at Sutherland's River Bridge to Vale Colliery. Not confirmed.
8. Pent road for David Langill, River John. Confirmed.
9. Alteration of road leading from Salem Church to Mill Brook. Confirmed.
10. Pent Road for Wm. Brayday and Duncan Gunn, Greenville settlement. Confirmed.
11. Line of road in Grenville settlement, by Alex Gunn and others. Not confirmed.
12. Pent Road by James McDonald, Bailey's Brook. Confirmed.
13. Street in Stellarton, from Main Street at Halifax Company's Office to Railway Station. Deferred to May Term.
14. Street at Westville from Prince Albert Street to property of J.D. Hayman. Confirmed.
15. Road for main road from cross roads at Grant's bridge to Hopewell. Deferred to May term.
16. Road from Trenton to road leading to Little Harbor. Not confirmed.
17. Streets or Roads in Trenton. Confirmed.
18. Alteration of Pent road for Jas. Robertson of Churchville. Not confirmed.
19. Road from Iron Ore to main road Sunney Brae. Confirmed.
20. Pent road for Daniel McLeod, Westville. Confirmed.
21. Pent road at or near Robert and Thomas Young's, Dalhousie. Petitioners voluntarily pay all damages.
22. Hugh A. McDonald, for pent road, Sec. 18. Recommended that report of committee (to the effect that no road is necessary) be adopted.
23. Pent road for James McDonald, Sec. 19. No returns filed.
24. Alex McKenzie and others, Sec. 9, against confirmation of road, Lansburgs lands. Settled by mutual agreement.

Opening Roads

Committees to lay off roads were recommended to the following petitioners:

1. Road from Bay View road, Carriboo, to shore. Not granted.
2. Freeholders, Sec. 6 and 9. Granted. J.S. Fraser, Com
3. Pent road for Archie Cameron, Finin's mountain. Granted. J.S. Fraser, Com.
4. Pent road for Samuel Cameron, Elnner's Granted. J.S. Fraser, Com.
5. Alteration of road West's side, West Branch East River. Granted. D.W. McDonald, com
6. Alteration of road from Junction of road at Tanner Hill to Mill Brook, Granted. J.S. Fraser, Com
7. James McDonald, Sec. 19. Not granted, no returns received.
8. Pent road by Duncan McPhee, Hopewell. Granted. A.W. McBain, Com.
9. Inhabitants Section 14, 20, 21 and 24 for extension of McLaren's pent road to or near Parks, Sutherlands River. Granted. Francis McKenzie, Com
10. Protest against transfer of Duncan Fraser, Glengarry, from his present road limit for Statute Labor purposes. Recommended it be brought to the notice of the officers distributing Statute Labor Instructions.
11. Inhabitants Sec. 7, for extension of pent road. Granted. J.S. Fraser, Comm.
12. Road from John T. Matheson's Rogers Hill, to Dalhousie road. Not granted.
13. Protest against petition of Samuel Cameron of Elgin for granting committee on Road.
14. Alteration of road from Alex Gordon's New Lairg, to Stewiake. Granted. J.S. Fraser, Com.

15. Pent road by Duncan Campbell and others, Sec. 22. Granted. Francis McKenzie, com.
16. Alteration of road leading to Alma Granted. J.S. Fraser, com.
17. Ratepayers, Sec. 1 and 2 in reference to road leading to Bay View Cemetery.
Recommended that the supervisors of public grounds for the township of Pictou, proceed to lay off and define the bounds of said road, and that they (the supervisors) employ G.W. Lowden, land surveyor, to assist in the discharge of their duties, and report at first regular meeting of council. Adopted.
18. Road from Beeches road to Bay View shore. Granted. A.W. McBain, com.
19. Pent road by Thos.Weatherbie , Sec. 13. Granted. A.W. McBain, com.
20. Road from Sutherlands river to Vale Colliery, Granted. J.S. Fraser, com.
21. Pent road. Daniel McKenzie Sec. 7, Not granted.
22. Inhabitants Westville for committee to lay off and confirm Fraser street. Granted. A.W. McBain, com
23. Petition for street or road, in Westville. Not granted.

Closing Old Roads

1. Closing Road by A.P. Miller, Sec. 21. Ordered that old road passing through the lands of said A.P. Miller be closed hereafter, from public traffic.
2. To petition William Weir of Whitburn, McLellan's Brook, in Poll Sec. 15, for closing old road. Ordered that the said road be closed from further use.
3. Petition for closing road at French River. Beyond our jurisdiction.
4. Freeholders, Sec. 17, for money on road from Asphalt. Recommended to the consideration of Road Board No. 3. Adopted.
5. Alteration of road from Chance Harbour to Glenfalloch, in lieu of a new line of road dedicated in place of road confirmed session, 1883. Recommended that said transfer be recorded in registrar's office, Pictou. Adopted.
6. Report of supervisors, on old road, Trenton. Adopted.

Recommendations for Private Statute Labor

1. James R. Porter, Section 8.
2. Kenneth H. Munro, section 9.
3. Donald Grant, section 2.
4. Ed. & Thomas McAulay, sec. 9.
5. George Murray, section 2.
6. Hugh McCulloch, section 9.
7. Alex D. Ross, section 2.
8. Murdoch McLeod, section 15.
9. Donald Cameron, section 15.
10. Robert Thompson, section 6.
11. John McKay, section 6.
12. James Rae, 4 days, section 6
13. James Cameron, section 22
14. George McLeod, section 18
15. John Cameron, section 22
16. Dougald Cameron, section 22
17. John Fraser, section 22
18. William McDougald, section 22.

19. Joseph Crockett, section 23,
20. Hector Munro, section 17
21. James Fraser, section 11.
22. John J. Fraser, section 16
23. Duncan C. McDonald, section 16
24. John McLeod, section 18
25. John McDonald, D. son, section 17
26. Donald McGlashen, section 13
27. Charles Smith, section 21
28. Wm. A. Munro, section 17
29. Thomas M. Fraser, section 17
30. Alex McKay, section 18
31. David Murray, section 13
32. John J. Murray, section 5
33. Hugh & Wm. Grant, section 7
34. James W. Patton, section 7
35. Alex Grant, section 17
36. Daniel & Wm. Grant, section 7
37. John W. Blackie, section 7
38. John Munro, section 23
39. James Fraser, section 13
40. James Langille, section 4
41. David MacKenzie, sec. 2. Not granted
42. Alex McDonald, section 15
43. Robert McLeod, section 9
44. James S. Fraser, section 14
45. John W. McPhee, section 16
46. James Cameron, section 16
47. Peter Stewart, section 16
48. Robert McLeod, section 4
49. Andrew Murray, section 20
50. John McIver, section 20
51. James & H.A. McDonald, section 19
52. Robert Murray, section 4
53. Matthew Patriquin, section 4
54. Thos. Weatherbie, 15. Not granted
55. L.B. Hamblin and others, section 2, Toney River. Referred to committee on nominations.
56. L.B. Hamblin & Co., section 2, Carriboo Island. Referred to committee on nominations.
57. James Hogg and others, Pictou Island. Referred to nominating committee
58. George McKay and Angus McLeod, section 2, one-half of labor granted.
59. Alex Ross and Wm. Ross, section 24
60. Duncan McLellan, section 16
61. John McKenzie, section 18
62. Angus Matheson, section 18
63. Thos. Robert and Jas. Kerr, sec. 23

64. Andrew McKay and others, section 13 for private statute labor and a commissioner.

Referred to nominating committee.

Your committee is of the opinion that the number of petitions for the opening of new roads both public and private are entirely too large, in many instances wholly unnecessary, thereby adding a large amount to the tax bill of the county for laying out, and damages caused by locating such lines, as in many instances they must remain unopened on account of the limited amount of money at the disposal of the Council for such purposes, also that parties be more specific when petitioning for new roads to state distinctly what kind of road is wanted.

Your committee would also recommend that Councilors be more guarded in recommending private Statute Labor, as the number of petitions appear to be yearly increasing which must necessarily deprive public roads of a large amount of the labor which they cannot well spare in the present conditions of the roads.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MORNING SESSION

Council met this Thursday, 22nd January, A.D., 1885, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Read minutes of yesterday's p.m. meeting, which were approved and adopted.

Read letter from H.S. Poole, Esq., agent Acadia Coal Co. Ordered to be filed.

Warden called the attention of Committee on Public Property to infringements said to be made on Public Lands near Irving's property. Chairman directed to look into the matter and report to Council in May term.

Read report of Committee on Assessments. Report received and ordered to lie on the table till the afternoon.

Road report of Committee on Poor. Ordered to be received and adopted.

Read resolution to place Saw Mill Bridge under the Bridge Act.

Read report of Committee on Public Property. Ordered to be received. Moved and seconded that this report be taken up clause by clause. Adopted as marked within.

Moved by Robert Dewar, seconded by John D. Fraser.

Whereas certain difficulties in general business exist between the Municipality of this county and the incorporated towns.

And whereas said differences appear to become wider, *And whereas* certain persons elected as Municipal Councilors now hold office in the Town Council.

Therefore Resolved that Chap. 56 of Revised Statutes, fifth series, Sec. 19, Sub-Section read as follows – "Justices of the Supreme and County courts, Judges of Probate, and persons elected as Town Councilors in an incorporated town, or officer elected by any Town Council."

Ordered to be laid on the table till the afternoon.

Moved by D.G. McDonald, seconded by G.M. McKay and resolved.

Whereas the Wharf on Big Island in this county is public property belonging to the county.

And Whereas said wharf was erected some years ago by county aid, assisted by the rate payers of Big Island.

And whereas unless immediate action be taken to repair said wharf it will be entirely dilapidated.

Therefore resolved that some provisions be made out of the county for repairing said wharf.

Deferred to May Term of Council for further consideration.

Moved and resolved that this Council stand adjourned till 2. p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Council met at 2 o'clock, p.m., pursuant to adjournment, this Thursday, 22nd day of January, A.D., 1885.

Read minutes of a.m. meeting, which were approved and adopted.

Read report of committee on site for buildings for harmless insane. Received and ordered to be laid on the table till tomorrow, a.m.

Moved by Coun. McColl seconded by Coun. J.P. Fraser, that the Provincial Government be requested to proceed at once if possible with the building of the Lower French River Bridge, the Upper French River Bridge, the Lower Barney's River Bridge, the Bridgeville Bridge, the Bridge at Sutherlands Garden of Eden, and the Bridge at Gunn's Garden of Eden. Passed.

Council received R. Hockin and Chas. Munroe, M.P. P's and some of the other gentlemen asked by this council to meet with them for conference on such matters as may be brought before them by virtue of the resolution passed by this council on a former day of this session. Mr. McColl thanked the M.P. P's for their attendance.

Took up the consideration of Coun. Dewar's resolution, touching the seats of certain members of this council. Ordered to be handed to committee on Law Amendments.

Moved, seconded and resolved that the report of the committee on Assessments be taken up and passed clause by clause. So read, passed and filed.

TENTH DAY MORNING SESSION

Council met this Friday, 23rd day of January, A.D., pursuant to adjournment.

Read minutes of yesterday's meeting, which were approved and adopted.

Read report of committee on Statute Labour. Received, adopted and filed.

Took up report of the committee on site for buildings for harmless insane. Read and passed unanimously.

Committee on Finance read report. Ordered to be received, adopted, and filed.

Read letter from G.H. Elliott, Clerk of Pictou, stating that he was instructed to inform the County Council that the proportion of rates the town was willing to pay was \$2813.50.

Moved by Coun. McColl, seconded by Coun. John McDougald, "that the offer of the Town Council of Pictou of \$2813.50 as their share of county rates and railway damages in accordance with their letter of this date, be accepted, and that the warden of the municipality be authorized to sign an agreement to that effect.

Read resolution passed by the Town Council of New Glasgow, in reference to the proportion of county rates they agreed to pay for 1885, viz, \$2497.70, providing however, that their share of the \$1,500 assessed for harmless insane asylum be returned to them if not used for that purpose. Passed.

On motion the several Town Officers were accepted by the Council.

Resolved, That the last Saturday of March be fixed as the last day for distributing Statute Labor instruction.

Resolved, That the minutes as read from day to day be adopted as a whole.

Adjourned to meet here 1st Tuesday of May next.

David Matheson, *M.C.*

Robert McNeil, *Warden*

D.W. Matheson, *Mun. Clerk*

