

COUNTY COUNCIL.

REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING HELD TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

A Number of Improvements to be Made in the County Buildings—Work to be Provided for St. John's Jail Birds—New Offices for the County Treasurer.

The municipal council of the city and county of St. John was in session yesterday afternoon.

Warden Robert Maxwell presided and there were present also Messrs. Sear, Christie, White, Seaton, Millidge, Stockhouse, Robinson, Tait, McGoldrick, Colwell, Macrae, and St. John; Catherine and Lowell, of Lancaster; John McLeod, Joseph Lee and Daniel Morgan, of Simonds; Robert C. Reddick, of N. Fowles and F. C. Cochran, of St. Martin; William J. Dean and J. W. Hargrove, of Musquash.

Minutes of previous meetings were read and approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

The committee on finance and accounts reported as follows:—

They recommended the payment of the following amounts, such payment to be made out of the contingent fund except as otherwise directed:—

Sherriff, reviving electoral lists, \$20.00
Henry Duaback, pipes, registry office 10.50
John B. Jones, reg. M. & D. 114.75
Bowman & Lalonde, repairs to jail 8.50
and court house, 69.45
Daily Star advertising, 24.00
P. E. Holmes & Co., blind secretary's office, 5.94
N. B. Telephone Co., secretary's office 2.75
J. S. Gibson & Co., coal registry office 43.84
Daily Telegraph, advertising, 11.00
Western Union Telegraph Co., telegram, chief of police re Balsey murder case, 1.75
C. P. R. Telegraph, chief of police re Balsey murder case, 1.18
Mace & Co., replacing goods destroyed by fire in jail, 15.00
Johnson & Fisher, tin boxes, secretary's office, 3.45
Robert Maxwell, repairs to court house, 18.00
James Robinson, corner, inquest on Patrick Hickey, 16.40
Official Laundry, 37.50
Hunter, fitting key in dead house, 60
City treasurer, carrying office, 6.00
City of St. John, water tax on registry office, 3.20
County secretary, making up list of voters and assisting sheriff to revise same, etc., 36.50
Geo. A. McMillan, 74.38
James & Co., 5.00
Geo. A. Macdonald, printing and stationery, 49.50
D. B. Bergerman, M. D., coroner, holding inquest on body of George Balsey, 27.40
The above 829.94

The committee recommended that in future the treasurer shall enter the list of jurors ordered to be paid by the respective courts, a book to be kept for that purpose and that the respective jurors be paid by the court, give an order for the amount, due him, on such amount shall be paid by cheque and the money value as other accounts are paid.

The committee further recommended that the list for the treasurer's office be paid direct to the landlady, in the same manner as the rents are paid by the municipality and that the resolution passed by the council the 24th day of March, A. D. 1878, authorizing the payment to the treasurer of \$400 for office rent be rescinded.

The committee informed the council that the whole issue of almsbouse and workhouse debentures authorized by this council has been disposed of at par value.

The secretary has received from J. Vernon McMillan, registrar of deeds, etc., the sum of \$546.95, balance of fees due the municipality from his office for the year 1899.

The committee further recommended that the amount to the credit of the board of examiners of surveyors of lumber be distributed as by law directed.

The committee recommended that the secretary be authorized to insure the new portion of the jail barn.

The committee also that large amounts are due for arrears of taxes by estates, tenants and others who persistently refuse the respective parishes in this municipality, and in some cases openly repudiate the power of the council to collect such taxes.

The committee recommended that the secretary be authorized to commence legal proceedings to recover said taxes by sale of the lands belonging to persons who are in default as aforesaid, and that the chairman of the committee on finance and accounts with the secretary be authorized to employ counsel to assist the secretary if deemed necessary.

QUACO SCHOOL LANDS.

The committee on public and school lands reported that private offers have been made for the purchase of a number of the Quaco school land lots, namely: George Morris, back lot No. 1, \$100.00; J. A. Black, back lot No. 4, \$20.00; Albert Patterson, back lot No. 8, \$20.00; George Brown, back lot Nos. 18 and 20, \$10.00.

The committee recommended that these offers be accepted.

The report was adopted.

HATHWAY TAXES.

A committee on remission of J. C. Hathway's taxes reported having gone into liquidation and that in 1898 and up to 1899 his valuation was \$3,000 but has been reduced since to \$400. They recommended that his arrears be reduced one-half.

The report was adopted.

TAXATION REDUCTION.

The councillors of the parish of Simonds, to whom was referred the petitions of Mrs. Alexander Fox and John McCourt, reported that the taxes due by John McCourt have been paid. They recommended that they be authorized to make a reasonable reduction in the amount due by Mrs. Fox, providing the balance agreed upon is paid on or before next day of March next.

A BOUNDARY QUESTION.

Communication Leader Rookes, manager of Drury Co. property, advised heard in regard to taxes on the Drury property for 1899, quite a portion of which he claimed, had been taxed in both city of St. John and parish of Simonds.

A motion of Coun. White the finance committee was ordered to hear Mr. Rookes and report.

RECORD OFFICE.

The St. John Law Society stated that some change is desirable in connection with the record office of the city and county of St. John to make it more convenient to the public.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B. JANUARY 20 1900.

SUNDAY COUNTY RESOLUTION.

The following was read from the Sunbury county clerk:—

"Whereas, by the act of assembly, 57 Vic. (A. D. 1893) cap. 19 and also by act of assembly 59 Vic. (A. D. 1895) cap. 22, sec. 70, large sums of money are caused to be annually assessed upon and paid by the municipalities of this province which were not before the passing of the several acts of assembly paid out of municipal funds;

"And Whereas, by the said acts of assembly all discretionary power as to the amounts to be so assessed and paid is taken away from the county council;

"Therefore Resolved, that a committee be appointed to take such steps as may be necessary, by petition or otherwise, to lay the matter before the legislature at the next session thereof, with a view to having the said acts repealed, which committee shall have full power to carry out the will of the council as herein expressed.

"And further resolved, that the secretary-treasurer be instructed to forthwith transmit a copy of this resolution duly certified to the secretary-treasurers of every municipality of this province and invite their co-operation in the matter.

It was explained that the intention of this resolution was to do away with the annual assessment of money, but merely an expression of opinion on the part of the county council, and that the matter be referred to a special committee with power to act.

In amendment to the amendment Coun. Christie moved that legislation be sought to have the sections of the act repealed and suggested that the committee be authorized to seek relief from the care of pauper lunatics.

The amendments were lost and the resolution passed as amended.

Coun. Robinson moved the reference of the communication to the finance committee.

Coun. Macrae said the matter had been before the St. John board of trade when it was stated it was not intended to grant prudential or dominion subsidies, but merely an expression of opinion on the furnishing of freight was wanted.

The board of trade passed a non-committal resolution which read well and meant nothing.

The municipal council could not bind ship-owners to patronize any one steamship line. Shipowners would use the line which gave them the best rates.

He moved a committee be appointed to meet the government and meet and act with other similar committees from municipalities and other bodies for considering the steamship service from the port of St. John.

The resolution passed and the following were appointed as the committee:—Wardens and Coun. Sear, Christie, White, Seaton, Millidge, Stockhouse, Robinson, Tait, McGoldrick, Colwell, Macrae, and St. John.

At the instance of Coun. McMillan the building committee was appointed under the repairs to the registry office which he reported to be decaying.

Warden Maxwell called the attention of the council to a number of matters.

The county treasurer had recently been ill and had been unable to attend to his duties. According to his signature should be on all checks but a special arrangement had been made with the bank that the warden and county secretary had been paid during the past month. He suggested some provision for this matter in the future.

The law provided for hard labor sentences but at the present time the sheriff had no facilities for setting prisoners at work and the result was that every winter 40 or 50 men suffered from cold and exposure.

The committee appointed for the purpose of auditing the sheriff's accounts had reported that they had secured the old provincial penitentiary building, behind which was a pile of stone which would give employment to prisoners for some years and would result in a great improvement in the county roads.

His attention had been called to the fact that plans attached to deeds in the registry office have from time to time disappeared. This was a serious affair and should be investigated.

Warden Maxwell also called attention to the disgraceful lack of sanitation or conveniences of the county court house.

On motion of Coun. Seaton the buildings committee was instructed to report on improving the sanitation, ventilation and heating of the court house.

On Coun. Christie's motion the warden, chairman of the finance committee and county secretary were appointed under the report of the finance committee to find offices for the county treasurer.

Coun. Christie moved the bills and by-laws committee was instructed to give notice of an act on changes in the present act which will enable the carrying out of hard labor sentences by the sheriff.

On a resolution of Coun. Fowles that the bills and by-laws committee make amendments to the highway act for the parishes of St. John, St. Martin and St. Lawrence, he claimed the act could not be worked as there was no statute labor performed or money paid or road work in the parish of St. Martin.

Several of the councillors insisted that the act was all right but the St. Martin councillors were to blame for not having it enforced. The motion, however, carried.

Warden Maxwell called the attention of the warden and secretary in signing checks and was approved and they were authorized to continue doing so during the illness of the treasurer.

The usual fee was voted the caretaker.

Coun. Christie asked the county secretary what condition the finances of Musquash parish were in.

The secretary said he did not have figures with him and would not like to make a general statement.

Coun. Christie then said that he understood the parish owed the municipality a large sum which could never be paid and which the parish never intended to pay. The trouble, he understood, was in obtaining a collector who would make proper returns.

One of the councillors from Musquash pointed out to Coun. Christie that the debt of Musquash to the county had been reduced last year by \$200. And this year a larger reduction would be made.

The council then adjourned.

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