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## Town Constabulary Appointment Still Baffles Municipal Fathers

### Another Meeting Devoted To Police Matters Adjourns Without Definite Action — F. J. Mansbridge Urges Construction of Sidewalk in South Yonge Street—Burden of cost should not be borne by Churches he says

Town council meetings which in the past appeared to hold little interest for the ratepayers have during the recent months become very popular attractions and the attendance of ratepayers has increased from the usual one or two who usually graced the council chamber during regular sessions to crowds which tax the seating capacity of the limited quarters. Monday night's meeting was held in the clerk's office and the crowd was such that many were unable to find seats.

Richmond Hill's police force has been the chief item of discussion in municipal affairs for some months and is probably the subject of discussion which draws the large attendance and is responsible for the apparent quickening interest in affairs of the municipality. Although there were a few interruptions from ratepayers on Monday there was no evidence of heated discussion and much better order prevailed than on the two previous occasions when the subject was up for discussion. No action however was taken on the question and the matter stands exactly where it was before the meeting. S. A. Barraclough carries on but under no definite agreement. It was apparently the opinion of the council that no definite action should be taken until there is something more definite regarding Richmond Hill Police Court. Reeve Lunau suggested that the matter be left as it is, pending the outcome of the appeal of W. Reid after which the Reeve said he thought there would be some definite action taken which would better enable the council to deal with it.

The question was introduced on Monday night by councillor Middleton who asked whether or not the village had a magistrate. Reeve Lunau—Not as far as I know. Councillor Chapman—Have there been any cases taken to the County Court from here. Reeve Lunau—Yes, six or seven, but they haven't been dealt with yet. They're to come up Wednesday, I think. Councillor Sims—Are they village cases? If they are they've been waiting for a long time. Councillor Middleton—Have we got any returns of fines from the County. Reeve Lunau—No. Councillor Middleton—If we are getting no revenue at all, I for one don't think we can afford as a village to pay the high salary we have been paying for a constable. Mr. Sims—We are all at sea to night. We have the constable's bill for wages for September for \$131.00, but we have no account from him for October and we have no returns of fines and no definite report of what cases there are or what we may expect. F. J. Mansbridge—I fail to understand the argument of the council. The people expect to foot the bill for a constable. It is a mistaken idea that we want fines to meet the expenses of a constable. Reeve Lunau—We must not be without protection. Councillor Sims—We don't need to be. One man is surely not all the protection in the world. I don't believe in throwing money away. We have said to night we have not money for this thing and that, so why pay it out needlessly? I don't think the council has had much jurisdiction over the constable of late, and I think it's time we did.

Ratepayer—Whose fault is that? Mr. Sims—I suppose it's ours. We fell down. And why? Because the ratepayers stepped in and upset the works. If I had been a ratepayer I would have left this thing to the council to settle fairly and squarely. Councillor Davis—We left this over till after the appeal. It's not finished yet. I think we're wasting time sitting here. Voice in Audience—I think so too. Councillor Middleton moved that the clerk advise the constable that in future he would be engaged at the rate of fifty cents an hour, the constable to use his own judgment as to the hours he was needed, but that the

time be limited to 6 hours per day. Councillor Middleton in support of his motion said that he felt that in this way the council would be at least limiting the expense. "I agree with councillor Sims if the people hadn't stirred this thing up it would have been settled long ago" he said. Voice—The people didn't stop you. Councillor Middleton—Mr. Reeve this is a council meeting and I think anyone who has anything to say should address the chair. Reeve Lunau—Order gentlemen. Councillor Middleton's motion failed to get a seconder. Councillor Chapman said it would be just the same as it has been in the past. Councillor Sims—Can an officer give justice to his duties here and still devote so much time to the County. Reeve Lunau—If he's a county constable he's supposed to go when called. Councillor Sims—Yes he goes when called. Yet we can't be without protection. But if he's called he must go and we are without it. Reeve Lunau—If he's away the County men are at our call. Our man helps them and then they help us in return and we don't have to pay them. Mr. Chapman—When were County men ever called here to help us. Reeve Lunau—I don't just know. They are often through here. They were here on the 24th of May and it didn't cost us anything. Mr. Sims—Wouldn't we have the same service from the County Constables even if we had no policeman at all. Reeve Lunau—Certainly not, if we didn't have a man that would help them. Mr. Sims—I think we would. Councillor Davis—We don't just know where we're at. As far as I can see even if we have no court we will have no loss. We're not in the hole yet. I move we carry on as we have for a month, and by that time we will have some returns and be in a better position to do something. This motion received no seconder. Ex-Reeve T. H. Trench asked permission to speak. "I see the council is unable to come to a decision" he said. "The matter of fines has been mentioned. In my opinion fines have nothing to do with the constable. If we need him, we need him regardless of any fines we may or may not receive. The question is what can this municipality afford to pay a constable. We don't want him for the express purpose of going out to bring in fines. As I see it we need a constable, but we do not need a constable who will devote all his time to that duties of constable alone. What is needed is an organization of the work and some appointee to take on the duties of constable who will devote necessary time to it, but fill in the other time doing other work for the town and thus have his time fully occupied. Councillor Sims—Mr. Trench has expressed my views exactly. Reeve Lunau—There is a mistaken idea that we must have fines. That shouldn't enter into it at all. I'm willing to pay my share of \$130., \$140. or \$150. a month or whatever a constable costs us. Councillor Middleton—There are some people can pay their taxes whatever they are, but there also are people who find it hard enough to pay them now, without making them more. I'm speaking for them. Councillor Sims—If we hire a man like Mr. Trench has suggested who is always in the village we will have a good deal more protection than we have now. Reeve Lunau—I think we should lay this thing over. Councillor Sims—If we keep postponing it when are we going to get anywhere? Reeve Lunau—We agreed to leave it over until after the appeal. Councillor Sims—Yes we did. It will be heard on Nov. 7 and then we can have a special meeting to deal with it.

No other motions being presented Reeve Lunau called for any other business and the meeting proceeded to a consideration of other matters.

On motion of councillors Sims and Davis it was decided to advertise for tenders for the canteen privileges at the arena this season.

It was agreed on motion of councillors Davis and Middleton to purchase 100 yards of gravel for patching holes on town streets.

F. J. Mansbridge addressed the council regarding the construction of a new sidewalk in front of the Anglican and Presbyterian churches and the repair of the driveway at the cemetery. "Some time ago" said Mr. Mansbridge "a deputation waited on you to see what could be done about the sidewalk, to make the driveway to the cemetery safer and to beautify the banks in front of the churches. We were assured at that time that you would take it up but we have heard nothing since. Reeve Lunau—We looked over the situation but we decided that we did not have money available to go ahead with it this year. Mr. Mansbridge—As a matter of good business we might have at least have been notified of that. Reeve Lunau—Maybe we should, but I just forgot that I had never told you. Councillor Middleton—We agreed that we would wait for a petition. Mr. Mansbridge—We are well aware that we could demand the work by a petition and paying the regular share of the cost, but that would be too great a burden, and we felt it was a burden of which you might well relieve these two bodies. The burden on the Presbyterian church would be especially heavy. Mr. Middleton—It would be an expensive job, to tear up the old walk, lower it and construct a new one, and build a retaining wall. Mr. Mansbridge—I would like to ask if you even went to the trouble to ascertain the cost. Mr. Middleton—We reckoned the cost of the job would be in the neighbourhood of seven or eight hundred dollars. Mr. Mansbridge—The approach to the cemetery is very dangerous. Reeve Lunau—I admit something should have been done about it. Mr. Middleton—Mr. Reeve you agreed with the rest of us that we should wait for a petition. There may have been a misunderstanding but that is what we were told. I understand the church is not willing to assume the regular share of the cost and

you want the village to go ahead with the work.

Mr. Mansbridge—That is what we tried to make clear when we waited on you. The lowering of the roadway contributed to the present condition, and we feel the burden on these people would be too much.

Mr. Middleton—But there are other churches in town, perhaps just the same.

Councillor Sims—I believe that some time ago the town had the chance to secure a right of way to the cemetery from Arnold Street and Vaughan Road. If such is still available I believe it is a better solution than lowering the walk. There should be a parallel street to Yonge Street on the west side anyway.

Mr. Mansbridge—You might spend more on the road than would completely remedy the existing condition.

It was moved by councillor Middleton seconded by councillor Davis and carried that a concrete approach be constructed at the entrance to the cemetery and that the driveway be fixed temporarily. Mr. Middleton said if this was done it would retain the sidewalks in the roadway. The big difficulty in the past was that the water washed all material away. The concrete slab would hold that material and would be an improvement for the present. The motion carried.

Councillor Middleton, chairman of the Arena will make enquiries regarding a band for the skating season and report at the next meeting.

### COMING

An illustrated travel talk on the Maritime Provinces will be given on Thursday, November 13th in the United Church Sunday School at 8 p. m. Keep this date open.

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