

APPENDIX C

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

Monday, the 12th day of August, 1861¹

Present: His Excellency the Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Surveyor General.

Subject of Discussion—Best means of devoting money to the improvement of Roads.

Decided.

West Saanich Road		
Between Victoria and Thompsons	\$1750	£350
Thompsons and Coles	1200	250
East Saanich Road		
Between Shephers Hut via		
Elk Lake to	2800	560
	250	50
Total £1300	\$6000	1210
	& contingencies	

Attorney General to prepare a Bill to authorize Executive to apply any surplus Funds over the sum of £2000 to any unfinished works contemplated by "Victoria Street Fund Act" such surplus being part of the tax payable under said Act. Colonial Secretary to instruct Surveyor General as to expenditures as above arranged. (Letter written 13th Augt. W.Y.) Surveyor General to report what line he recommends as the line of communication between Govt. & Johnson Street & the New Bridges. Communicate with Cmr. of Police to employ Chain Gang in working the road from Store Street to the New Bridge at Rock Bay. Treasurer and Surveyor General to ascertain by Assessment Rolls who may be the present owners of certain Lots of land upon which instalments due have not been paid.

Report of Commissioners replied to 13 Augt.

¹ Vancouver Island, Executive Council, GR303, PABC, from an original minute book found among the W. A. G. Young Papers, Victoria City Archives. These minutes represent the first meetings of an informal executive council, which Governor Douglas was empowered to constitute formally by his Supplementary Commission and Instructions dated 8 October 1862 (see Appendix D).

Monday, the 19th day of August, 1861

Present: His Excellency the Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Surveyor General, The Treasurer, (Subsequently) Attorney General.

Upon requisition from Governor—Mr. Pemberton detailed what had transpired during the week with respect to roads in the Saanich District.

Attorney General came in. Reported having prepared necessary Act for application of surplus under Street Fund.

Colonial Surveyor to write to Road Cmr. as to point of commencement of East Saanich Road.

Mr. Pemberton to employ himself during the week in starting the works on the West Saanich road.

Dr. Tolmie called in. Discussion upon employment of statute labor upon old line of road. Dr. Tolmie withdrew having promised a full report on Saturday from Commissioners.

Question of acceptance of New Bridges discussed. Proposition made by Mr. Rhodes to pay \$150 as a set off for what is still required discussed. Attorney General to undertake the negotiation of the matter and to report.

Tuesday, the 10th day of September, 1861

Present: His Excellency the Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Surveyor General.

Discussion upon the subject of Roads, and the appropriations of the Legislature.

£500 to be devoted to opening Cowitchan Road.

£2000 Saanich Road.

Instructions to Commissioners respecting Dredge.

Thursday, the 6th day of February, 1862

Present: His Excellency the Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer, The Attorney General, The Surveyor General.

One per Cent tax Act discussed. Mr. Cochrane to be re-appointed & Mr Trounce. 2 per Cent remuneration. Payment made by H.B. Co. in acct. of Trades Licence Act. Answer to be returned Govt. not justified.

Post Office Lots &c. Attorney General to arrange.

Bridge case brought up. Surveyor General to complete road.

General discussion as to Roads. Surveyor General to report upon Esquimalt & Metchosin Road.

Monday, the 3rd day of March, 1862

Present: His Excellency The Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer,
The Attorney General, The Surveyor General.

Estimates for 1862 introduced, thoroughly discussed and decided upon—also
discussion as to improvement of Victoria Harbor.

Mr. Pemberton to²

Monday, the 17th day of March, 1862

Present: His Excellency The Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer,
The Attorney General, The Surveyor General.

Construction of Saanich Road discussed. Discussion general upon roads and
improvements to Roads. Tenders for Steam Dredge opened & considered.

Decision thereupon postponed.

Adjourned.

Tuesday, the 20th day of May, 1862

Present: His Excellency the Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer, The
Attorney General.

Present constitution of Police Force discussed. Finally decided to re-arrange the
Force on the following basis.

1 Superintendent of Police	including rations	£200	per annum
2 Sergeants	— do —	£180	,,
10 Constables	— do —	£145	,,
1 Gaoler	— do —	£180	,,
1 Under Gaoler	— do —	£150	,,
1 Cook	— do —	£100	,,

Colonial Secty. to call upon Actg. Supt. of Gaol to report characters and
antecedents of present incumbents of offices in the police Dept.

Colonial Secty. to call upon Actg. Supt. of Gaol to report concerning escape
of prisoner Gordon.

² Minutes for this day left incomplete.

Tuesday, the 27th day of May, 1862

Present: His Excellency the Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Attorney General, The Treasurer.

Governor explained necessity of establishing a Fire Limit and the expediency of legislating against the erection of two storied wooden Buildings.

Estimate for Magazine to be submitted to House £700. Attorney General to bring a Bill establishing Fire Limit &c. and to repeal Powder Magazine Act so as to permit government to erect a powder Magazine. Before doing so however Attorney General to see some of the Trading Merchants.

Governor inquired as to action of Attorney General in respect of the claims of H.B. Co.

Tuesday, the 29th day of July, 1862

Present: His Excellency The Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer, The Attorney General, The Surveyor General.

Cowitchen Land Claims discussed. Amount of Land upon which 1 of the instalments have been paid 8000 Acres. Settled that each purchaser in consideration of certain promises respecting Indian Title which they allege were made at time of purchase may be allowed to select a portion of land at £ 1 per Acre equivalent to the amount they have paid in Cash.

Attorney General to ascertain whether it be practicable to obtain a body of Settlers to proceed to Cowichen. In such case Surveyor-General to arrange position of land which Settlers can take up under pre-emption Act. An application will be made to Admiral in command to send a Gun Boat to Cowichen to protect Settlers.

Wednesday, the 19th day of November, 1862

Present: His Excellency The Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer, The Attorney General, The Surveyor General.

Tenders for Comox Road considered. Watsons offer the lowest but in consequence of previous failures not considered. Inquiries to be made by Surveyor General & Attorney General respecting the offer of Robert Watson and also Munro's offer.

Question of period at which House of Assembly shall be dissolved discussed. Decided to prorogue the House on second week in December.

Wednesday, the 17th day of December, 1862

Present: His Excellency The Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer,
The Attorney General, The Surveyor General.

Discussion of Estimates for 1863 taken up.

Thursday, the 5th day of March, 1863

Present: His Excellency the Governor, The Colonial Secretary, The Attorney
General, The Treasurer, The Surveyor General.

Question of encroachments in public Lands by purchasers from H.B. Co. discussed.
Attorney General to give written opinion.

Steam Dredge question discussed. Decided to obtain machinery from England
through the Agents' General. To be inspected by some competent person in
England. Mr. Ward Asst. Inspector of Machinery at Portsmouth Dock Yard
settled upon.

Mr. Ward to select and engage a competent Engineer.

Call for Tenders for conveyance of Mails between Victoria & Comox calling at
Cowichen, Saltspring Island, and Nanaimo once a fortnight by a Steam
Vessel.

Tuesday, the 10th day of March, 1863

Present: His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Young, Mr. Cary, Mr. Watson, Mr.
Pemberton.

Mr. Pemberton stated that he had a suggestion to make respecting the procural of
the Dredging Machine, and he proposed that he should be sent home to order
the Machinery and to superintend its construction, that he would pay his own
expenses, and would not be absent more than 6 months. He further stated
that he believed the arrangements made for work on roads during the Season
would admit of this absence from the Colony without inconvenience to the
public Service.

Settled Mr. Pemberton to go. Settled that arrangements are to be made
for employment of Mr. Sparrow.

Completion of Govt. Building discussed. Settled sum voted by House to be
offered to Signers of a Memorial addressed to the Governor asking for con-
sideration in respect of their claims upon the original defaulting Contractor.

Mr. Cary made some observations respecting arrangements to be made for the
creation of the office of Administrator General.
