

GREY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD LENGTHY SESSION

Inaugural Meeting for 1926 Got Through Enormous Volume of Business Most Harmoniously.—Various Committees Appointed and County Officials Chosen.—Warden's Address Delivered Wednesday.

It was a prolonged session of the Grey County Council at the court house at Owen Sound on Wednesday afternoon of last week. The Clerk, Fred H. Rutherford, read communications which were referred to the various committees to consider. There were several requests for grants from worthy institutions in the county and some outside of the county. They were referred to the finance committee.

Reports were also read from the three inspectors of Public Schools in the county. Mr. H. H. Burgess, for West Grey, Mr. Robert Wright for East Grey, and Dr. Samuel Huff for South Grey, all reported. Their communications were very interesting and brought forth many good ideas and other faults. It seemed to be the general feeling that rural school teachers were not being paid the salary that they have been accustomed to receiving. With salaries becoming smaller, the pupils will naturally not get the attention that they should get, and the standard of education will in time become lower. There was very little fault to be found otherwise, as the schools were all found in good condition, and in the County of Grey, there is not at present a teacher who has not at least a Second Class certificate. Each of the inspectors visited the rural schools in their districts twice during the year. The newly elected Warden, John T. Miller, of Euphrasia, read his opening address to the members of the council, thanking them for electing him and said that he is looking forward to a very harmonious session. Following is the Warden's address:

Gentlemen: I wish to convey to you my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the honor you have paid me in electing me as your Warden for the coming year.

I am sure the Township of Euphrasia which I represent, will appreciate the compliment which has been paid their representative.

Finance

While our County is in good financial standing, and our credit is of the highest, our debt is steadily increasing, which calls for increased interest and sinking fund charges each year. I would ask the various committees, if at all possible, to keep within the appropriations provided, and to be careful about making grants unless for some very deserving purpose.

I would suggest that our Treasurer be asked to attend and give a general statement as to the County finances.

Agriculture

The abundant crops for the last two years have been a wonderful encouragement to our farming community.

To God alone, whose promises of a seed time and a harvest have never failed, we owe thanks for our bountiful harvests.

House of Refuge and Children's Shelter

We have in our County two institutions of which we are justly proud, the House of Refuge and the Children's Shelter, each of which is doing wonderful work and each of which is well managed. I am quite sure that the members of this council will agree with me that the expenditure on these two institutions has been amply justified.

Education

As you will have observed by our financial statements for some years, past, our educational grants and costs have been increasing year by year. For the greater part these expenditures are beyond our control, and if these expenditures continue, it will be necessary to increase our yearly levy for these purposes.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I trust that the good feeling, which now exists amongst the various sections of our community will continue, for it is only by mutual co-operation that we can advance the best interests of our county.

Again thanking you for the honor you have paid me, and hoping that God will bless our labors, I am, Yours sincerely,
JOHN T. MILLER.

The chairman of the Special Committee, Reeve Neil Calder, presented his report, recommending the names to be included on the various standing committees for the year. The report was adopted without discussion, and following are the standing committees:

Finance and Assessment

Chairman, Mr. Buchanan; Messrs. Hogarth, McDonald, Sinclair, Calder, Weir, Gardiner, Pringle, Holm, Taylor, Jack, Dickson, White, Lemcke, Bothwell, Bell, Armstrong, Riley, Hutchison, McElheron, Moody, Meads, Colgan, Widmeyer and Allan.

Roads and Bridges

Chairman, Mr. Weir; Messrs. Carruthers, Grierson, Field, Sinclair, Ferguson, Erskine, Acheson, Pringle, Filsinger, Taylor, Jack, Dickson, Jolley, McEwen, Fretter, Bell, Armstrong, Fisher, Hutchison, McElheron, Moody, Meads, Colgan, Widmeyer and Allan.

County Property

Chairman, Mr. Hogarth; Messrs. Bothwell, Dickson, Sinclair, Gardiner, Calder, Holm, Hutchison, Field, Armstrong, Lemcke, Grierson,

Jack, Allan, Fisher and White.

Education

Chairman, Mr. Armstrong; Messrs. Riley, Moody, Colgan, Armstrong, Hutchison, Field, Taylor, Allan, McElheron, Bell, Ferguson, Weir, Meads, Hogarth, Filsinger, McDonald, Gardiner and White.

Printing

Chairman, Mr. McDonald; Messrs. McDonald, Lemcke, Buchanan, Sinclair, Colgan, Carruthers, Widmeyer, Erskine, Jolley, Gardiner, Ferguson, Fretter, McEwen, Acheson, Riley, and Grierson.

Communications and Memorials

Chairman, Mr. Filsinger; Messrs. Armstrong, Acheson, Fretter, Fisher, Carruthers, Grierson, McEwen, Calder, Erskine, Moody and Jolley.

House of Refuge

Chairman, Mr. Meads; The Warden and one from Owen Sound.

Warden's

Chairman, Mr. Colgan; Messrs. Bothwell, Buchanan, Taylor and Hutchison.

County Roads

Chairman, Mr. Holm; Messrs. Pringle, Calder, Taylor and Miller.

Various Officials Appointed

The council spent some time Thursday afternoon in session as a committee of the whole to pass several by-laws regarding appointments which are made each year. Auditors for the county for this year were appointed. They are W. E. Cole and Walter Hastie. These gentlemen have held the positions satisfactorily for several years. R. J. Chisholm of Thornbury was again appointed to be a member of the Entrance Board of Examiners in the County of Grey.

The following High School Trustees were appointed: Durham, G. L. Grant, D. A. Ferguson; Dundalk, Dr. F. Martin and F. Nixon; to finish the unexpired term of Mr. E. McKee; Markdale, F. H. Wilson; Artermesia, Alexander Muir and Thomas Henry to finish the next two years; Hanover, Robert Brigham. There was some discussion regarding the appointment in Artermesia High school, two candidates being named but when the vote was taken, the council compromised, and both were given positions.

The report of the special committee regarding the appointment of an official court reporter was read, and Judge Sutherland explained to the members the need and duties of such a position. Mr. Claire L. Vanwyck was appointed to the position at a salary of \$600 a year besides his regular fees.

Deputations Received

Thursday's session of the County Council was a busy one with several reports being read as well as deputations being heard. None of the reports, however, caused any controversy, and they were passed in short order.

Reeve J. J. Buchanan presented the report of the Finance Committee which recommended that several grants be made; namely, a grant of \$50 to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, a grant of \$50 to the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, and a grant of \$25 to the Daily Sun-Times Fund for radio sets to be purchased and installed in the Grey County Home for the Aged and Infirmary.

The report also recommended that statement of the County Treasurer of the Non-Resident Land Fund for 1925 be received and that the statement of the Stationery account for the year 1925 be received and filed and that the request of the County Treasurer be granted and he be authorized to transfer from the Current Account to the Stationery Account the sum of one hundred dollars.

The report was passed without discussion.

The report of the County Roads Committee was presented by the chairman, Reeve Charles Holm, and was passed. It recommended that the County Road Superintendent attend the Engineers' and Road Superintendents' Convention and that the chairman of this committee and the Warden attend the Good Roads Convention in Toronto from February 22 to 26 inclusive. Further that the agreement forwarded to the Grey County Council by the County Council of Bruce regarding the construction, maintenance and repairs to the county line between Grey and Bruce be ratified by by-law at this session of the council.

The annual report of the Manager of the House of Refuge was read to the council by Reeve Meads. It showed that at present 60 inmates are at the House of Refuge, one from each of Artermesia, Bentinck, Glenelg, Normanby, Osprey, Prolong, Dundalk and Chatsworth, three from Egremont and six from Owen Sound being admitted during the past year. The average cost per inmate per week at this institution was \$2.32, and the total cost per year for the inmates was \$7,404.01. The report was a clear and comprehensive one and was received without discussion.

Several deputations waited on the Council and were given a hearing. Mr. J. W. McLinden, His Worship, Mayor James Leslie and Mr. Elias Lemon all addressed the council in requesting for a grant of \$1,000 for

the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital.

Ensign Foster, of the Salvation Army, also addressed the council requesting a grant of \$300 for their Salvation Army Home for Unfortunate Girls at London, Ont. Sheriff J. S. Wilson brought forth to the council the idea of taking out a membership to the Tourist Association of Ontario. All were given a courteous hearing by the council.

Usual Grants for Hospitals

The council held a busy session on Friday afternoon, and with the exception of one or two minor matters, the business of the January session was pretty well completed. The greater part of the afternoon was taken up with the reading and adoption of reports of committees. There were one or two discussions, but for the most part, the reports were adopted.

The first report of importance was that of the Finance Committee which was as follows:

That a grant of \$500 each be made to the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, the Durham Hospital and the Hanover Hospital.

That a grant of \$300 be made to the Salvation Army Rescue Home of London, Ontario.

That Sheriff James S. Wilson be appointed High Constable for the County of Grey at a salary of \$250 per annum, and that he be paid the sum of \$625 back pay, being at the rate of \$250 per annum.

That the Township of Keppel be paid the sum of \$33.50, being a refund of the amount paid by that Township for doctors' examinations and expenses in committing an indigent patient to the Ontario Hospital for the Insane.

That no action be taken in the request of the Tourist Association of Ontario for the County Council of Grey to join the said association.

Council went into committee of the whole in the Finance Committee. Mr. Bothwell expressed some disappointment that the grant to the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital had not been increased, the same amount not being granted as last year. He gave some figures showing that a large number of county patients were sent out for this hospital, and while he realized that it was not in the county, nevertheless it was doing a great work, and he would be in favor of the grant being made \$1,000, and moved accordingly. It was seconded by Reeve Dickson of Sarawak.

The result was defeat, only a few members of the council voting in favor of the motion.

The report was adopted as read.

Roads and Bridges

The committee on Roads and Bridges were presented by Reeve, William Weir. It recommended the payment of a number of accounts and that no action be taken on the request of County Engineer McKnight that he be placed on a salary basis. There was a clause in the report regarding the payment of \$100 to L. J. Looby of Dublin which had been forfeited by him for the non-completion of his contract for a bridge on the county line between Grey and Bruce in Sullivan Township, but when it was explained that the man never made any attempt to even start to carry out the contract, it was felt that his money should be returned to him and the clause was struck out of the report. The balance was adopted.

House of Refuge

The report of the House of Refuge Committee was presented. It showed the receipts for the quarter as being \$1,363.38 with a balance of \$575.90 in the bank. The following recommendations were also made:

That the annual membership fee of \$10 to the Association of Managers of the Homes for the Aged and Infirmary for the year 1926 be paid.

That the Committee for the year 1926 take into consideration the advisability of erecting a cottage with suitable enclosure for detention of such inmates as are liable to abscond from the House of Refuge.

The report was adopted without discussion.

Printing

The Printing Committee recommended the payment of a number of accounts and the following:

Your Committee would recommend that the Clerk be instructed to ask for tenders for the printing of the minutes and proceedings of the County Council and for examination papers for the Public School inspectors in the County of Grey and that the Clerk and Chairman of this Committee be authorized to open the tenders and award the contract for printing for the year 1926.

County Roads

The committee on County Roads presented the following report:

That your Committee inspect the road and Hemlock bridge complained of by Dr. McKee before any action is taken.

That the County enter into an order each year during 10 years, the total amount of their levy for County Road purposes, but in no case is the amount to be less than \$1,800

per year under an agreement to be entered into between the town and county for the construction of twenty feet of connecting link in Meaford.

That the County enter into an agreement with the town of Hanover, to return to the town of Hanover, during a period of 20 years the total amount of their levy for County Road purposes, but in no case is this amount to be less than \$1,968 per year under an agreement to be entered into between the town of Hanover and the County for the construction of twenty feet of connecting link in the town of Hanover.

That all other Urban Municipalities in the County of Grey be returned each year seventy-five per cent of the amount of their annual levy for County Road purposes, such money to be spent, used to maintain and improve its twenty-foot strip of constructed connecting links. All such moneys to be spent under the supervision and inspections of the County Roads Superintendent.

That all these agreements be submitted to the County Solicitor before being signed.

That J. Pringle be authorized to sign the paysheets for County Road System in the place of the Chairman.

There was some discussion created by Reeve Hutchison of Thornbury regarding the clause in the County Roads Committee report respecting the return to Meaford and Hanover of the whole amount of their levy for County Road purposes. He asked why other urban municipalities in the County were not to get 75 per cent of the levy.

Reeve Holm explained that any urban municipality in the county could get 100 per cent of their levy returned if they decided to proceed with the laying of a pavement. He also pointed out that as it is they were getting 25 per cent more than the law provides, and so far as he was concerned, the council could do as they pleased with the matter.

After some further explanation of the chairman and the Road Superintendent, the report was adopted as read.

Reeve Pringle of Keppel moved that an examination be made of the bridge on the town line between Sarawak and Keppel, and that if found necessary that plans be prepared for a new bridge to be constructed during the coming year. It was seconded by Reeve Dickson of Sarawak and carried.

Thornbury Bridge Discussed

The iron bridge across the river at Thornbury which has been the subject of discussion in the last few meetings of the council was brought to the attention of that body again on Friday afternoon, when Reeve Hutchison of Thornbury introduced a resolution providing for an agreement to be drawn up between the town of Thornbury and the County of Grey relative to the construction of a new bridge.

Reeve Hutchison went into some details in connection with correspondence between the town officials and the department of Public Highways at Toronto, the latter stating in their last letter that acting on the advice of their engineer they would condemn the bridge as being unsafe for traffic and that a new bridge should be constructed as soon as possible. Mr. Hutchison told the Council that in order to make the bridge safe for winter traffic, considerable money had been spent on it, and the municipality did not feel like spending any more and wanted some action.

Reeve Charles Holm of Normanby, chairman of the County Roads Committee, stated that if the officials of the town of Thornbury were sure that the county could be liable for any accidents occurring on that bridge, then it was the duty of Reeve Hutchison to close it to traffic altogether, but that so far as the County of Grey was concerned, they had nothing from the Department with regard to the matter and could hardly take any definite action until they had. Reeve Holm advised the withdrawal of the motion and intimated that the matter could be dealt with when all of the information was available.

Reeve Hutchison finally agreed to this proposition, and the matter was left in abeyance.

Education Committee to Demand More Information

Reeve M. S. Armstrong of Hanover, Chairman of the Education Committee of the council, presented his report at the Friday afternoon session of the council. The report was a lengthy one and contained the amounts which are payable to the

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various High and Continuation schools throughout the county and in adjacent counties as special grants on account of pupils attending these schools. In recommending the payment of these accounts, the report recommended that in future when they are presented for payment, fuller details must be given by the principals of the schools, such as names and addresses of every pupil, the exact number of days he or she attended, and a financial statement of the school concerned and the amount of the school's expenditures for the year. This will enable the committee when passing on the accounts to have all the particulars in its possession.

The committee also recommended that a conference be held between the three Public School Inspectors of the County and the County officials with regard to the preparation of the annual reports of the Inspectors. It was pointed out that at the present time there is no uniformity in these reports, and that on account of this it is difficult to get all the information desirable, and the object of the conference would be to draw up some form on which the committee to have the information in a more concrete form, and which would enable them to make comparisons more readily.

The committee did not find fault with the reports of the Inspectors, nor were any of the accounts for maintenance or special maintenance questioned in the slightest degree, but the committee is desirous of having the information in future in more tabular form.

The report was not discussed on Friday afternoon, but came up for passing on Saturday morning, and after a few explanations by Reeve Armstrong, was passed.

No Insurance for Roads

While the members of the council may believe in insurance for their homes and on their barns and stock as well as on their lives, they are not in favor of putting insurance on county roads, that is they are not prepared as yet to insure the county against loss by accidents which might occur on the county highways.

The matter was placed before them by the representative of an insurance company which makes a specialty of this sort of protection, on Friday afternoon, and while his arguments were sound and he made a very convincing appeal, there were not a sufficient number of the members of the Council to give it their support, and for the second time the question was turned down.

The principal reason that the proposition did not appeal was that there is a strong feeling that the council is quite able to take care of any such accidents, and that the sum of \$750, which is the approximate cost of a policy such as was out-

lined. The argument was also used that of late years, there had been no accidents of any account on the county roads owing to their good condition, and that the money could be used to advantage in repairing any holes or bad places there might be.

The opinions were not all one-sided, however, as several of the Reeves whose townships had taken out a policy to cover any accidents on their roads were highly pleased with the results, and considered that the County would be spending money wisely. They pointed out that the old policy of locking the stable door after the horse had been stolen was no good in these modern times and for small cost to each taxpayer it would not be felt.

However, when the vote was taken it was found that only about a dozen were in favor, while there were twenty-two opposed, and the matter went over for another year.

No Lights for Vehicles

The council also went on record as being opposed to the proposition of the Western Ontario Boards of Trade to have all vehicles using the highways carry a light.

Of a Different Family

The society reporter of a daily paper had been detailed to procure the names of prominent persons in attendance at a performance of a grand opera.

"I beg your pardon, madam," she said, approaching one of the occupants of a private box, "but will you oblige me by giving your name?"

"Mrs. Archibald Jo Neeze," replied the lady.

"Pardon me," replied the reporter, "but I did not quite catch the last names."

"Jo Neeze."

"May I ask you to spell it?"

"Certainly, J-o-n-e-z-e, Jo Neeze," haughtily answered the occupant of the box, and the lady retired to the foyer to fan herself.

No Need for Court

Magistrate: "Can't this case be settled out of court?"

Mulligan: "Sure, ser, that's what we were trying to do, yer honor, when the police interferred."

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