

Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. *401 M*

DATED *11th March 1896*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Council.

Recording, with remarks, letter from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Madura, regarding the proposed appointment of a paid Chairman.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Urgent

N^o 10

From,

Municipal Office

Madura 1st February 96
Local & Municipal Dept.

CURRENT No. 427 M

R. Fischer Esquire
Chairman, Municipal Council,
Madura.

I

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to G.O no 93 m.
mis: dated 17th January 1896, I have
the honor to forward herewith copy of
resolution no: 27 dated 28th January 1896
of the Municipal Council regarding
the proposed appointment of a paid
Chairman.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

R. Fischer
Chairman

ad

ad

Extract from the Proceedings of
the Municipal Council, Madura passed
at the meeting held on the 28th January 1896.

Present:—

1. R. Fischer Esquire Chairman
2. Surgeon Major F. C. Reeves Councilor
3. R. H. Hunter Esquire do
4. N. Macmichael Esquire do
5. G. E. Baudry Esquire do
6. Mr. J. P. Selvaraj Nayadu Garu do
7. " V. G. Krishnaswami Iyer Avergul do
8. " T. Jamba Chettiar Avergul do
9. " G. Subbarayalu Nayadu Garu do
10. " M. Subba Nayadu Garu do
11. " O. Minisawmi Iyer Avergul do
12. " Saiyid Mahomed Ibrahim Sahib Chul do
13. " A. Sitarawmi Avergul do
14. " P. R. Venkatesalu Nayadu Garu do
15. " R. Mathurawmi Pillai Avergul do
16. " M. Hagarisawmi Nayadu Garu do
17. " Piraman Chettiar Avergul do
18. " M. Ananthakrishna Nayadu Garu do
19. " Saiyid Ghulam Ali Sahib Avergul do

27. Read G. O. no. 93 m. mis. dated
17th January 1896 requesting the Municipal
Council

Council, Madura to reconsider the question of appointing a paid Chairman and to report the amount of salary it would propose to give and the name of the person whom it would desire to appoint in the event of its agreeing to such an appointment.

Resolved that the former resolution of the 29th October 1895, no. 309, that no paid Chairman should be appointed be adhered to, and that Government be informed that in the opinion of the Council, the Municipality in its present embarrassed circumstances can ill-afford to bear the additional cost.

Resolved further that a copy of the memorandum giving the views of the Council on this subject in 1892 which led Government to pass G.O. dated 11th February 1893, no. 174, be again forwarded to Government for its information, and that it be informed that the funds it would be necessary to allot for a paid Chairman can be far more profitably
Spent

Spent on the Sanitary and other needs of the town.

This is a curious
Satzg resoln!

Resolved also that Government be requested for obvious reasons not to take into consideration the votes of those Councillors who are Government Servants in favor of a paid Chairman.

Messrs Macmichael, Reeves, Baudry, Hunter, Magirisawmi Nayadu, Anantha-Krishna Nayadu and Shriraman Chettiar dissenting.

(Signed) R. Fischer
Chairman

(True copy)

Municipal Office
Madura 1st February 1896

Rucker
Chairman

ENCLOSURE NO. 1

In a letter

FROM,

THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
MADURA.

No. 10

Dated 1st February 1896.

No.

*Copy of resolution no. 27 dated
28th January 1896 of the Municipal
Council, Madurai.*

*1
429 mis fnd*

MEMORANDUM.

—(o:o)—

In Government Order, No. 1,539, dated 21—9—92, the Government gives three reasons for its inability to accede to the request of the Municipal Council expressed in their Resolution, No. 313, dated 10th August 1892, requesting the Government to reconsider its previous Order, No. 1,224, dated 19—7—92, on the subject of the appointment of a full-time Paid Chairman.

2. They are

- (1) That the best men have been tried and have failed;
- (2) That the Volunteer Chairmen can only devote their spare time and that experience has abundantly shewn that they cannot work the Municipality as it ought to be;

and (3) that, as the Government has recently granted and lent to the Council large sums of money for the construction of the Water Works, it cannot allow the security for those sums to be risked by a fresh trial of Volunteer Chairmen.

3. With reference to No. 1, the Council beg to submit that that statement which is altogether based on the report of the Collector is not borne out by records and is against the opinions of the Government expressed from time to time in their remarks on the administration reports of the Municipality since 1874—75. Besides the several ex-officio Presidents and Chairmen, there have been several non-official gentlemen who held the office of Vice-President or Chairman and discharged the duties pertaining thereto with credit to themselves and satisfaction to Government as well as the people. They are Messrs. R. Fischer, T. M. Scott, Dewan Bahadur S. Subramania Iyer, C. I. E., Rao Bahadur R. Ramasubbayyar, R. Fischer (again), M. Alagirisawmy Naidu and M. V. Appasawmy Naidu. Excepting the last, with reference to none of the other gentlemen, official or non-official, has the Government stated that the administration was bad or that anything went wrong during their regime. On the contrary, the administration reports since 1874 shew a satisfactory state of things and the Government has invariably eulogised the Chairman and the Council for their good work and self-sacrifice in the interests of the public. Even in the case of the last of the above-named gentlemen, the Government has stated in G. O., No. 1,827, dated 3rd December 1890, that the year's administration was generally satisfactory. But the remarks

of the Collector in forwarding the administration report of 1890 refer to defects some of which have since been remedied by the entertainment of a competent Manager, while others could only be rectified by time and further development of the resources of the Municipality, and none of the said defects can be traced to the fact that the Chairman was not a full-timed officer.

The Council beg, therefore, to submit that the confidential report of the Collector that the best men have failed is not correct.

4. The 2nd ground is that "the Volunteer Chairmen can only devote their spare time and that experience has abundantly shewn that they cannot work the Municipality as it ought to be."

The answer to this ground is found in the last paragraph. The Council beg to point out that, ever since the Municipal institution came into existence, the Vice-Presidents have been almost always officials, and that they have discharged their Municipal duties satisfactorily, besides attending to their own legitimate duties as public servants. The non-official honorary Chairmen that have since held the office have, in the majority of instances, been gentlemen with extensive practice at the bar, and, in no instance, have they been pronounced to be failures. It could not, even for one moment, be contended that by "honorary Chairmen" the legislature ever intended gentlemen who have no manner of profession or calling and whose whole time should be devoted to Municipal work. A full-timed Chairman is not in the contemplation of the District Municipalities Act. On the other hand, provisions of the Act as to the delegation of the duties of the Chairman and those contained in Section 16 clearly indicate that the Chairman need not be a full-timed officer, and that his office should be honorary.

6. As the 3rd ground, the Government says that it has to take care, that the security for its loan should not be allowed to be risked by a fresh trial of Volunteer Chairmen. The Council are unable to understand how the security can be impaired by an honorary Chairman more than by a paid one. There has been no instance, as far as this Municipality is concerned, of an honorary Chairman not having collected the taxes. Even in the case of the last Chairman, Mr. M. V. Appasawmy Naidu, such a charge was not brought against him. The arrears that existed then were not purely the result of his mismanagement, as will appear from paras 6 and 7 of the administration report of the present Chairman, No. 23, dated 11th June 1892. "The old arrears extended so far back as 1880—81 and amounted to Rs. 11,391 under House-tax, to Rs. 8,377 under Land-tax, to Rs. 8,755 under Profession-tax and to Rs. 7,124 under Water-tax making

a total of Rs. 42,647." The fictitious nature of these arrears and the difficulties attendant on realizing them are also explained in the paragraph referred to above. The penal provisions and the coercive processes prescribed by the Act for the collection of the several taxes are the same whether they are to be enforced by a paid or an honorary Chairman. To help and relieve the Chairman of his routine work of the Municipality, the Council have, with the sanction of the Government, engaged the services of a paid Manager on a salary of Rs. 100 per mensem. This has been working very satisfactorily not only now, and past experience has clearly shewn that this Municipality, like many others, has thriven very well under such a system. Thus there is no room for any apprehension that the taxes will be left to fall into arrears, and there is no fear of an honorary Chairman endangering the security for the loan given.

6. Turning to the disadvantages of having a paid Chairman, they are as follow:—

- (1) Just at this time when every pie of the Municipal revenue has to be saved to pay off the already existing debts and to be invested on such an important work as the drainage scheme which will have to be introduced very soon, it will be an annual loss of 4 to 5 thousand rupees to the Municipality to have a paid Chairman.
- (2) The success of Municipal administration always depends upon the sort of person that the Municipal Council will be able to secure, or the Government will be pleased to appoint as Chairman. A bad paid Chairman may throw Municipal affairs into confusion, quite as much as any bad honorary Chairman. Under the provisions of the Municipal Act, a bad paid Chairman may delegate all his powers to some of the Councillors and enjoy rest as any honorary Chairman. The administration by a paid Chairman of the Calicut Municipality has been pronounced by Government to be discreditable and to be no improvement upon that of the honorary Chairman.
- (3) The paid Chairman may be a foreigner with no local interest or sympathies. He will not be in touch with the people and results similar to those which occurred in the past may happen.

- (4) The appointment of a paid Chairman is a retrograde step in the Scheme of Local Self-Government. The pay partly derogates from the dignity and prestige of the office of Chairman, who has to preside over a body of gentlemen whose position as Councillors is honorary; and the best men of the town will not be attracted to the Council, the persone of which will in consequence deteriorate in course of time.

7. It was the Government that introduced this Scheme of Local Self-Government with reference to Municipal administration. It should not be considered as an experiment which may be abandoned on the occurrence of any failure, even if there be one; but it should be recognized, agreeably to the intentions of the great Scheme of Lord Ripon, as a measure to be steadily and systematically developed and encouraged until it is surely established everywhere.

8. In the election of Mr. Appasawmy Naidu, the Council were led away by the idea that as the son of a respectable and wealthy gentleman of Madura, and as one having ample leisure at his command, he would be best able to administer Municipal affairs. When once they found out that they were at fault, they did not permit him to go on with his mal-administration. They repeatedly placed the matter before the Collector and were, in the interests of the Municipality, anxious to have him removed. Under the Act, neither the Council nor the Government had the power of removing a Chairman situated as Mr. Appasawmi Naidu was, except by the Government withdrawing the privilege of election from the Council.

9. The same Council have helped the present Chairman, whose success is as much due to the great and cordial help given to him by the Councillors as to his own exertions.

10. The Councillors therefore pray that the Government may be pleased to vouchsafe that indulgence which was shewn to the Coconada Municipality; and beg to conclude by expressing a fervent hope that the Government may be pleased to bestow on the subject that earnest consideration which it deserves and grant their prayer.

(True copy)

A. P. Naidu

Chairman

ENCLOSURE NO. 2

In a letter

FROM,

THE CHAIRMAN,

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

MADURA.

No. 10

Dated 1st February 1896

No.

Copy of printed Memorandum
Submitted by the Municipal
Council in the 1892.

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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL
DEPARTMENT. Dept.

CURRENT

FROM

THE CHAIRMAN,

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

MADURA.

No.

Dated

Received

CHIEF SECRETARY
4 FEB 1896
DEPARTMENT OF MADURA

No. 10

SUBJECT.

Submitting copy of resolution
of the Municipal Council re-
garding the proposed appoint-
ment of a paid Chairman

66 764 h h 10-6-93
528 h h 19-4-93
6110 h h 23-3-93
174 h h 11-2-93
140 h h 3-2-93
1539 h h 21-9-92
1224 h h 19-7-92
23 h h 6-1-92
1827 h h 3-12-90

From

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Anglo. 10 93 M. 17th January 1896. and
Current No. 427 M.

FOR ORDERS.

Please see the notes and orders in
G.O.No.93 M.dated 17th January 1896.

2. The municipal council still ad-
heres to its former resolution objecting
to the appointment of a paid Chairman, on
the ground that in its present embarrassed
circumstances it can ill-afford to bear
the additional cost which it will have to
be incurred on this account and that even
if funds were available, they can be more
profitably spent on the sanitary and
other needs of the town. The charge for
the salary of the Chairman, will, however,
it is submitted, be more than counterba-
lanced by the increase in revenue which
would result from a more efficient admi-
nistration of the municipality.

The objections to a similar proposa-
taken by the council in its memo. of 189
have been answered *seriatim* in the note
in G.O.No.174 M., dated 11th February 1893

I should not force a paid
Chairman on the town, but
should let the matter stand
over as proposed at the end
of the A. S's note. In the
meantime, I would be extra
careful to say that although
the Govt. believes that the app't
of a whole time paid chairman
would make ~~progress~~ *economy* as well
as ~~progress~~ *efficiency* it
will accept for the present
the C's resolution

Circ

W
14/2/96
16 Feb.

28
1896.

on this note it was held inadvisable to force a paid chairman on the Municipality. The administration does not appear to have improved, & in the last review (9-0 $\frac{176}{25 \text{ } 10 \text{ } 95}$) the inefficiency of the administration during the year was remarked upon. The collection of arrears is still very bad, (vide para 3(2)), & it was chiefly owing to the large outstandings that Govt first contemplated the appointment of a paid chairman.

If a paid chairman were forced upon the Council, in face of this present resolution, it is probable that unless he were a very strong & capable man, he would be greatly hampered in his work, but still, as the Council is at present constituted, he would have a fairly strong party to back him up. For the resolution adverse to the appⁿ of a paid chairman has by no means unanimous, seven out of 19 voting against it. Of these seven however several are officials.

One of the amendments proposed in the new bill to amend Act of 1888 is to give the power of to the chairman of delegating his powers to a paid

Secretary, & if it is thought inadvisable to insist on a full time paid chairman for Madras, the present state of things may be allowed to continue, until the bill becomes law, when the difficulty might be solved by the appointment of a highly paid secretary, who would do all the work under the chairman as figure head.

W.H.D.

8.11.06.

H.M.

In orders.

J.R. 9/11/06

Appointment of paid chairman

Madura municipality

FOR ORDERS.

427h

H.M. & Co.

[G.]
24.
1,000-15-11-98.

DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated	189	, No.
Again G.O., dated	189	, No.
Current No.	of 189	, dated , from
" "	" 189	, " " "
" "	" 189	, " " "

I think this may be made much shorter, by letting it take the form of

"Recorded with the remark

Please draft

WS

2/3/95

ORDER.

The for^t reports that the Council cannot see its way to reconsider its resolution of the 29th October 1895, in which it negatived a proposal, brought forward by some of its members, to appoint a paid chairman. ^{H.C.} ~~It~~ ^{in C. believes} ~~the for^t is of the opinion~~ that the appointment of a full-time paid chairman would not only increase the efficiency of municipal administration, but would also prove to be a measure of real economy, for ~~the natural result of~~ ^{result in enhanced} increased efficiency ~~would be an increase~~ in the revenues, which could be spent to the best advantage under improved ^{however} supervision. 2. It appears from the recent resolution passed by the Council that it is still of opinion that, in the present state of the municipal finances, the such an appointment is undesirable.

This being so foot. does not wish to force its views upon the council, when they are unwilling to carry out the proposal & will therefore be pleased to accept the resolution, passed at the meeting of held on 28th Jan, 1896, & will for the present take no further action in the matter.

(from orders)
 W.H.D.
 25.11.96
[Signature]
 28/11/96

Said Chairman, Madura

FROM ORDERS.

427m

C. S. *[Signature]*

Note for C.S.

Resubmitted with a fresh draft order within accordance with H. M.'s note of 2.3.96
 W.H.D.
 5.3.96

[G.
24.]
1,000-15-11-95.

DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 17th January 1896, No. 93
 Again G.O., dated 189 , No.
 Current No. 427m of 1896, dated 1st Feb, from Chairman M.C. Madura
 „ „ „ 189 „ „ „ „
 „ „ „ 189 „ „ „ „

[Handwritten initials]
 9/8/96

ORDER. of 11-3-96 No. 401 in this

Recorded with the remark, that, although the foot. believes that the appointment of a full-time said chairman would be a measure conducive not only to increased efficiency but also to economy, it will, in deference to the wishes of the Council, accept its resolution, & for the present take no further ^{action} in the matter.

(from orders)
 W.H.D.
 5.3.96
[Signature]
 9/3/96

To
 The Chairman, M.C. Madura P.H.O.
 thro' the Collector
 Dated 12/3/96

Paid chairman. Hudson.

FROM ORDERS.

427 m.

~~p. 8.~~

kin

401 m.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 189.
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189 ,

DATED *

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.

Paper taken out of the Records from the charge of the Referencer.

Press
Ordinary No. 4013 dated 11-3-96 190
Routine

Date taken out.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.			Initials of clerk taking the paper or of attender.	Date returned.	Initials of attender.
	Department.	C. No.	Year.			
<u>11/1/96</u> <u>19/5/0</u>	<u>in</u> <u>h</u>	<u>1434650</u>		<u>For Range survey paper</u>	<u>9/4/03</u> <u>14/9/1307</u>	