

RELIEF HEADQUARTERS,

June 21st, 1919

The Relief Advisory Committee met this morning at the Relief Headquarters at 11.30 o'clock; present His Worship Mayor Parker, Aldermen Guildford, Power and Finlay, City Engineer, City Solicitor and the City Clerk. T.S.Rogers, Chairman and F.L. Folke.

Mayor Parker. Mr. Rogers, the matter which we want to bring before your Commission this morning is to arrange a loan of \$25,000.00 ; \$17,000 School Board balance on the acct for Oxford Street School Repairs, Alderman Finlay was to have been here this morning, he keeps in touch with those matters. There is also a balance of some Six or Seven Thousand Dollars still due D.G.Stewart for explosion repairs to City Buildings.

T.S.Rogers. Mr. Mayor we have always made it a point to help the City to pay the explosion repairs, when we had funds to invest. Recently we have had another advance from the Government, but we are not in a position to say whether it will meet the claims, of course the claims of the individual owners will have to be settled before we consider the City's claim, but anything we can do towards helping the City to pay explosion repairs we will be glad to do, of course it will be charged against the City in our final adjustment with them.

Alderman Power arrives.

Mayor Parker. Mr. Power, we have come here this morning to ask Mr. Rogers for a loan of \$25,000, you are a member of the Finance Committee, and we were authorized to come and ask the Relief Commission.

Alderman Power. Was that report of the Committee passed Thursday night ? I understood that we had come to no conclusion when it was brought up and was laid over for further deliberation .

Mayor Parker. The report was approved by the Finance Committee.

June 21st, 1919

T.S.Rogers This Committee is a delegation from the Finance Committee to this Commission to ask for to borrow sufficient money amounts still outstanding from explosion accounts. We are not yet in a position adjust the City's losses incurred by the Explosion. We must postpone the matter of settling large claims like the City of Halifax until we have settled all the individual claims, this has been our policy from the start.

Alderman Power. The Commission has never taken the public into its confidence as to its policy.

T.S.Rogers. We have never been in a position to Mr. Power, we are not in a place where we can let the newspapers into our confidence.

Alderman Power. I dont think the City should have to come to this Commission and ask to borrow money - there should be representations made to the Imperial Government on behalf of the Citizens especially the people of Wards Five and Six, whom I have the honor to represent, they are the ones who suffered and by borrowing money you are increasing the burden, we should not have to borrow \$25,000.00 from the Commission, the money should be given to the City to settle whatever claims are pressing.

T.S.Rogers. Mr. Power, we should be very glad to be able to hand over to the City the amount due in settlement of the losses it sustained, but the question as to the policy of the Relief Commission lending money to the City has been settled, there are two sides to every question and we must protect ourselves. We have made an appeal to the Dominion Government for further financial aid and when they gave us the amount they informed us that it was a final grant.

Alderman Power. You should not have accepted it as a final grant.

T.S.Rogers They say it is the final grant and with that \$3,000,000. we have to administer to all the claims outstanding.

Alderman Power. I am of the opinion that it was very poor policy for the Relief Commission to accept any final grant from the Government.

T.S.Rogers. Do you mean Mr. Power that we should have refused to accept the Three Million Dollars from the Government, dont you think that

June 21st, 1919

would have been a bad move ?

Alderman Power I want to be understood as not in favor of the City borrowing from the Relief Commission we may as well face it now as later on that we will have to settle our accounts with the Relief Commission and borrowing money is only putting off our chances for a settlement.

T.S.Rogers. If you are not satisfied with the borrowing of money and waiting for a final settlement we can do nothing else.

Alderman Power. I think it was poor business on the part of the Relief Commission to accept that last amount as a final settlement.

T.S.Rogers. I feel, Mr. Power that it was the only thing for us to do in view of the facts, we have a large proposition ahead of us and we must deal with it as we see best.

Alderman Power. I fully realize the magnitude of your task. Will the City's claim be reached with this last half million ?

T.S.Rogers. Mr. Power, you do not surely think that the City's claim as a corporation should be dealt with before individual claims, It would not be fair, at least that is the opinion of this Commission.

Alderman Finlay That \$25,000 will just about pay the accounts due the School Board, for purchase of # 16 and 17 Market Street \$1800., Bloomfield Street -----Hillis & Sons \$3,300 and the Stewart bill \$5,000 and I as one member of this Committee want to say that this matter of borrowing \$25,000 was approved and recommended.

Alderman Power. When was it approved ?

City Clerk Finlay It was approved by a majority of the Finance Committee.

T.S.Rogers. If you came here to borrow \$17,000 and \$5,000 for so and so pending a final adjustment of the City's claim we will be glad to do our best to lend any financial aid we can.

Alderman Power. If the people in the South end had a dose of it like we had in the north end they would probably move more quickly in adjusting claims.

June 21st, 1919

T.S.Rogers Mr. Power, if there is any class in this City who have the undivided sympathy of this Commission it is the people of the North end and I will undertake to say that as far as this Commission has gone we have done our very best. We are willing to loan the City \$25,000 on Collateral until such time as we can come to a final adjustment between the City and the Relief Commission.

Alderman Power. I want to be recorded as opposed to the loan, that the City should assume the additional liability.

Mayor Parker. Now the matter of Motor Trucks we receive a communication from you some time ago informing us that you had some motor trucks for sale. How many trucks have you ?

T.S.Rogers We have nine trucks that we have no further need for and intend to convert into cash for relief purposes.

City Engineer. Do you intend to sell the two White trucks that were sent to Halifax for Relief purposes, I should think now that you have no use for them that they would revert to the City of Halifax

T.S.Rogers No Mr. Doane, that is not the idea, they were donated to the City for dispensing relief ~~to~~ we have been in charge of that Department and now that they are not necessary, we shall convert them into cash for the Fund. The trucks are considerably worn and we have replaced worn parts from time to time out of our own funds. We have seven trucks altogether Mr. Doane and we will reduce these prices so that you will be only paying the cost of five, Some one in your Department Mr. Doane can go over the matter with our Mr. Thorn e and they will come to a settlement as to prices. That is agreeable to you all I hope.

Unanimously approved.

Mayor Parker. Another matter Mr. Rogers I would like to see something done about in the North end is the grading of Gottingen Street.

T.S.Rogers. Those matters, and others Mr. Mayor really technical points and must be arranged between your Engineering Dept and ours, I am not sufficiently familiar with it to discuss it intelligently. We have always, Mr. Doane I think

~~June~~  
July 21st, 1919

conformed with the City's wishes in regard to anything important, of course in the first stage of our work we had to do certain things that were necessary that at the time may not have been according to the regulations of the City, but I think we have done pretty well.

I think if the matter of streets etc., is left in the hands of your Mr. Doane and our Mr. McAldean for report we can be pretty sure that the matter will be given every attention. Now about laying out the park, Fort Needham, we have plans made for this and we will submit same to the City Engineer.

Mayor Parker. Will you do anything about the grading of Gottingen Street?

T.S. Rogers. Yes.

Alderman Power Then those matters will be left in the hands of the Engineering Department of the City and Commission and they will submit their report to this Committee who will in turn take the matter up with you.