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AQUEDUCT
COMMISSIONERS,
1895, VOL. 11, PP. 5-162**

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EDWARD L. ALLEN

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1896.

AQUEDUCT COMMISSION.

NOTE.—On Wednesday, January 9, 1895, no quorum being present, the meeting stood adjourned.

EDWARD L. ALLEN, Secretary.

NOTE.—On Wednesday, January 16, 1895, no quorum being present, the meeting stood adjourned.

EDWARD L. ALLEN, Secretary.

Minutes of Stated Meeting of the Aqueduct Commissioners, held at their Office, No. 209 Stewart Building, on Wednesday, January 23, 1895, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Present—Commissioners Duane, Tucker, Scott and Cannon.

The Committee of Finance and Audit reported their examination and audit of estimates contained in Vouchers Nos. 10026 to 10031, inclusive, amounting to \$37,424.13, and of bills contained in Vouchers Nos. 10038 to 10058, inclusive, amounting to \$398.12.

On motion of Commissioner Tucker, the same were approved and ordered certified to the Comptroller for payment.

The Construction or Executive Committee recommended the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the following-named laborers, temporarily employed at Jerome Park reservoir, be and hereby are discharged for lack of work, as of January 22, 1895 :

John Farrell.	Abraham Pratt.	Joseph Croyhan.
Lawrence Donohue.	John Rush.	Martin Platt.
Thomas Shay.	John Trainor.	Lawrence McCarroll.
Thomas Barry.		

On motion of Commissioner Tucker, the same was adopted.

The Committee also recommended the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That, upon the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, the accompanying bills are hereby approved and ordered certified to the Comptroller for payment, viz. :

1st. Of George Juengst & Sons, for repairs on gate at Sodom Gate-house, amounting to seven-teen dollars and eighty-five cents (\$17.85).

2d. Four bills of Keuffel & Esser Company, for repairs to instruments, etc., amounting to twenty-seven dollars and twenty cents (\$27.20).

On motion of Commissioner Tucker, the same was adopted.

The Committee also presented the following communication, received from the Chief Engineer :

NEW YORK, January 23, 1895.

To the Honorable the Committee on Construction :

GENTLEMEN—On January 9 you authorized me to ask for bids for the furnishing of a number of 48-inch pipes, for the purpose of extending the blow-off at Shaft No. 25 into Harlem river, beyond the lines of the Speedway.

I have asked bids from the following firms :

R. D. Wood & Company, of Philadelphia; Warren Foundry and Machine Company, of Phillipsburgh, Pa.; McNeal Pipe and Foundry Company, of Burlington, N. J.; Reading Foundry Company (Limited), of Reading, Pa.; John Fox, of New York.

The last two firms declined to bid.

The bids received are as follows :

R. D. Wood & Company	\$898 87
Warren Foundry and Machine Company.....	910 75
McNeal Pipe and Foundry Company	965 78

The prices given are very low—being for the lowest bidder \$18.70 per ton of 2,000 pounds for pipes and 2½ cents for the special castings—delivered on the dock at High Bridge.

I consequently recommend that you authorize the Chief Engineer to order the pipes and special castings from Messrs. R. D. Wood & Company.

I am, respectfully,

A. FTELEY, Chief Engineer.

And recommended the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That authority be and hereby is given to the Chief Engineer to order the pipes and special castings above referred to from R. D. Wood & Company at their prices of eighteen dollars and seventy cents (\$18.70) per ton of two thousand pounds for pipes and two and one-eighth cents (2½ cents) for the special castings.

The same was adopted by the following vote :

Affirmative—Commissioners Duane, Tucker, Scott and Cannon.—4.

[JANUARY 23, 1895.]

The Committee also presented the following :

PURDY'S STATION, NEW YORK, January 23, 1895.

To the Honorable the Board of Aqueduct Commissioners of the City of New York :

GENTLEMEN—We have to announce to your body the completion of the Titicus Dam, and to ask that the retained percentage on the work be now paid to us.

All masonry, earthwork, ironwork, valves, gates, fencing, all work of every description in connection with the Gate House superstructure, and all things necessary to the impounding and control of water are completed.

The City has had the reservoir in use for some time, and a large supply is already stored behind it and daily increasing.

Ballast and sand are delivered and awaiting mild weather to be placed on a short piece of roadway on top of the dam, and there is a strip of sodding which is necessarily left in order to get to the roadway with teams. This work amounts to less than \$1,500. The roadway would have been finished early in the winter were it not that the Engineers ordered the work stopped for fear of the effects of frost on the green concrete.

We know of no equitable reason why our retained percentage should not now be paid to us. The reservoir is in use and the City is deriving full benefit from it. The roadway referred to is a mere bagatelle, and the materials for making it are on the ground and no portion of the value of them has been paid to the contractor. The contractor proposes and will give satisfactory guarantee that the roadway will be finished by him as soon as the Engineers permit it at the prices of the present contract.

We have immediate and pressing needs for this money ; other operations have been based on a prompt payment at the expiration of our contract time, 31st December, 1894. The retained percentage on two other City contracts in which members of our firm are interested, the Carmel Dams, is now large, and the interest account of money borrowed to carry on these contracts is a heavy burden. The payment of the retained percentage on the Titicus Dam would remove this burden at once.

We believe that it is not necessary to do more than refer to the satisfactory character of the work at Titicus Dam, and to the absence of questions of quantity and quality of work which might prevent a settlement.

We feel that there is no single circumstance in connection with the question of our retained percentage which would not argue and bear testimony to the extreme unfairness and harshness of keeping from us any longer our retained percentage.

We would ask, however, that in the event of its being impossible for any reason, to pay us now the whole amount of our retained percentage, that there be paid to us \$90,000 of it. We would request that this be a last resort, and trust that it will not be necessary to turn to it.

Respectfully,

WASHBURN, SHALER & WASHBURN.

NEW YORK, January 23, 1895.

To the Honorable the Committee on Construction :

GENTLEMEN—I beg to submit herewith the accompanying communication from Messrs. Washburn, Shaler & Washburn, contractors for Reservoir "M."

Titicus Dam, as you are aware, is practically finished and the water is now rising !

In the beginning of the present year there was a small amount of work remaining to be done, consisting of concrete and road ballast on the top of the masonry dam, and of the sodding of a portion of the top of the bank. The weather was then too severe for the proper performance of that work, and I was compelled to order the contractors to suspend work, which cannot be resumed until spring.

After the December estimate, there was due to the contractors the sum of \$95,937.98, it being the percentage retained on the work done. The figures for the final estimate have not been finally adjusted, but they will not be far from that amount.

Inasmuch as the contractors have been prevented by the weather from doing the remaining work, the value of which is about \$1,500, and on the ground that the City is now having the full benefit of the dam, behind which the storage is accumulating, the contractors ask whether it would be possible to release to them a sum of \$90,000.

As far as the work is concerned, the City's interest would not in any way suffer from the payment at this time of the sum named.

Unless you find other objections to the payment of the sum mentioned to the contractors, I respectfully recommend that their request be complied with.

I am, respectfully,

A. FTELEY, Chief Engineer.

And recommended the adoption of the following preambles and resolution :

Whereas, Washburn, Shaler & Washburn, contractors for the construction of an earth and masonry dam for Reservoir "M," on Titicus river, near Purdy's Station, New York, have applied to the Aqueduct Commissioners for the release and payment to them of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000), part of the retained percentage under their said contract ; and

Whereas, It appears from the letter of said contractors, dated January 23, 1895, and from the report of the Chief Engineer, bearing the same date, that the retained percentage on said work amounts to ninety-five thousand, nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars and ninety-eight cents (\$95,937.98) ; that all the work under said contract has been practically finished except a small amount of work, consisting of the completion of the roadway across the top of the dam, and a small strip of sodding, which will not cost at contract prices more than fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) ; that the contractors were ready and willing to complete this work early in the winter, but were prevented from so doing by the Chief Engineer because of the inclemency of the weather ; that the City has taken possession of the work and is actually impounding water behind the dam ; and

Whereas, The Chief Engineer has reported, and the Aqueduct Commissioners are of opinion, that the City's interest will not in any way suffer from the payment at this time of the sum requested by the contractors to be released and paid to them ;

Resolved, That the Aqueduct Commissioners hereby request and advise the Comptroller to release and pay to Washburn, Shaler & Washburn, contractors for the construction of an earth and masonry dam for Reservoir "M," on Titicus river, near Purdy's Station, New York, out of the ten per cent. retained for work done under said contract, the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000), providing said contractors shall consent that said payment be considered as having been

made under said contract, and provided that the sureties of said contractors consent to such payment.

The same was adopted by the following vote :

Affirmative—Commissioners Duane, Tucker, Scott and Cannon—4.

The Committee also recommended the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That, on account of ill health, an indefinite leave of absence, from February 1, 1895, be and hereby is granted to the Chief Engineer of this Commission.

On motion of Commissioner Tucker, the same was adopted.

The Committee also recommended the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That during the absence of the Chief Engineer, and until the further order of this Board, Division Engineer Alfred Craven is hereby designated to perform all the duties and to be vested with all the powers of the Chief Engineer, with the title of "Acting Chief Engineer."

On motion of Commissioner Scott, the same was adopted.

The Committee also recommended the adoption of the following preamble and resolution :

Whereas, In the opinion of the Aqueduct Commissioners, the further sum of five hundred thousand dollars will be required to defray the necessary and lawful expenditures of said Commissioners ; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Comptroller of the City of New York be and he is hereby requested to raise the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), upon bonds of the City of New York, in conformity with the requirements of section 32, chapter 490, Laws of 1883, of the State of New York, for the uses and purposes of the Aqueduct Commissioners, as set forth in said chapter and section of said law.

The same was adopted by the following vote :

Affirmative—Commissioners Duane, Tucker, Scott, and Cannon—4.

The Secretary presented abstract of trial balance, showing the expenditures of the Aqueduct Commission from its inception to December 31, 1894.

On motion of Commissioner Scott, the same was received and ordered spread upon the minutes as follows :

Abstract of Trial Balance, December 31, 1894.

<i>Commissioners' Office.</i>	
Salaries of Commissioners.....	\$264,602 07
Salaries of Secretary and employees.....	157,899 16
Stationery.....	4,548 77
Furniture and fixtures.....	3,372 26
Rent.....	46,334 40

Incidental expenses.....	\$7,639 53	
Books, maps and drawings.....	746 05	
Traveling expenses.....	1,850 14	
Advertising.....	30,082 64	
Stenographic reports.....	4,334 29	
		\$521,809 71
<i>Chief Engineer's Office.</i>		
Salaries of Engineers, etc.....	\$521,808 73	
Stationery.....	7,062 38	
Furniture and fixtures.....	4,657 69	
Rent.....	54,519 35	
Incidental expenses.....	8,817 46	
Books, maps and drawings.....	12,076 85	
Consulting Engineer's fees.....	100 00	
Drawing instruments, tables and materials.....	4,550 27	
Testing machines and tests.....	8,211 81	
		621,804 54
<i>Tarrytown Office.</i>		
Salaries of Engineers.....	\$57,692 24	
Stationery.....	1,180 41	
Furniture and fixtures.....	750 25	
Rent.....	6,600 03	
Incidental expenses.....	4,227 91	
Books, maps and drawings.....	92 81	
Drawing instruments, tables and materials.....	1,127 78	
Laborers on the line.....	2,703 17	
Drivers and Laborers.....	19,989 03	
Field instruments and implements.....	8,791 99	
Traveling expenses.....	4,094 53	
Harness and stable fittings.....	2,051 20	
Maintenance—Horses and wagons.....	11,122 82	
Horses.....	3,573 00	
Wagons.....	1,518 00	
Hire of horses and wagons.....	2,577 25	
		128,092 39
<i>Division Engineers.</i>		
Salaries of Engineers and Laborers, old account.....	\$154,834 84	
" " new account.....	1,610,711 11	
Stationery.....	7,326 99	
Furniture and fixtures.....	5,737 66	