

# ANOTHER SIDEWALK BOOM.

## Council Four Hours In Session.

### REPORT OF DEPUTATION

#### THE PRINTING CONTRACT AGAIN

Although the council commenced business about on time Monday evening, an adjournment was not arrived at until after midnight. All the orators were present and the audience being large, they took a whirl at almost everything which came up. The reports afforded the speakers grand opportunities which were taken advantage of on every occasion.

The opening formalities being carried out, the reports were brought up for discussion.

There was nothing alarming in the report of the Finance committee, as it was brought before the council. The committee distributed the town's funds in this way: Mr. E. Stewart, \$50 for plans of water lots facing on streets; Bell Telephone Co., rent of instrument \$22.50, and message 60c.; and A. & H. Foreman, supplies, \$1.91.

Regarding the accounts of the auditors for \$65 each, the committee lopped off \$15 each and recommended the payment of \$50, which was adopted.

The committee recommended that the rebate of \$13 be given Presbyterian church, being wrongfully charged against some lots they own.

The letter regarding the Police Magistrate's salary, and the letters of Messrs. Moberly and Birnie were left over until the next meeting.

During the intermission since the March meeting of the council, a change has been made in the chairmanship of the Board of Works. Mr. Emerson, who held that responsible position last year and was re-elected in January, resigned last week, and Mr. Chamberlain was unanimously chosen. Mr. Chamberlain appeared in the new role Monday evening for the first time, when he presented the monthly grist of the committee.

The pay roll for the month amounted to \$171, which appears to have been well distributed among our working men. The other accounts were: G. T. Foulis & Co., pike poles, etc., \$1.75; Jas. Reid, work, \$3; W. Dance, shovelling snow, \$1; Jas. Gardiner and E. King, shovelling snow \$2. The account of Mr. Urry which was sent in at last meeting for \$12 for improvements on the snow plow, again bobbed up, and the committee recommended that \$5 be paid to settle the account.

The new sidewalk boom has again struck town, and the Board of Works made a long list of recommendations. Brick walks are recommended on west St. Paul street from First to Hume streets, on north Hume street to Hurontario street south side of Fifth street between Hurontario and Maple streets, on west Maple street from Fifth to First street, north Third street from Hurontario to Cedar street, on north Fourth street from Hurontario to Maple street, on west Pine street from Fourth to Fifth street, on west Pine street from First to Third street, on west Ste. Marie street from Ontario to Fourth streets, and cement walks on north Huron street from Manitoba House to St. Paul street, and on east Hurontario street from Simcoe to Fourth streets.

Mr. Chamberlain stated that the committee had decided to recommend brick walks for the side streets for several reasons: first, they were cheaper; secondly, that the walks would be broken up from time to time and with brick this could be done better than with cement, and thirdly, on various streets there are trees, the roots of which would destroy the walks.

A long and wearisome discussion followed, in which nearly every member of the council took part.

Mr. Guilfoyle inquired if the chairman had made any estimate of the cost of the proposed works?

Mr. Chamberlain—\$10,000.

Mr. Guilfoyle—What proportion of that would the town have to pay?

Mr. Chamberlain replied that he did not know.

Deputy-Reeve O'Brien thought that tenders should be asked for the work. He was of the opinion that it was a one horse way of doing business.

"We drive a full team in our committee now," retorted the chairman.

Mr. Carmichael thought \$10,000 a large sum to expend on brick walks before a sample had been laid.

Mr. Guilfoyle again rose and said he was of the opinion that it would be advisable to consider the recommendations as a whole. It should be considered if the town is ready to go on with such a large expenditure, and an estimate of the cost should be made. He estimated that the town would have to pay forty per cent of the cost of proposed walks.

Mr. Williams, a member of the Board of works, stated that the committee had considered many points. He was of the opinion that if the work was carried out, money would be saved.

Last year \$800 was spent in repairing walks. In this case the cost to the town would be \$4,000, the interest on which would be about \$200 per year. If the town would stop repairing money would be saved.

Mr. Henderson advocated the walk for St. Paul street.

The Mayor asked if the committee had examined the present walks? Cries of no, no! What is brick to cost? "Don't know," some person said. Continuing, his worship said that there were no petitions for the proposed walks, and therefore no need of pushing the matter.

He is apparently unaware of the fact that petitions are an unnecessary trimming in such cases, as the Board of Works have the power to take the initiative.

Mr. Emerson thought the committee had spent time enough considering this question. It was time for the council to do something.

Mr. Hughes suggested that a portion be done in each ward.

Deputy-Reeve Duncan approved of the recommendations but was of the opinion that estimates should have been prepared and submitted. He would suggest that the report be referred back and tenders asked.

Mr. Emerson advocated immediate action, as last year the committee was humbugged by delaying.

Mr. Williams supported the adoption of the recommendations.

Mr. Henderson asked if the committee was going to build walks or not. In reply to the Mayor's argument that there were no petitions for these walks, he said his worship took the same ground last year against the walk on east Pine street and killed it.

Mr. Guilfoyle inquired if the chairman considered the committee had power to go on with the work under the recommendation presented.

Mr. Chamberlain replied in the affirmative.

On a motion of Deputy-Reeve Duncan, the report was amended, giving the committee power to advertise said walks, and instructing them to ask for tenders and submit same to the council.

This was adopted and the talking was cut off for a few minutes.

The accounts of the Town Property committee, which were small, were passed without objection.

The committee recommended that an appropriation of \$50 be made for planting trees in the park.

In reply to letter of Mr. Thos. Robinson re insurance, the committee reported the following division of premiums in 1895: F. W. Churchill, \$195.15; W. A. Hogg, \$30; D. Williams, jr., \$27; T. Robinson, \$39.50.

The insurance in force is: on the Opera House and contents \$10,800; electric light installation throughout town \$2,314; pumping house station \$2,000; boilers \$3,000; hose reels \$300; chemical engine \$1,500.

The committee recommended that the insuring of the different properties be placed under the direction of the different committees having control of the property insured.

In the past this portion of municipal business has not been under the direct control of any committee, hence the recommendation which was adopted.

The accounts of the Fire & Police committee amounted to \$26.27.

Deputy-Reeve Duncan has evidently heard something about the actions of certain members of the fire company, as he inquired for a list of members who are in active service, and a report on the fires they had turned out. He surprised the council by making the statement that a number of the members of the company had substitutes and rarely turned out to fires themselves. He understood the members who were appointed by by-law received their salary of \$35 per year, and paid the substitutes who turned out, forty cents per hour. He knew of cases when the regulars had not turned out and the substitutes were very scarce. If such was the case he could see no reason why the substitutes should not be appointed firemen and thereby receive the whole salary.

Mr. Carmichael promised a list of names and the information asked at the next meeting.

The committee recommended that the request of fire company for rubber boots and coats be granted, the firemen paying \$2 each towards cost. This was adopted.

One account for 90 cents from E. S. Brown and another for 25 cents from A. J. Lewis, comprised the report of the Printing committee which was presented by Deputy-Reeve Duncan in the absence of Chairman Finlay.

At this juncture matters took another turn. Mr. Henderson, who made a statement at the last meeting of the council regarding the tenders received for the town printing, said that his attention had been called to an editorial referring to him, which had appeared in the Enterprise, in the issue of that paper following the special meeting of the council on March 23rd. From the editorial in question Mr. Henderson read:

"On Monday night he distorted, misstated, and altogether perverted the facts in this printing deal. Despite his statement to the contrary, the statements of the Enterprise are correct. In the instance where our figures for debentures were made \$2 instead of \$19, we have the supporting authority

of two members of the committee, one of whom showed the figures in that same "black and white" of which Mr. Henderson spoke. Our tender, figured out fairly and squarely, was much lower than \$25, the amount at which the contract was let. This we know and adhere to, despite the assertions of Mr. Henderson or anyone else. It is true the committee did not ask tenders for advertising. Neither did they ask for a bulk tender. Yet they accepted one and threw out the other. The pretence that they do not intend to do any advertising will not hold water. There is advertising they are compelled by law to do. Unless, indeed, they over ride the statutes, as they have so frequently done in the past."

Continuing, Mr. Henderson said at that meeting of the council there was no reporter of that paper present, and he wanted to know who were the members of the council who had furnished the information, and if it was not members of the council, was it an official? I will wait for the parties to make their statement.

No person spoke, and Mr. Henderson rose again and said that regarding the statement, "We have the supporting authority of two members of the committee," etc. Messrs. Guilfoyle, Carmichael, and myself are the only members who took the trouble to take down the figures, and they are "in black and white" and bear out my statements.

In the amounts I gave the council I stated that in the Enterprise tender were three sets of debentures, \$19, and the question rose was that \$19 for the three, or \$19 per set. As Mr. Hogg had stated on a previous occasion when he printed one set for \$10 that he had lost money, it was natural to suppose he would not do three sets for \$19. If we had taken his tender and reckoned \$19 for three sets, would he hang to it? No. Again when Mr. A. D. Knight got the debentures done for \$20 and lost fifty dollars per year in salary by it, we considered it cheap. I have the figures in "black and white," and the tender of the Enterprise was higher than THE BULLETIN. If any official gave the information, I say it is wrong.

Mr. Guilfoyle also took a hand in the discussion. He said the day after the tenders were opened I met Mr. W. A. Hogg who asked what was the result. I told him that the contract had been awarded to THE BULLETIN, and Mr. Hogg replied that he had looked into the matter and found that \$25 was more than was paid last year. I informed him that the committee had figured it out differently and showed him the figures the same as Mr. Henderson gave to the council which showed the tender of the Enterprise to be higher than that of THE BULLETIN. The expense account of the W. W. & E. L. committee contained between thirty and forty accounts. The items paid for included fuel, wages, and supplies. The accounts of the electric light construction amounted to \$23.68, and for water works construction \$2.30.

In reply to Messrs. W. Tobey & Co.'s request for price for 5000 gallons of water for six days, the committee recommended that the price be fixed on the basis of 7000 gallons per day at \$125 per year.

The petition of the G. & M. Hospital for reduction in electric light rate, was not complied with, but they were allowed the customary discount on accounts of February and March which were not paid before the 15th of each month. Mrs. Lett was also remitted a dollar on electric light account.

The covering of the steam pipes at the water works, came up again, this time in the form of a recommendation empowering the committee to have the work done. At the last meeting of the council an offer of \$75 for this work was rejected.

The Mayor's report of the trip of the recent deputation to Ottawa was presented. Nothing more than what was published in THE BULLETIN last week appeared. Two telegrams were attached to the report. One was sent by Mayor Callary to Hon. Mr. Ousmet. It read:

"Nothing appears in supplementary estimates received to day for Cullingwood harbor; people here greatly disappointed; please explain and assure me that contract will be given immediately after passing estimates."

Mr. Ousmet replied:

"Supplementary estimates now before House only for current year up to first July next; all new work in supplementary estimates for next fiscal year '97."

The documents were filed without comment.

The cost of the jaunt was \$84.

Letter and accounts of nightwatchmen were read and referred to the Fire & Police committee to report on.

Request of W. G. T. U. for rebate for use of Grand Opera House on Tuesday evening, was referred to Town Property committee with power to act.

The estimates of the Free Library Trustees were referred to Finance committee.

Letter of Moberly & Gamon re the ditch on east Hurontario street will be reported on by the Board of Works.

Messrs. Tobey & Co. asked for another term of ten years exemption from taxes. The firm state they are working under disadvantages, and that tanners in other towns receive such inducements. The Finance committee will investigate and report.

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