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Journal of the Proceedings of the "Board of Internal Improvements" in the State of Missouri

Missouri Board of Internal Improvements

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JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
"BOARD OF INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS,"
IN THE
STATE OF MISSOURI,

Begun and held at the City of St. Louis, on the 6th of May, 1839.

At the first meeting of the "Board of Internal Improvements," in the State of Missouri, convened according to law, by appointment of the Governor, at the City of Saint Louis, on Monday, the sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, the following Directors, duly appointed and commissioned, appeared, and took their seats, to-wit:

George C. Sibley, of St. Charles county.

Hugh Meredith, of Monroe county.

Benj. F. Robinson, of Cole county.

Absent—Cornelius Davy, of Jackson county, and Robert White, of Scott county.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, Geo. C. Sibley was appointed temporary Chairman, and Mr. J. O. Gamble, temporary Secretary.

Mr. Meredith then moved an adjournment till 10 o'clock, to-morrow morning, to wait the arrival of Messrs. Davy and White, which was agreed to, and the meeting was adjourned accordingly.

Tuesday, May 7th.

The meeting as adjourned yesterday, took place this morning at 10 o'clock.

Present—The same Directors as on yesterday. Messrs. Davy and White not yet appearing to take their seats, it was moved by Mr. Meredith, as an act of courtesy to those gentlemen, to adjourn till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, and then proceed to organise the Board,

according to law, which motion was agreed to, and the adjournment took place accordingly.

—
Wednesday morning, May 8th.

Messrs. Sibley, Meredith and Robinson, the Directors present on yesterday and the day before, met again this morning pursuant to adjournment. Messrs. Davy, of Jackson and White, of Scott, still absent.

The three Directors present, being "a quorum for the transaction of business," determined unanimously, to proceed to the organization of the Board, and to the transaction of business without any further delay; nothing having been heard from the two absent Directors.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, and the concurrence of Mr. Robinson, Geo. C. Sibley, the Director from St. Charles county, was duly appointed President of the Board for two years, and immediately took his seat as President.

Messrs. Sibley, Meredith and Robinson, then filed their official oaths respectively, (taken before the Mayor of St. Louis,) as required by law, which were ordered to be recorded, and then transmitted to the Secretary of State.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, the Board proceeded to determine by lot, as by law required, the time which each Director now appointed, shall hold his office; and it was in due form determined, that Hugh Meredith, Robert White and Cornelius Davy, shall each hold his office for the term of two years—and that Benjamin F. Robinson and George C. Sibley shall each hold his office four years.

The President laid before the Board communications in writing from the Governor, containing his nominations of William H. C. Bartlett, and William H. Morell, one of whom, at the option of the Board, to be chief Engineer of the State of Missouri—the Board *on motion of Mr. Meredith*, proceeded immediately to consider the said nominations. Of Mr. Bartlett's wishes in relation to this appointment, the Board were entirely uninformed.

Mr. Morell signified in person, his willingness to accept, and presented such testimonials of his qualifications for the office of chief Engineer, as were entirely satisfactory to the Board, whereupon, *on motion of Mr. Robinson*, the Board unanimously consented to the appointment of William H. Morell, to be chief Engineer of the State of Missouri; and directed that the President inform the Governor of said confirmation.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, the Board unanimously agreed to fix the salary of the chief Engineer at *two thousand dollars* per annum, payable quarterly, *from this day*, and recommend the same to the Governor for his approval.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Thursday, May 9th.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—Messrs. Sibley, President, Meredith and Robinson.

Mr. Cornelius Davy, of Jackson county, a Director duly appointed and commissioned, appeared, filed his official oath, and took his seat as a member of the Board. Mr. White, of Scott, still absent and unheard from.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, John H. McMillan, of St. Louis, was appointed Secretary of the Board of Directors, who, after being duly qualified, entered immediately upon the duties of said office.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, is ordered by the Board, that the Secretary of this Board shall receive as compensation for his services during the sessions of the Board, *five dollars* per day when in attendance, and also an allowance of *one hundred dollars* per annum for office rent and extra services.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered, that the Secretary procure such books and stationery as are requisite for recording the proceedings of the Board in a permanent manner, for keeping the accounts and other records by law required, and such as may be necessary under the direction of the Board and President, to the transaction of the business of the Board from time to time.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, it is ordered by the Board, that the chief Engineer shall have authority, in conjunction with the Commissioners of the Board respectively, to employ in his Department, two assistant Engineers—two Surveyors—two Rodmen—two Flagmen—four Chainmen—four Axemen, two Cooks, and such other aids as may be necessary, having a due regard to economy, to promote the service; and he shall be authorised to allow the following *maximum* rates of compensation for faithful services, to-wit:

To the assistant Engineers—*twelve hundred and fifty dollars* per annum.

To the Surveyors—*sixty dollars* per month.

To the Rodmen—*forty-five dollars* per month.

To the Flagmen—*thirty dollars* per month.

To the Chainmen—Axemen, Cooks and other common hands, *twenty dollars* per month.

And the said chief Engineer shall also be authorised, in conjunction as aforesaid, to procure all the instruments, implements, tents, camp furniture, transportation, &c., that may from time to time be necessary to advance the service.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

Friday, May 10th.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—Messrs. Sibley, President, Meredith, Davy and Robinson. Mr. White still absent.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered by the Board, that the sum of *one thousand dollars* be placed in the hands of Wm. H. Morell, the chief Engineer, for the purchase of such instruments, implements, stationery, tents, &c., necessary to fit out and organise for active service, two field parties for making surveys and reconnoissances, under the superintendence of such Commissioner or Commissioners as this Board may direct.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, it is ordered by the Board, that Cornelius Davy be appointed Commissioner of this Board, to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of the North Grand River. That B. F. Robinson be appointed Commissioner to superintend the survey of the Osage River. That Hugh Meredith be appointed Commissioner to superintend the survey of the Salt River. That Geo. C. Sibley and Robert White be appointed Commissioners of the Board to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of the Merrimec River, and a route for a Rail Road from the City of St. Louis to the Iron Mountain.

That the said Sibley and White may make such division of the labor hereby assigned to them, as they may agree upon. And that each Commissioner be authorised to call in the advice and assistance of one or more of his colleagues, when he may deem it necessary and expedient.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered by the Board, that each Commissioner appointed by the foregoing order, is hereby authorised to contract for, and purchase all such materials, provisions, labor, &c.,

as may be necessary to the completion of the surveys and reconnoissances respectively assigned to him.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, it is ordered by the Board, that the chief Engineer shall be instructed to proceed without delay to organise the two field parties, already ordered by the Board; one of which, he shall place on active service immediately, on the Salt River survey and reconnoissance—and the other to be immediately placed on service, in making the survey, &c., of a route for a Rail Road from St. Louis to the Iron Mountain.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered by the Board, that out of the Internal Improvement fund, the sum of *one thousand and five hundred dollars* be entrusted to Hugh Meredith, the Commissioner appointed by this Board to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of Salt River. That the sum of *three thousand and five hundred dollars*, be entrusted to Benjamin F. Robinson, the Commissioner appointed to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of the Osage River.

That the sum of *two thousand five hundred dollars* be entrusted to Cornelius Davy, the Commissioner appointed by this Board to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of the North Grand River.

That the sum of *three thousand dollars* be entrusted to Robert White, the Commissioner appointed by the Board to superintend the survey, &c., of the Merrimec River.

And that the sum of *five thousand dollars* be entrusted to George C. Sibley, the Commissioner appointed by this Board to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of a route for a Rail Road from the City of St. Louis to the Iron Mountain. Provided that the contingent expenses of the Board, (including the compensation of the Secretary of the Board, and the books and stationery necessary for his office,) shall be paid out of the funds entrusted to the said G. C. Sibley.

The Board then adjourned until 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Saturday, 11th May.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present—All the Directors, except Mr. White.

On motion of Mr. Davy, it is ordered by the Board, that in order to obtain from the Treasury the Internal Improvement fund, there must be an order of this Board authorising the President thereof, to

make requisition from time to time, as may be specially ordered by the Board, on the Auditor of Public Accounts, in the form following.

“To the Auditor of Public Accounts for the State of Missouri.

SIR: *You are hereby authorised and required to issue your warrant on the Treasurer of the State of Missouri, in favor of _____ for the sum of _____ to be paid out of money in the Treasury, appropriated by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, entitled “an act supplementary to an act, entitled an act to establish a General System of Internal Improvements in the State of Missouri,” approved February 13th, 1839. The said payment to be made in conformity to Law. By order of the Board of Internal Improvements.”*

And on motion of Mr. Davy, it is further ordered by the Board, in reference to the foregoing order, that the President issue his requisitions on the Auditor of Public Accounts in favor of each of the acting Commissioners of the Board, and in favor of the chief Engineer, for the several sums of money assigned and entrusted to them respectively, for the purposes specified, by the two orders of the Board adopted on yesterday, on motions of Mr. Robinson.

And also, that the President issue his requisitions on the Auditor of Public Accounts, quarterly, in favor of Wm. H. Morell, the chief Engineer, for the amount of his quarter's salary, as the same falls due.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, it is ordered by the Board, that the office of the chief Engineer shall be permanently located at the City of Jefferson.

On motion of Mr. Meredith, it is ordered by the Board, that every Director of the Board be authorised and required to devote such attention to each respective survey and reconnoissance ordered, as will satisfy him of the proper progress thereof.

On motion of Mr. Davy, the Board appointed Mr. B. F. Robinson to prepare By-Laws for the government of the Board, and those under its control.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

Monday morning, May 13th.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—G. C. Sibley, President, C. Davy, H. Meredith and B. F. Robinson. Absent, R. White.

Mr. B. F. Robinson, who was appointed on Saturday to prepare By-Laws, &c., made his report to the Board; which, after discussion and some amendments, was adopted as follows.

1st. Until otherwise provided, the Board shall hold its two stated meetings in each year, as by law required, in the City of St. Louis, on the first Mondays of May and September.

2d. At all the meetings of the Board, the President shall take the chair at the time previously appointed, and on the motion of any member, the names of absentees shall be noted on the minutes.

3d. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board. He shall keep correct minutes of all its proceedings, and record the same, together with the names of the members present, and their places of residence, in a book to be called a journal.

4th. All motions and propositions offered to the Board, shall be submitted in writing by the mover, and the vote of each member, upon any question, shall be *viva voce*, and entered on the minutes, if desired by any member of the Board.

5th. On motion of any member, the Board may at any time resolve itself into an interlocutory committee; and when any measure shall have been thus prepared, the President shall call to order, and the Board proceed thereon, in regular parliamentary method.

6th. It shall be the duty of the Secretary, to record in a well bound book to be kept for that purpose, all the bonds and official oaths by law required to be so recorded. And after such bonds and oaths shall be recorded as aforesaid, the Secretary shall transmit the originals without delay, to the Secretary of State.

7th. The Secretary of the Board shall keep his office in the City of St. Louis, until otherwise directed. The journal of the proceedings of the Board, and all other books, &c., pertaining to said office, shall at all times be open to the inspection of the President and Directors; the Governor, members of the General Assembly, and such other persons as *they* may designate—and to no others.

8th. The President shall examine and correct the minutes of the proceedings of the Board, and see that they be correctly and fully recorded in the journal in proper order and form, and he shall, from time to time, sign the same on the journal.

9th. In case a vacancy should occur in the office of Secretary of the Board, by death, resignation, removal from the county in which the

meetings of the Board are held, or otherwise, the President shall appoint some suitable person to act as Secretary until the next meeting of the Board; who shall take charge of the office, books, papers, and all other appendages thereof, and receive for his services the same rates of compensation allowed the Secretary appointed by the Board.

10th. The President shall, without delay, certify officially to the ~~Board~~ ^{Governor} all such orders and resolutions of the Board, as require his concurrent action therein. And the President shall generally do and perform all such duties as may be requisite to carry into effect the orders and resolutions of the Board.

11th. In order that the Board of Directors may be enabled promptly and fully to make their annual settlements with the Auditor, as the law directs; it shall be required rigidly, of all persons who may at any time be entrusted with any of the public money under the direction of the Board; to render their accounts to the Board at their regular meetings on the first Mondays in May and September every year; which accounts shall exhibit full and correct statements, based upon sufficient vouchers, (in duplicates,) specifying, minutely, every expenditure, its object, use, &c. All which accounts and vouchers shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

12th. The chief Engineer shall take and subscribe an oath faithfully and impartially to discharge his duties: And he shall administer a like oath to his assistants and other persons employed under his authority, and certify the same to the Board.

Mr. Meredith being indisposed, asked and obtained leave of absence to return home in a boat ready to leave.

The Board then adjourned till to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

Tuesday, May 14th.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present—G. C. Sibley, President, C. Davy and B. F. Robinson.

Absent—Mr. Meredith, on leave, and Mr. White not yet arrived.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered by the Board, that in case Robert White, (the Commissioner appointed by this Board to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of the Merrimec River,) shall not accept the appointment of Director of the Board of Internal Improvement, the person who may be appointed by the Governor in Mr. White's place, is hereby appointed and authorised to act as the Commissioner

of the Board on the said survey and reconnoissance. And the President is hereby authorised and directed to issue his requisition on the Auditor of Public Accounts in favor of the person so appointed as aforesaid, for the sum of money, (*three thousand dollars,*) heretofore appointed by the Board for the survey and reconnoissance of said Merrimec river.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered by the Board, that in order the better to enable the chief Engineer to show the Geological and Mineralogical features of the River Osage, he is hereby authorised to call to his assistance some fit and proper person as Geologist, who shall receive a compensation not to exceed *five dollars* per day while in actual service: to be paid out of any money in the hands of the Commissioner appointed to superintend the survey and reconnoissance of said River.

At the request of Mr. Sibley, who could not concur with Messrs. Robinson and Davy in adopting the foregoing order, the following protestation was directed by the Board to be entered on the Journal of their proceedings, to-wit:

Believing that neither the appointment or employment of a Geologist was contemplated or authorised by the Legislature, and that no money has by law been appropriated therefor, and for other reasons; G. C. Sibley dissents from, and protests against, the adoption of the order aforesaid, and requests that this declaration be entered upon the Journal.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, it is ordered by the Board, that the sum of *fourteen dollars* be allowed and paid to Timothy Leahy, out of the contingent fund, for his services to the Board, during their present session.

On motion of Mr. Davy, it is ordered by the Board, that a copy of the *rough minutes* of the proceedings of the Board to the present time, be prepared, signed by the President and each Director now present, countersigned by the Secretary of the Board, and immediately transmitted to the Governor.

On motion of Mr. Davy, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, That the President communicate to the Mayor and citizens of St. Louis, the thanks of the Board, for their kind services and polite attentions during their present session.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, ordered, that the Board do now adjourn

to meet again in the City of St. Louis, on the first Monday in September next, and the Board was adjourned accordingly.

GEORGE C. SIBLEY, *President.*

The Governor, "by and with the consent of the Board of Internal Improvements," appointed and commissioned

WM. H. MORELL, to be chief Engineer of the State of Missouri.

The Board of Directors made the following appointments.

GEORGE C. SIBLEY, President of the Board.

JOHN H. McMILLAN, Secretary.

CORNELIUS DAVY, Commissioner on the North Grand River survey, &c.

HUGH MEREDITH, Commissioner on the Salt River survey, &c.

B. F. ROBINSON, Commissioner on the Osage River survey, &c.

ROBERT WHITE, Commissioner on the Merrimac River survey, &c.

G. C. SIBLEY, Commissioner on the Rail Road route from Saint Louis to the Iron Mountain.