

(1) Number of Pages..... 6
(2) Date of repair..... 3-6-68
(3) Initials of the Referencer..... 21.1.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 575
B.P. No. Press
Mis.

Dated 16-3-1875 196 .

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Municipal Budget.

No. 355. Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., President of the Conjeveram Municipality, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Sydapet, 11th January 1875, No. 3:—

I have the honor to submit, for sanction, the Municipal Budget of Conjeveram for 1875-76.

2. RECEIPTS.—As the allotments sanctioned for 1874-75 under the several heads of expenditure are expected to be fully utilized, no balance is entered at the beginning of the year.

3. The important changes in the Budget are the revival of Trades-tax and the replacement of the Native Surgeon by a Passed Hospital Apprentice. The enclosed copy of the Sub-Collector's Minute, which was approved of by the Commissioners, explains fully the necessity for these measures. It will be seen from it that, while the present resources of the Municipality are barely sufficient for carrying out the ordinary purposes of the Act, there are the maintenance of more than five miles of broad metalled roads, the execution of the Lalakal Project, and the general sanitation of the town, which must be provided for. With this view, the Commissioners strongly urge the revival of the Trades-tax, and the reduction of the charges relating to the Dispensary by substituting an Hospital Apprentice on Rupees 72 for a Native Surgeon on Rupees 250 per mensem. The amount estimated from these two sources is Rupees 5,000 and Rupees 2,000, respectively. If this is not done, the only other means of raising funds will be by increasing the percentage rate of House-tax already as high as five per cent., but as the value of house property in Conjeveram is stated to have much deteriorated of late, and the owners as a body poor, I would recommend that the above proposals be sanctioned, and such approval has been anticipated in preparing the Budget.

4. One-fourth of the salary of the Hospital Apprentice is entered in the Budget as the Government contribution under paragraph 4 of G.O., dated 25th March 1873, No. 397, Financial, the Police and other Government servants on the spot being treated by him.

5. The Government are aware that Rupees 1,400 are being contributed by the Chingleput Local Fund Board on account of the Dispensary. In the event of Government sanctioning the proposed reduction in the establishment, the question whether the grant should be the same as now or reduced will have to be considered hereafter.

6. The receipts under the other heads being almost the same as in the current year, call for no remark.

7. EXPENDITURE.—*Grant I.*—No allotment is made for "New Works—Communications," as nearly all the main streets have been provided with metalled roads, and as the metalling of other less-important crossstreets need not be undertaken until the Lalakal Water-supply and other necessary improvements have been fully carried out.

8. No estimate has been received yet from the District Engineer for the restoration of the Lalakal. In anticipation, however, of its early receipt, the Commissioners have made an allotment of Rupees 3,000.

9. As the streets in Conjeveram are broad and metalled almost to their full width, to admit of the cars of the different Pagodas passing, a large sum is required for their maintenance: hence the provision of Rupees 2,000.

10. Against Rupees 200 in the current year Rupees 1,000 are allotted for raising and levelling the streets in order to secure better drainage.

11. As most of the important roads have been made the services of a professional Overseer have been dispensed with, which has resulted in a saving of Rupees 300.

12. Grant II.—On the recommendation of the Inspector of Schools, and with reference to G.O., dated 26th June 1874, No. 1077, Financial, the Commissioners have entered Rupees 1,350 for payment of Results Grants.

13. Grant III.—In addition to the replacement of the Native Surgeon by a Hospital Apprentice—*vide* paragraph 3 *supra*—the Commissioners propose to do away with the services of an East Indian Nurse on Rupees 10, and appoint in her stead a woman of the barber or some other caste on Rupees 4 per month. The pay of the peon and of the toty has also been reduced by one Rupee each. These changes give a saving of Rupees 96. I do not myself altogether approve of these very petty savings, at a sacrifice too, as I apprehend, of efficiency.

14. A Vaccinator on a salary of Rupees 10 per mensem is now employed; but, as the Commissioners imagine that greater success may be attained by the adoption of the Result system, they have entered Rupees 240 for the purpose.

15. The two peons on Rupees 7 each being held sufficient for the supervision of the Conservancy Establishments, it is proposed to do away with the services of the two maistries, and also those of one of the two toties employed to clean the latrines maintained by the Municipality. The pay of the scavengers has, however, been raised from Rupees 4-8-0 to Rupees 5, as it seems none could be got at a lower figure. These changes have increased the allotment by Rupees 50.

16. The town is proposed to be lighted throughout with kerosene oil, and hence the increased provision on account of oil, burners, wicks, &c.

17. The Office Establishment has been reduced, from Rupees 1,220 to Rupees 1,000, by dispensing with the services of the clerk with the President, and those of a masaljee attached to the Municipal Office. This would leave the Collector without any establishment whatever, and as the clerks on the regular establishments are already fully if not over-worked, I would recommend the retention of this clerk. It is further both convenient and necessary to have a separate officer in charge of municipal work. His salary can be met from the unappropriated balance of Rupees 130 and the difference from the savings under other heads.

Minute by the Acting Sub-Collector.

I have read the Minute by the Vice-President on the draft Budget for 1875-76, with which I concur.

2. The fact seems to be that, in spite of efforts to the contrary, the whole of the funds of this Municipality threaten this year, owing to the abolition of the Trades-tax, to be swallowed nearly wholly by charges for establishments and education. It seems to me that the taxpayers cannot be expected to be content with such an arrangement.

3. Large expenditure is still required for the improvement of the roads in the town, its water-supply by Lalakal Project, its drainage, the clearing of deserted house-sites and other vacant spots, and the filling up of the many low-lying places, where the standing water and rubbish cause a most

objectionable nuisance. Over and above all these things there remains the heavy necessary cost of maintaining the five or six miles of really fine metalled streets already constructed, which should not be less than Rupees 2,000 *per annum*.

4. I am therefore clear that the Municipality to be efficient should be allowed to revive the Trades-tax yielding say Rupees 5,000. This of itself even will be insufficient for its strictly legitimate necessities, and, besides the reductions proposed by the Vice-President, I would suggest that the present Native Surgeon, who costs the town Rupees 3,000, should be dispensed with, and a Passed Hospital Apprentice on Rupees 72 substituted. The Native Surgeon's salary first became a charge on the Municipality on the introduction of Act III. of 1871 in April of that year. I cannot bring myself to think that had the man not been actually then in office any one would have dreamed of appropriating such a large portion of the revenues of the Municipality to the salary of one officer. There is also an Hospital Assistant on Rupees 25 *per mensem*. At all events the time has now arrived when the charge can no longer be borne, and, in my opinion, he should be *at once* dispensed with, to admit of the savings on his salary, during the remaining months of the current year, being diverted to the repair and maintenance of the roads which are fast going to ruin, and for which the Municipality has, at the present moment, not a Rupee available.

5. If the above proposals are accepted, the receipts will be raised by Rupees 7,000, with which it may be possible to fulfil the objects of the Municipal Act.

6. I much regret that pressing business has suddenly prevented my carrying out my intention of being present at the Budget Meeting tomorrow.

CHINGLEPUT,

29th October 1874.

(Signed) C. S. CROLE,

Acting Sub-Collector.

No. 356. ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1875, No. 455.

The following is a comparative abstract of the Budget Estimates now submitted and those sanctioned for the current year:—

RECEIPTS.	1874-75.		1875-76.		CHARGES.	1874-75.		1875-76.	
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward ...	3,310	...	790	260	Grant I.				
Assignment by Government ...	790	260			New Works—				
Rate on Houses, &c. ...	8,500	7,000			Communications ...	4,100	...		
Tax on Arts, &c. ...	1,000	5,000			Sanitary and Miscellaneous				
Tax on Vehicles, &c. ...	900	900			ous ...	700	3,450		
Registration of Carts ...	600	600			Repairs—				
Tolls ...	4,500	5,000			Communications ...	1,030	3,000		
Fees ...	150	200			Sanitary and Miscellaneous				
Fines ...	70	100			ous ...	200	200		
Endowments, &c. ...	20	...			Other Items ...	330	30		
Contribution from Local Funds	1,800	1,800			Grant II.—				
Miscellaneous ...	150	150			Municipal Schools ...	800	...		
					Results Grants ...	...	1,350		
					Contribution for Inspection.	100	100		
					Grant III.—				
					Hospitals ...	4,890	2,680		
					Vaccination ...	120	240		
					Registration of Births, &c. ...	170	170		
					Conservancy ...	5,380	5,430		
					Grant IV.—				
					Lighting ...	2,110	2,710		
					Other Items ...	110	110		
					Grant V.—				
					Office ...	1,420	1,200		
					Miscellaneous ...	200	200		
					Balance—				
					Municipal Fund ...	130	140		
Total ...	21,790	21,010			Total ...	21,790	21,010		

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
27th February 1875.*

2. Under the circumstances reported the Government will not object to the re-imposition of the Profession-tax except as regards the persons falling within the sixth, seventh, and eighth classes of Schedule B. Even with the re-imposition of the tax the Government observe the following decreases in the proposed expenditure :—

	Rs.
New Works—Communications	4,100
Other Public Works Items	300
Hospitals	2,210
Office	220

3. The proposed reductions in the Dispensary expenditure involve the substitution of a Passed Hospital Apprentice for the Native Surgeon in charge of the Dispensary, and the entertainment of a native midwife, on Rupees 4 per mensem, in lieu of the present trained nurse, who receives only Rupees 10. The Government consider that the adoption of any such measures would be a very retrograde step on the part of the Commissioners, who appear from their reports to have hitherto taken great pride in the Dispensary under its present management, and, as the proposals appear to be put forward merely in consideration of pressing financial necessities, the Government resolve to raise their contribution to 50 per cent. of the pay of the Native Surgeon in the event of the Commissioners consenting to retain his services. They also trust that it will be found possible to arrange for the retention of the present East Indian Nurse.

4. The increased provision for repair of roads, for results grants, vaccination, and lighting are approved, and the Budget is passed subject to the remarks above made.

5. The charges for iron lamp-posts should not be shown under "Sanitary and Miscellaneous—New Works," but under Grant IV, Lighting, and the Government contribution towards the pay of the Native Surgeon need not pass through the Municipal books.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram,
 „ Public Works Department.
 „ Revenue Department.
 „ Board of Revenue.
 „ Accountant-General.
 „ Sanitary Commissioner.
 „ Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
 „ Director of Public Instruction.
 „ President of the Local Fund Boards, Chingleput District.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Byssu Defalcant,
Esq. of 118751 33rd Ave.

FINANCIAL.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

By, do, Lt.

Dated February, 27th.

Toed. Frank 12:

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G.O. 27th February 1875, No. 455.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 355-356.

Confer from Municipality.—The Budget Bill
made of the Municipality for 1875-76 reviewed.

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A. S. S. S. S.

16. March 1875