

March 11, 1941.

City Hall,

March 11, 1941.

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 12:00 M. Present: Chairman Presel and Messrs. Mariani and Testa. City Auditor Flynn and City Treasurer Fitzpatrick are also present.

Dr. Michael J. Nestor is invited and appears before the committee in accordance with this request of February 17, 1941. Dr. Nestor explains that in response to the committee's invitation and order to expedite the meeting, he submits the following communication which is read by the Clerk:

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF HEALTH
City Hall, Providence, R. I.

Michael J. Nestor, M. D., Superintendent of Health

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The Joint Standing Committee on Finance
Providence, Rhode Island

Gentlemen:

In response to your kind invitation and to expedite this session, I have had the following memorandum prepared for your information:

1. Tuberculosis Division. A year ago when the Tuberculosis League, after repeated warnings, began to carry out their program of relinquishing parts of their Tuberculosis Program, I appeared before the Finance Committee and requested funds for this particular work. The Tuberculosis League had been operating on a budget of around \$35,000 a year and a year ago relinquished its work in one-quarter of the city. This year they have given up another one-quarter section of the city, with the result that the entire western half of the city is now dependent upon the city for supervision and care as regards Tuberculosis.

Last year the sum of \$3,260 was appropriated for carrying out the work of the Tuberculosis Division for the nine months remaining in the fiscal year. This amount was below the funds requested and only allowed for one clerk and one nurse. While it is true that only \$2,055.20 was spent and \$1,200 was transferred to the Health Department, it must be remembered that this \$1,200 transfer was necessitated by the fact that the general Health Department appropriation for the last fiscal year was insufficient.

For the present fiscal year the sum of \$9,140 was requested. This would give twelve months supervision of one-quarter of the city and nine months supervision to the other one-quarter of the city that was to be given up by the Providence Tuberculosis League on the first of January, 1941. I am sure you will agree that that sum was minimum when it is remembered that the Tuberculosis League was spending \$35,000 a year for the care of the entire city. However, the Council saw fit to allow us only \$3,485. The request for a Director, at a salary of \$5,000 a year was disallowed entirely, as were other items as shown on the accompanying exhibit.

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The necessity for a Director for this work is obvious to all who understand Tuberculosis control. This man will be a coordinator, as well as a Tuberculosis expert. Among his other duties, will be that of making use of all available facilities to their fullest extent. This will be a full time job and no man capable or qualified for this position will do it for less than the amount I have requested. Unless a Director for this work is obtained fairly soon, there is great danger that the entire Tuberculosis Program may suffer, since certain practices may crop up, during a makeshift program, which may become fixed and prejudice the entire program. For the fiscal year 1941-42, I have estimated that the Tuberculosis Division will need \$12,000 to carry out an efficient program, since at that time at least three-quarters of the city will be reliant upon this department for supervision in regards to Tuberculosis.

I would like now to speak of the rest of the Health Department appropriation and call the attention of your Committee to the practice being forced on this department by the Committee's action in the past, necessitating us to "Rob Peter to pay Paul". The \$1,200 transfer of last year from Tuberculosis to the general Health Department is just one example.

I have in the past and expect to in the future, constantly and carefully scrutinized the department's estimates as prepared for the various divisions of the Health Department, to see that all proposed expenditures shall be kept within reason and as low as possible, and yet my requests have constantly been paired. For example: In the budget for the present year was included an item of \$800.00 for new equipment. This was to take care of the expenses involved in the trading of two automobiles, a 1936 model and the other a 1937 model. This item was disallowed. I have been informed this morning that the Chevrolet, bought in 1936, has broken down. I would like to ask this Committee whether they feel that this department will be able to keep within its budget by utilizing funds that are not available for repairing the car or by utilizing the same funds to purchase a new car. I do not mean to sound sarcastic, but I hope you understand the condition that we find ourselves in. It seems, in passing I might state, it has always been the practice of this department to do the best it can with what it has, but every once in a while we have been forced to call attention to the very little that we do have to work with.

I would also like to speak of the City Registrar's Office. Five years ago the city entered into a contract with the Oxford Press to print the indices of Births, Marriages and Deaths, and I was promised that funds would be made available to take care of this contract, this contract being entered into by the Finance Committee and not by the City Registrar's Office. The funds were made available for the first two volumes by taking monies from the Health Department that were originally budgeted for paying the laboratory expenses at the Chapin Hospital and the funds for the last volume were taken out of this years appropriation for the City Registrar's Office, with the result that we now find ourselves in the position of having less than three hundred dollars in the City Registrar's entire budget to pay for the Annual Report, which this year is a quinquennial report and which will cost in the neighborhood of \$850.00 to print, as well as the general operating expenses for the rest of the fiscal year, which would ordinarily amount to approximately three hundred dollars at least.

In addition, this department has had its work tremendously increased, due to the recent Defense Program and I would like to refer you to the financial statements of the City Registrar's Office, showing the receipts. I would also like to call your attention to the fact that the request for \$3,000 made for this years appropriation for the printing of the indices of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the period of 1936-1940, has been

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disallowed and it will soon be necessary for your Committee to again enter into contract with the Oxford Press for printing these indices and for making funds available since the funds have not been made available in the present appropriation, otherwise, the same unsatisfactory condition will continue as has in the past, namely, that of using money appropriated for health work to pay for the contracted expenditures of other natures.

May I suggest to this Committee that insofar as the income for the first five months of the present fiscal year from copies of records has already gone over the total estimated income, that the sum of \$1,200 be transferred from those monies to the appropriation for the Registrar's Office, for this year, to take care of the charge made upon that appropriation from the 1931 to 1935 printing bill and that within the very near future the sum of \$3,000 be set aside from this increased revenue to pay for the printing of the new indices. May I also suggest that funds and authority be made available for the employment of an additional clerk in the City Registrar's Office, to take care of the increased work. The office is way behind at the present time and is constantly getting further and further behind in its work and unless the work can be kept up to date, we may find that we will soon be losing revenue, for people will get in the habit of going to the State Department for their copies, instead of here.

I know I have taken up much of your time and there are many other points that I would like to bring up, especially the matter of salaries in the Health Department Office in general where it has been necessary to constantly take from the salaries of the personnel to pay for various operating expenses. Very frequently we have had to have members of the staff take leaves of absence without pay so that the savings in salaries might be available for the general operation of the department. The salaries of the personnel in the Health Department compares very unsatisfactorily with salaries in other departments and with the salaries of the Health Departments in other cities. I am sure that I do not have to go into detail on this matter.

I would also like to call the attention of your Committee to the fact that the sick poor costs are constantly rising and that my request for additional funds for this year's work had been disallowed. In the month of January alone \$1,783.33 was spent for sick poor physicians and \$863.65 was spent for medicines for the sick poor, a total of \$2,648.98. The total sick poor allotment for the entire year was approximately \$11,500. Already for the first five months of the fiscal year more than \$7,800 has been spent for this work. We had asked for \$16,000.

To sum up, the following requests are imperative and need immediate action.

1. Funds available for a Tuberculosis Director.
2. Funds made available for the continued operation of the City Registrar's Office, including funds for additional clerical personnel.
3. Funds available for the replacement of two automobiles, a 1936 and 1937 Chevrolet, in the Health Department. These must be new funds and not transfers from one department to another.
4. Some arrangement will soon have to be made whereby the cost of the sick poor work will not be charged solely and only to the Health Department, but that the funds be made available from the other funds for the care of the indigent.

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May I call attention to the Committee that additional funds will be made available from the increased revenue in the Registrar's Office and that with the cooperation of the State, Federal funds might be made available temporarily for health work, but it will require additional funds from the city to get Federal funds.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Michael J. Nestor, M.D.

MICHAEL J. NESTOR, M.D.
Superintendent of Health

* * *

A discussion ensues, and Dr. Nestor submits the following tabulation relative to the amount of money requested by him for carrying out the work of the Tuberculosis Division, showing the amounts requested and granted for 1940-1941.

T. B. DIVISION

1940 - 1941

	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>GRANTED</u>
Director	5000.	0000
Nurse	1800.	1800.
Clerical Assistance	1200.	1000.
Office Supplies	75.	50.
Printing, binding	150.	150.
Telephone, Telegraph	60.	60.
Postage	75.	25.
Travel	280.	00
X-rays	400.	400.
Light, Power (rent)	<u>100.</u>	<u>00</u>
	9140.	3485.

TUBERCULOSIS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

9 MONTHS 1939-1940

Salaries	
Nurse	\$1,020.97
Clerk	522.00
Office Expenditures	512.23
	<u>\$2,055.20</u>
Appropriation	\$3,260.00
Transfer to H.D.	1,260.00
	<u>2,060.00</u>
Expenditures	<u>2,055.20</u>
Balance	\$ 4.80

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<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		(Files & Equipment) -	
Printing	\$ 51.00	E. L. Freeman	\$173.60
Files & Equipment	376.83	Royal Typewriter	93.56
Travel	61.65	Remington Rand	104.17
Postage	5.00	T. W. Rounds	5.50
Telephone Item #4	17.75		
	<u>\$512.23</u>		<u>\$376.83</u>

* * *

A further discussion ensues and Dr. Nestor submits the following tabulation relative to the Office of the City Registrar:

CITY REGISTRAR

Item 2 10/1/40 to 3/31/41

	Requested	Allotted	Spent	On Order
Office	150.	100.	42.82	42.50
Printing	1050.	1050.	6.	53.73
Postage	650.	500.	405.04	
Tel & Tel	3.			
Repairs	10.	15.		
Special	2950.	2950.	2867.50	
Clerical Service			111.75	

1126.67 was charged to this appropriation

This is a charge contracted for in 1936, but no appropriation was made for it.

The annual report for 1940 must be printed by April 1941 and we are informed that there is no monies for it. The above charge is responsible for this condition.

Item 2 4/1/41 to 9/30/41

	Requested	Allotted
Office	100.	100.
Printing	100.	100.
Postage	100.	100.
Repairs	15.	--
Telephone	2.	--
Special	3,000. *	--

* This item is for the printing of the indices of the Births, Marriages and Deaths. A quinquennial expense. Neglect of similar request in 1936 has resulted in this year's special deficit. This is an item required by law. This office must maintain its records.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS 1940-41

Marriages	\$3,500.
Copies	4,000.

ACTUAL RECEIPTS

Marriages	5 months	1,443.
Copies	5 months	4,246.50

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RECEIPTS 1939-1940

Marriages	5 months	\$1,229.
	Full Year	4,377.
Copies	5 months	1,435.
	Full Year	6,211.55

Chairman Presel is advised by Dr. Nestor that the City has never made a request of the State or Federal Government to aid the City in carrying on Tuberculosis work. Mr. Presel states that he believes the City should look into the matter of obtaining State or Federal Aid in carrying on the work of the Tuberculosis Division.

Dr. Nestor outlines for the committee the problem confronting the Health Department since taking over this Tuberculosis work which is being relinquished by the Tuberculosis League. The Doctor explains that much more work will be required on the part of his department when the City takes over all of this additional service; that the work consists mostly of Field Work, following certain cases requiring examinations and also carrying out certain preventitive work that involves the following up of possibly 5,000 or 6,000 calls throughout the year. Mr. Presel states that he will study ways and means of obtaining City, Federal and State aid in carrying out this work; that he is of the opinion that it is false economy not to make money available for this purpose. Dr. Nestor states that if he could not get the full amount of money required for this Tuberculosis work, he certainly would like to get the money appropriated to pay the salary of a Director in order that the Tuberculosis Division may be set up properly. A discussion ensues and no action is taken upon the request of Dr. Nestor at the present time. Dr. Nestor is excused at this time.

RE COMMUNICATION OF HENRY J. BISHOP, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION. Messrs. Castronovo, Quirk and Henry J. Bishop, Superintendent of the Department of Recreation are invited and appear before the committee. The Clerk reads the following communication:

March 11, 1941.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
City Hall, Providence, R. I.

February 25th, 1941

Mr. Howard Presel, Chairman,
Finance Committee,
City Hall,
Providence, R. I.

Gentlemen:-

At a meeting of the Park Commissioners held at the Office of the Department of Recreation, February 14, 1941, it was

VOTED: "That the salaries of the employees of the Department be amended as follows:-

Laborers be put on the same wage scale as laborers in other City Departments, namely, Twenty-six (\$26.00) Dollars per week.

Mechanic from Thirty (\$30.00) Dollars per week to Thirty-five (\$35.00) Dollars per week.

Director of Industrial Work from Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars per week to Twenty-seven Dollars and Fifty Cents per week (\$27.50).

Chief Clerk from Class "I" to Class "H".

The above is hereby transmitted to you for your approval.

Respectfully submitted,

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION,

HJB/T

/s/ Henry J. Bishop
Superintendent

Mr. Castronovo explains that there are three laborers in the Recreation Department that are only getting \$18.00 a week, and that he is of the opinion that the salary of these laborers should be the same as other City Laborers, namely \$26.00. A discussion ensues, and Mr. Presel advises Messrs. Castronovo, Quirk and Bishop that the City has insufficient funds at the present time to make this salary adjustment. Messrs. Castronovo, Quirk and Bishop are excused at this time.

Councilman Munroe joins the Committee at this time.

RE COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO INCREASE IN SALARY OF DEPUTY RECORDER OF DEEDS. Edward M. Flanagan, Recorder of Deeds is invited and appears before the committee.

The Chairman reads the following communication:

March 11, 1941.

OFFICE OF THE
RECORDER OF DEEDS
CITY HALL, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

February 24, 1941.

Howard Presel, Chairman,
Finance Committee,
City Hall,
Providence, R. I.

Dear Mr. Presel:

In order to rectify a long-stand inequity, and in view of the responsibilities the office entails, a request is hereby made that a change be effected in the salary of Deputy Recorder of Deeds from \$40.00 weekly to \$2,800.00 yearly.

This change in salary classifications would bring this salary in line with that of the Second Deputies in most of the other departments of the City Government.

It is to be noted that such change in salary classifications would not involve any additional appropriations of monies at this time, since it is proposed that a portion of the departmental appropriation for temporary clerical assistance, in which there is a current unexpended balance of \$624.75, be used for this purpose.

Trusting that your Honorable Body will see fit to act favorable in this matter, I am

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Edward M. Flanagan

Edward M. Flanagan
Recorder of Deeds

Mr. Flanagan requests the Committee to give favorable consideration to his request to increase the salary of the Deputy Recorder of Deeds, who at the present time is paid \$40.00 per week. Mr. Flanagan explains that the new Charter imposes the same powers and duties as heretofore required, and that in the absence of the Head of a Department in City Government, the First Deputy takes over the duties of a Department Head and that in his judgment the Deputy Recorder of Deeds is underpaid. Mr. Flanagan states that in his appropriation there is an allowance for a temporary clerk and that if his request for an increase in salary for the Deputy is granted the temporary clerk could be dispensed with. Mr. Flanagan is excused at this time. No action is taken on this matter.

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COMMUNICATION OF CITY TREASURER FITZPATRICK RE SALARY OF
CHARLES W. PINE AND JOHN A. MORAN.

City Treasurer Fitzpatrick submits the following communication:

CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
Treasury Department

March 11, 1941.

Finance Committee,
City Hall,
Providence, R. I.

Gentlemen:

Will you please authorize me to pay two temporary clerks now employed in this department, namely, Charles W. Pine and John A. Moran, at the rate of \$25.00 per week instead of at their present rate of \$3.00 per day? Both of these clerks work on the counter and their services have proved very satisfactory. If this request is granted, I can arrange my appropriation so that no additional funds will be necessary.

Trusting I may have your approval of these changes, I am

Very truly yours,

/s/ Walter F. Fitzpatrick
City Treasurer

F/F

On motion of Mr. Munroe, seconded by Mr. Testa it is voted to authorize City Treasurer Fitzpatrick to pay two temporary clerks now employed in his department, namely Charles W. Pine and John A. Moran at the rate of \$25.00 per week instead of at the present rate of \$3.00 per day.

RE PENDING SUIT SETTLEMENT OF \$7,000.00 - JAMES BUCHANAN VS. CITY OF PROVIDENCE. Chairman Presel states that the Pending Suits Committee last year voted a settlement in the case of James Buchanan vs. City of Providence in the sum of \$7,000.00 and that the plaintiff, through his attorneys (Cunningham, Semonoff & Kelley and Raymond E. Jordan) has executed and delivered a release and a settlement stipulation to the City of Providence but has not yet received his money for the reason that there is no money available in the Contingency Account.

On motion of Mr. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Munroe, it is voted to present a resolution to the City Council appropriating the sum of \$7,000.00; said appropriation to be charged to funds

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not otherwise appropriated to take care of the settlement of the suit of James Buchanan.

RE COMMUNICATION OF SEALDROK PAVING CO.

SEALDROK PAVING CO.
95 FOUNTAIN STREET - - PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

March 10, 1941

Hon. Howard Presel
Chairman Finance Committee
City of Providence
City Hall
Providence, R. I.

My dear Councilman Presel:

We find ourselves in the embarrassing position of being owed Four Thousand, Four Hundred, Forty-Five dollars and eighty-eight cents (\$4,445.88) by the City of Providence for asphaltic paving mixture.

This material was delivered to various streets in the City of Providence during the construction season of 1940. The deliveries were in good order, covered by both order and requisition numbers, and properly invoiced. Apparently the money for this material was ear-marked from the Special Highway Loan account, but from information at hand, this has been overdrawn, leaving us in this dilemma.

Our company is in serious need of this money at this particular season to meet our obligations.

If your committee would consider this matter as quickly as possible, we would appreciate it greatly.

Assuring you of every cooperation and thanking you for such consideration and solution as you deem proper, we remain,

Sincerely,

Sealdrok Paving Company
by
/s/ James H. Lynch, Jr.

James H. Lynch, Jr.

No action is taken on this matter and it is continued on the table.

Adjournment is taken at 2:07 o'clock P.M.

H. Carl Doad
Clerk.

Chairman

Copied ncm.

Compared _____