

Supervisors' Proceedings.

Record of the Proceedings, Orders and Resolutions of the Board of Supervisors

Of Livingston County, State of Illinois, at the Regular Meeting, Held on the Second Tuesday in September, A. D., 1893.

Pontiac, Ill., Tuesday, Sept. 12, 1893. The board of supervisors of Livingston county met at 2 o'clock p. m., Chairman Cleary presiding.

The following members answered to roll call: Litchfield, Colehower, Crabb, Earp, Snyder, Ide, Myer, Morrow, Reed, Barr, Corbin, Travis, McKenzie, McDowell, Rollins, Gibbons, Goebel, Moulton, Thornton, W. E. Thompson, John Thompson, Freshill, Sears, Bergan, Hack, Lower, Potter.

Colehower moved that all bills be referred to the proper committees without reading.

Motion carried. Myer moved that the board visit the poor farm Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

Motion carried. The credentials of Lucian Bullard, appointed supervisor of Forrest township to fill vacancy, were presented and read and on motion of Moulton, Mr. Bullard was admitted to a seat on this board and assigned to the same committee as his predecessor, W. H. Clow.

Owing to the absence of Supervisor Cornwell, of the committee on auditing treasurer's accounts, Myer moved that the chairman appoint another member to fill the vacant place on said committee for this session.

Motion carried. The chairman appointed Supervisor Corbin to fill said vacancy for this session.

On motion of Colehower the board adjourned until 9 o'clock a. m. tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 13, 9 a. m. Board met pursuant to adjournment, Chairman Cleary presiding.

The following members answered to roll call: Litchfield, Colehower, Clark, Crabb, Earp, Snyder, Ide, Morrow, Reed, Barr, Travis, McKenzie, Rollins, Gibbons, Goebel, Bullard, Moulton, Thornton, W. E. Thompson, John Thompson, Sears, Bergan, Hack, Lower, Potter.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

A petition from the commissioners of highways of Avoca township, asking county aid in building bridge, was presented and, on motion of Thornton referred to the committee on town accounts.

A communication from Joseph Armstrong, of Waverly, Ohio, expert accountant, offering his services to investigate accounts of county officials, was read and on motion of Gibbons received and placed on file.

A communication from John R. Lewis, of Piper City, local swamp land agent, was read and referred by the chairman to the committee on swamp lands.

Corbin moved that the committee on jurors select from the petit jury list three hundred names to be placed in a box.

Travis moved to amend that the several supervisors select the proportionate number of such names from their respective towns as as the same appear on the petit jury list.

Amendment carried. Original motion as amended carried. On motion of W. E. Thompson the board adjourned until 9 o'clock a. m. tomorrow.

THURSDAY, Sept. 14, 9 a. m. Board met pursuant to adjournment Chairman Cleary presiding.

The following members answered to roll call: Litchfield, Colehower, Clark, Crabb, Earp, Snyder, Ide, Myer, Morrow, Reed, Barr, Corbin, Travis, McKenzie, McDowell, Rollins, Gibbons, Goebel, Bullard, Moulton, Thornton, W. E. Thompson, Freshill, Sears, Bergan, Hack, Lower, Potter.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

The chairman stated that he had received the resignation of Supervisor Cornwell as a member of the special committee appointed by him in vacation after the July meeting to act for the county in constructing a bridge in Indian Grove township.

Colehower moved that the chairman appoint another member to fill the vacancy thus caused on said committee.

Motion carried. The following report from the committee on poor house and farm was read and on motion of Clark adopted:

PONTIAC, ILL., Sept. 14, 1893. To the Honorable Board of Supervisors: Your committee on poor house and farm having been requested by resolution at the July meeting last past, to investigate and report as to the advisability of constructing new and sufficient buildings on said poor farm to meet the requirements of the county, beg to report that we have made such investigation and are fully of the opinion that a

new building with modern improvements and conveniences will have to be constructed in the near future, but that there is no necessity of immediate action in that direction. We therefore recommend that the same be deferred indefinitely. Respectfully submitted, J. E. MORROW, W. E. THOMPSON, A. CRABB, Committee.

W. E. Thompson made a statement regarding two aged paupers in Union township, and asked the advice of the board as to whether he should send said paupers to the poor farm or partially support them in the township.

Thornton moved that the matter be left to the discretion of the supervisor of Union.

Motion carried. On motion of Clark the board adjourned, for committee work, until 2 o'clock p. m.

THURSDAY, Sept. 14, 2 p. m. Board met pursuant to adjournment, Chairman Cleary presiding, who announced a quorum present.

The following report from the committee on auditing treasurer's accounts was read and on motion of Colehower adopted:

State of Illinois, Livingston county, ss. Board of Supervisors, September term, September 14, A. D. 1893. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors:

Your committee to whom was referred the annual report of W. E. Baker, county treasurer of earnings, receipts and disbursements of his office for the year ending September 1st, 1893, would beg leave to submit the following report on the matters before them. That we have examined and compared his report with the books and accounts of said office and believe the same to be correct, and herewith attach the same, making it part of our report and we find sufficient funds in banks and cash on hand to cover his liabilities and have carefully examined all jury certificates and county orders paid and have burned the same. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. McDOWELL, M. A. FREEHILL, J. F. CORBIN, Committee.

CERTIFICATE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE ILLINOIS. SPRINGFIELD, July 24th, 1893. I, David Gore, auditor of public accounts of the state of Illinois, do hereby certify that Wm. E. Baker, collector for the county of Livingston, did, on the 24th day of July, 1893, settle in full the amount due from him as such collector, to the state of Illinois, on account of the taxes assessed in the year 1892, as appears from the books and vouchers on file in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of my office, the day and year first above written.

DAVID GORE, Auditor Public Accounts. To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Livingston County, Illinois.

The undersigned treasurer and ex-officio collector of said county would respectfully submit this report of receipts and disbursements.

AS COUNTY COLLECTOR. The state and registered bond tax of 1892 has been collected and paid over to the state treasurer as per settlement sheets and receipts in my office as follows:

The local taxes of 1892 have been collected and paid over to the several officers thereto entitled as will fully appear by an examination of said accounts and receipts for balance due now on file in my office, except the following:

The following is a detailed statement of my account as collector of the county tax of 1892 and the earnings of the office:

Table with columns for description and amount. Includes items like 'Total levy of county tax of 1892', 'Amount of county tax of 1892', 'Amount received for advertising 740 tracts at 18c', etc.

Table with columns for description and amount. Includes items like 'By amount paid on collection of 1892', 'By amount paid on collection of 1891', 'By amount paid on collection of 1890', etc.

Table with columns for description and amount. Includes items like 'By amount of printer's fee not realized on forfeited list', 'By balance of county tax of 1892 turned over to county treasurer', 'By balance of county tax of 1891 turned over to county treasurer', etc.

Table with columns for description and amount. Includes items like 'By amount of county tax of 1892 turned over to county treasurer', 'By amount of county tax of 1891 turned over to county treasurer', 'By amount of county tax of 1890 turned over to county treasurer', etc.

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from, as required by law, to the number of three hundred. All of which is respectfully submitted, W. M. TRAVIS, M. W. MOULTON, T. M. THORNTON, J. W. McDOWELL, JAMES BERGAN, EDWARD O. REED, L. BULLARD, Committee.

The following report from the committee on swamp lands was read and on motion of Gibbons adopted:

State of Illinois, Livingston county, ss— Board of Supervisors, September term, A. D. 1893.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors:

Your committee, to whom was referred the communication from John R. Lewis who has been examining and making proofs on swamp land in this county would beg leave to submit the following report on the matters before them:

This Board instruct the clerk to write our member of Congress from this district and one of our senators and ask them to urge the commissioner of the general land office, to file up the claim of Livingston county, Illinois, for swamp land indemnity and settle the same.

All of which is respectfully submitted. A. L. OWEN, J. M. BARR, FRED HACK, J. F. SNYDER, JOHN THOMPSON, W. W. SEARS, FRED IDE, Committee.

The following report from the committee on jail and jail claims was read and on motion of Earp adopted:

State of Illinois, Livingston County, ss— Board of Supervisors, September term, A. D. 1893.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors:

Your committee on jail claims would beg leave to report that they have examined all claim presented before them, and recommend the payment of the following, and that the clerk be directed to issue orders for the several amounts to the several claimants, to-wit:

Table with columns for names, amounts, and descriptions. Includes items like 'Sylvester Moore, constable fees', 'John Blue, constable fees', 'W. W. Sears, justice's fees', etc.

The bills of Jones Blue, Geo. Bandra, Wm. Burrell, A. Bandra and Harry Smoak we do not allow on account of their not being properly itemized. The bill of Corcoran Zimmerman for holding inquest on the body of G. W. Brooks, we do not allow for the reason that we think it should be collected out of the estate of the said Brooks.

All of which is respectfully submitted, W. W. SEARS, FRED IDE, JAMES BERGAN, FRANK CLARK, J. N. BARR, T. A. MCKENZIE, Committee.

The following report from the committee on education was read and on motion of Hack adopted:

State of Illinois, Livingston county, ss— Board of Supervisors, September term, A. D. 1893.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors:

Your committee, to whom was referred the report of H. A. Foster, county superintendent would beg leave to submit the following report on the matters before them:

We have examined his accounts and find them correct. That there is due him for 70 days services three hundred and sixteen dollars. We also find in his hands the sum of three hundred and ninety-four dollars and ninety-four cents as fines and forfeitures. We recommend that this amount be left in his hands to meet current expenses. We have examined the following bills and recommend that orders be drawn on the county treasurer for the same:

Table with columns for names, amounts, and descriptions. Includes items like 'Johnson & Reno, printing', 'Caldwell & McGregor, stationery', 'John S. Murphy stationery', etc.

Total \$59.15 We would advise that he be authorized to procure sufficient quantity of report cards of teachers to parents, teacher's monthly report to county superintendent and report cards of pupils standing:

We recommend that the clerk extend all district school taxes on lands, personal property and railroads on the tax books. We herewith attach Mr. Foster's report and recommend that it be published in full.

All of which is respectfully submitted. W. P. GOEBEL, M. A. FREEHILL, C. W. BOLLINS, J. F. COLEHOWER, J. F. CORBIN, W. W. SEARS, Committee.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors Livingston County, Ill. Gentlemen:—I have the honor to submit to you the following report of the work of this office for the year ending Sept. 1, 1893.

When assuming the office of County Superintendent of Schools, I was very anxious to do that thing which would be the most conducive to the welfare of the schools under my charge. After a thorough investigation of the condition of the schools at that time, I believed, as did the best educators whose opinions were available, that gradation and classification of the work of the rural schools would be the most valuable and efficient aid that could be rendered. Having become convinced what step was of the first importance, I hastened to take it with caution and yet with unswerving firmness.

It is needless at this time to recite to you aught of the preparation; of the opposition met and overcome, or of the many difficulties that were encountered. Suffice it to say that the work has been accomplished; that the result has been to enhance the efficiency of our schools to a degree little expected at the beginning; to a degree for which its friends had hardly dared to hope, and that the cost has been but a trifle, has been within the amount appropriated by your honorable body "to try the experiment."

This new order of things required a new kind of supervision, at least for a time, for it was early discovered that many teachers and parents required instruction in the use of the manual, and explanation of its aim. This necessitated a carefully prepared educational column for the county press where such information as was thought helpful was imparted. Besides this a correspondence sprang up between this office and the teachers, pupils and parents, of such magnitude that the average number of letters per month during the last school year was not far from four hundred.

It has been my theory, gentlemen, that if one of your honorable body saw fit to write to me concerning anything pertaining to school work, that he would be entitled to a reply. I believe that the same argument will apply to every teacher, pupil and parent in the county. Therefore I have made it a point to answer all letters of inquiry.

The range of our correspondence was great. It related to school management; to the avoidance of religious entanglements threatening the efficiency of a teacher's work; to advising teacher, patron and director respecting the school law; to teaching the new teacher in methods of teaching specific subjects; to advising and aiding pupils ambitious to complete the course of study, or to make progress in home work; to a multitude of other things contributing to the thoroughness of school work.

In any reform movement it is of the first importance that the laborers in its behalf should be thoroughly conversant with their work and that those among whom they work be fully informed of what each new move means. With this object in view, carefully prepared lists of questions were made for use in teacher's examinations. These questions were a test of the candidate's scholarship and knowledge of how to do good work, also a means of leading teachers, present and prospective, up to a higher degree of scholarship and preparation for their chosen work.

After using these sets of questions, I followed the example which has been set by the State Department for years, and allowed them to become public property, and it is generally considered by those interested in education, that such action has been productive of great good.

The results of our efforts have been quite effective, indeed in the judgment of leading educators of the county, as well as many out of the county. It has helped to place Livingston county in the front rank of counties of this State for the efficiency of her schools. The tangible results have been the graduating of thirty pupils, and the rapid growth of the eighth grade till it numbers over one hundred and thirty pupils for 1893-94, many of whom will graduate in 1894.

With regard to the insinuations coming from individuals who lack the moral courage to make a direct charge, knowing full well they would at once be called before a tribunal of justice to make answer to any charge of unlawful action on my part, I have this to say respecting the expenses of this office, as compared with the expense under my predecessor, whose one accused of extravagance.

In the Illinois school reports, under the head, "County Superintendent's Compensation and Expenses," is found the following statement, which effectually answers the aforesaid insinuations:

Table with columns for year, amount, and description. Includes items like 'The Co. Supt received for advertising 740 tracts at 18c', 'This is an average per year of \$235.00', 'The Co. Supt received for printing 1893-94', 'This is an average per year of \$229.00', etc.

It will be seen by this comparison that the average expense under my administration has been \$6.40 less annually than under that of my predecessor.

With regard to Institute expenses, the average of expense for the last five years of Mr. Ferris' administration was \$509.42. The average for the three years of my work has been \$467.51 or \$41.91 annually less than that of the preceding administration.

These figures can not be truthfully challenged and are a sufficient answer to all insinuations. The expense for the year ending June 30, 1891, is not given because part of that year's expense was on account of Mr. Ferris and part was incurred by myself. With regard to the future, I have to say that both my assistant and myself expect to visit all the rural schools of this county