M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages 12

(2) Date of repair 7-10-1980.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1627	Press Mis.
53-54.	53-54
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Municipal—Tolls.

No. 53. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1875, No. 2015 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Biraddipalli, 21st June 1875, No. 334 :—

With reference to Board's Official Memorandum, dated 22nd ultimo, No. 788, directing me to submit the proposals of the Local Fund Boards regarding the subject of the levy of tolls on through traffic by Municipal and Local Fund Boards, I have the honor to state that the Local Fund Board of the Chittoor Circle, after giving full and careful consideration to the subject, are unanimously of opinion that the construction of a loop-line as suggested by Government cannot be carried out in the Vellore Municipality, as that town is so inconveniently situated. This Municipality, which is the only important and extensive one in the district, is bounded on the south and east by a range of rocky hills, up to the foot of which the houses extend, and on the north and west by the Palar river, between which and the town there is a margin of low-lying wet cultivation. The marginal lands by the side of the Palar are so low that the river inundates them yearly. Their proximity to the town and the excellence of their means of irrigation make these fields very valuable, so that the construction of a loop-line through them would be enormously expensive on account of the heavy compensation that would have to be paid to the owners, and also because the road would have to be carried along a high embankment skirting the Palar river, which, in its annual heavy floods, would be a constant source of danger. Between the town and the hills I have just mentioned a road cannot possibly be constructed.

2. As regards the question of dividing the revenue derived from tolls, the Local Fund Board consider that they have not had occasion to complain of any backwardness on the part of the Vellore Municipality in contributing a fair share toward working expenses and general improvement of the district. Since the year 1869, the Municipality has borne the whole cost of the upkeep of the portion of the Great Northern Trunk Road leading from Vellore, and which passes the Railway Station. The District Engineer last year forwarded an estimate, amounting to Rupees 4,100, for the complete reconstruction of that portion of the road, and the Municipality has this year agreed to contribute three-fourths of the charge, and also Rupees 3,500, being half the cost of the erection of a bridge over the Nakkaluvanka Channel, which crosses the road; and the Municipality has also raised the maintenance allotment of the road to Rupees 1,210. The total outlay from Municipal Funds this year upon this road alone therefore amounts to nearly Rupees 8,000. Besides this, it has also to bear its share in the heavy cost of reconstructing the fallen Palar Bridge near Vellore, *viz.*, Rs. 11,615, at the rate apportioned to it—*vide* paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th May 1875, No. 1,363. In addition to the outlay it is at present making, the Municipality has now offered to undertake the further cost of the upkeep of the several Local Fund Roads and the remaining portions of the Trunk Road leading to Arnee and from Madras which run through municipal limits, and these will entail on the Municipality an extra outlay of upwards

of Rupees 860 per annum. These charges at present rates will make the annual municipal expenditure on Local Fund Roads Rupees 2,100. On the other hand, owing to various alterations in their items of revenues, the Local Fund Board are aware that the income of the Vellore Municipality has been very greatly reduced of late years, and that it has at present but slender funds at its disposal for general improvement and important works of heavy cost, including the scheme for the drainage of the town. This being so, the Local Fund Board are not disposed, for the present at least, to press their claims to a further share in the revenue derived from tolls, and recommend that the offer of the Vellore Municipality be accepted, and that the upkeep of the local roads, &c., be handed over to it for the future. This I beg to recommend for the approval of Government. The Vellore Municipality this year is, I am aware, seriously hampered by reduced income and heavy charges, and the consideration of divers desirable improvements has had to be deferred in consequence. If now the Municipality is compelled to hand over to the Local Fund Board half of its revenue from tolls (and which would represent a loss to it of Rupees 8,000 per annum) the execution of every improvement of any importance will have to be relegated to an extremely distant future.

3. So also as regards the Wallajahpet Municipality, I beg to state that it is a very small Municipality, its income being so limited that it is now barely able even to meet its own necessary charges. It is conducted entirely by Native members, and the Vice-President, who is also a Native, takes the greatest and most constant care in managing it so as to keep its expenditure within its narrow income. Its revenues under several items have also been cut down of late years. If it should, therefore, be directed to give up to the Local Fund Board any share of the tolls which are now its principal source of revenue, the Municipality will without doubt be reduced to a state of bankruptcy, and I, as President both of the Municipalities and Local Fund Boards, and as well acquainted with the various items of receipts and expenditure, cannot but strongly deprecate such a step.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The circumstances mentioned by the President show grounds for some consideration for the Vellore Municipality. The construction of a loop-line would evidently be unadvisable, as, independently of the great expense, most of the through bandies would probably enter the town to halt. The Board recommend that the Municipality be not called upon to contribute any portion of the tolls to Local Funds until the Palar bridge is restored, when the question might be again brought forward.

3. Nothing is urged in favor of Wallajahpet, except that the tolls are necessary to its finances. They amount to Rupees 5,000, or nearly half the whole income of the town. The Board consider that the Municipality should be required to contribute from 1876-77 one-third of the net proceeds to Local Funds.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 9th August 1875, No. 1627.

The Governor in Council agrees with the Board of Revenue, and directs that the Municipal Commissioners of Vellore be exempted from contributing any portion of the tolls levied in that Municipality to Local Funds until the Palar bridge is restored.

2. The Wallajahpet Municipality will, however, be required to contribute one-third of the net proceeds from tolls to Local Funds from 1876-77.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, President of the Municipalities
in the District of North Arcot.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c.,

Dated August, 9th

Issued

Recd. Recd.

G O., 9th August 1875, No. 1627.

AUGUST.
Nos. 53-54.

Municipal—Tolls.—The Vellore Municipality
exempted from payment of any portion of the toll
levied by it to the Local Fund Board till the
Palar bridge is restored, but one-third of the toll
levied by the Wallajahpet Municipality ordered to
be handed over to the Local Fund Board from
1876-77.

No. 2,015.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th July 1875.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Biraddipalli, 21st June 1875, No. 334 :—

WITH reference to Board's Official Memorandum, dated 22nd ultimo, No. 788, directing me to submit the proposals of the Local Fund Boards regarding the subject of the levy of tolls on through traffic by Municipal and Local Fund Boards, I have the honor to state that the Local Fund Board of the Chittoor Circle, after giving full and careful consideration to the subject, are unanimously of opinion that the construction of a loop-line as suggested by Government cannot be carried out in the Vellore Municipality, as that town is so inconveniently situated. This Municipality, which is the only important and extensive one in the district, is bounded on the south and east by a range of rocky hills up to the foot of which the houses extend, and on the north and west by the Palar river, between which and the town there is a margin of low-lying wet cultivation. The marginal lands by the side of the Palar are so [illegible] that time river inundates them yearly. Their proximity to the town and the excellence of their means of irrigation make these fields very valuable, so that the construction of a loop-line through them would be enormously expensive on account of the heavy compensation that would have to be paid to the owners, and also because the road would have to be carried along a high embankment skirting the Palar river, which, in its annual heavy floods, would be a constant source of danger. Between the town and the hills I have just mentioned a road cannot possibly be constructed.

2. As regards the question of dividing the revenue derived from tolls, the Local Fund Board consider that they have not had occasion to complain of any backwardness on the part of the Vellore Municipality in contributing a fair share toward working expenses and general improvement of the district. Since the year 1869, the Municipality has borne the whole cost of the upkeep of the portion of the Great Northern Trunk Road leading from Vellore, and which passes the Railway Station. The District Engineer last year forwarded an estimate, amounting to Rupees 4,100, for the complete reconstruction of that portion of the road, and the Municipality has this year agreed to contribute three-fourths of the charge, and also Rupees 3,500, being half the cost of the erection of a bridge over the Nakkaluvanka Channel, which crosses the road; and the Municipality has also raised the maintenance allotment of the road to Rupees 1,210. The total outlay from Municipal Funds this year upon this road alone therefore

amounts to nearly Rupees 8,000. Besides this, it has also to bear its share in the heavy cost of reconstructing the fallen Palar Bridge near Vellore, *viz.*, Rs. 11,615, at the rate apportioned to it—*vide* paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th May 1875, No. 1,363. In addition to the outlay it is at present making, the Municipality has now offered to undertake the further cost of the upkeep of the several Local Fund Roads, and the remaining portions of the Trunk Road leading to Arnee and from Madras which run through Municipal limits, and these will entail on the Municipality an extra outlay of upwards of Rupees 860 per annum. These charges at present rates will make the annual Municipal expenditure on Local Fund roads Rupees 2,100. On the other hand, owing to various alterations in their items of Revenues, the Local Fund Board are aware that the income of the Vellore Municipality has been very greatly reduced of late years, and that it has at present but slender funds at its disposal for general improvement and important works of heavy cost, including the scheme for the drainage of the town. This being so, the Local Fund Board are not disposed, for the present at least, to press their claims to a further share in the revenue derived from tolls, and recommend that the offer of the Vellore Municipality be accepted, and that the upkeep of the local roads, &c., be handed over to it for the future. This I beg to recommend for the approval of Government. The Vellore Municipality this year is, I am aware, seriously hampered by reduced income and heavy charges, and the consideration of divers desirable improvements has had to be deferred in consequence. If now the Municipality is compelled to hand over to the Local Fund Board half of its revenue from tolls (and which would represent a loss to it of Rupees 8,000 per annum) the execution of every improvement of any importance will have to be relegated to an extremely distant future.

3. So also as regards the Wallajahpet Municipality, I beg to state that it is a very small Municipality, its income being so limited that it is now barely able even to meet its own necessary charges. It is conducted entirely by native members, and the Vice-President, who is also a native, takes the greatest and most constant care in managing it so as to keep its expenditure within its narrow income. Its revenues under several items have also been cut down of late years. If it should, therefore, be directed to give up to the Local Fund Board any share of the tolls which are now its principal source of revenue, the Municipality will without doubt be reduced to a state of bankruptcy, and I as President both of the Municipalities and Local Fund Boards, and as well acquainted with the various items of receipts and expenditure, cannot but strongly deprecate such a step.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The circumstances mentioned by the President show grounds for some consideration for the Vellore Municipality. The construction of a loop-line would evidently be inadvisable, as, independently of the great expense, most of the through bandies would probably enter the town to halt. The Board recommend that the Municipality be not called upon to contribute any portion of the tolls to Local Funds until the Palar bridge is restored, when the question might be again brought forward.

3. Nothing is urged in favor of Wallajahpet except that the tolls are necessary to its finances. They amount to Rupees 5,000, or nearly half the whole income of the town. The Board consider that the Municipality should be required to contribute from 1876-77 one-third of the net proceeds to Local Funds.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H R Lewis

Acting Secretary.

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, [illegible]cial Department.

Copy to the President, Local Fund Boards, North Arcot District.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following ~~letter~~ Pros.

Board of Revenue, 9/
19th July 1875. No 2015.

Order thereon. Abstracted
9 Augt 1875 No 1627

The former in Council agrees with the Board of Revenue and directs that the Municipal Commissioners of Vellore be exempted from contributing any portion of the tolls levied in ~~that~~ Municipality to Local Funds, until the Palar bridge is restored.

2. The Wallajahpet Municipality

Financial Proceedings.
1875.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH JULY 1875, No 2,015.

Despatched 21 July 75.

Encl.

JULY.
No. 2,015.

Tolls—on through traffic in North Arcot District—Letter from President reporting on subject of levy of — by Municipal and Local Fund Boards in the district, submitted to Government with certain remarks.

Received 20 July 75.

S.O. No 1627

Municipality will,
however, be required
to contribute one-
third of the net
proceeds from tolls
to Local Funds, from
1876-77.

To
The Board of Revenue &
President of the
Municipalities in
the District of
North Arcot.

Dec. for 21/18

4 to

ordered to be handed over to the Local Fund Board from 1876-7.

4/6/77.

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

Financial

To

Dated 9 August 1875, No. 1627
Read.

Nos. 53-4

Municipal Tolls. The Vellore municipality exempted from payment of any portion of the tolls levied by it, to the Local Fund Board; till the Palar bridge is restored but one-third of the tolls levied by the Walla Japerty municipality ordered