

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Town of Chapel Hill, Feb. 1, 1934.

Book 6, Page 265

There was a called Meeting of the Board of Aldermen at the City Hall, February 1, at 8 P. M., o'clock. Present were J. M. Foushee, P. L. Burch, B. S. Thompson, J. T. Dobbins, C. L. Eubanks and M. E. Hogan. The purpose of this meeting was to decide on a reply to a telegram from Colonel J. H. Pratt addressed to George H. Lawrence, Director of C. W. A., in Orange County and a letter from the C. W. A., District Engineer at Greensboro, which are attached to these minutes, which communications concerned the lay-out of the street project under the C. W. A., as stated therein. Also to hear a report from Mr. Hogan as to the proposition by Cobb & Homewood to furnish stone for the street work.

It was decided by the Board that a letter should be gotten up in reply to the above communication by the Mayor and City Manager, explaining the program as approved by a special committee of the Board to select the proper streets for the work, a copy of that letter is herewith attached.

Mr. Hogan reported that Cobb & Homewood agrees to furnish approximately 2,600 tons of crushed stone to meet State Highway specifications, delivered into our trucks at their crushing plant near Carrboro at the price of \$1.65 per ton the quantities to be determined by scale weights. The Town to keep a representative at their scales to weigh the stone and issue receipts for the same. The Town to agree to furnish Cobb & Homewood without charge, from the C. W. A., list such labor as they may require in getting up and loading the stone in the woods, and also truck drivers, and labor used at the crusher. On motion of P. L. Burch seconded by B. S. Thompson the above proposition by Cobb & Homewood was accepted and the contract properly signed is herewith attached.

The Mayor appointed Mr. M. E. Hogan as a member of the C. W. A., committee now existing.

There being no further business, the Meeting of the Board of Aldermen adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FOUSHEE, MAYOR

John L. Caldwell
Acting Clerk

Book 6, Page 266-

COPY

TELEGRAM

Washington, D. C.
Jan. 29, 1934

GEORGE LAWRENCE,
C W A OFFICE CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

Have town officials agreed to maintain streets to be surfaced and
have they included West Rosemary street to Carrboro line stop
This should be settled before work starts.

JOSEPH HYDE PRATT.

COPY

DISTRICT ENGINEERS' OFFICE

GREENSBORO, N. C.

Book 6, Page 267-

January 26, 1934.

Mr. George Lawrence,
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

While in your county the other day, we discussed at considerable length the streets which are to be paved in Chapel Hill. From the facts brought out at this discussion and after going over most of the streets involved, it is the writer's opinion that it will be a serious mistake to omit the portion of Rosemary street which lies nearest to Carrboro. This street will provide a through artery for traffic which is very badly needed, and it seems to me, will be of more value to the town than the paving of scattered blocks which does not relieve the congestion of through traffic.

It is the opinion of this office that C. W. A., funds where is possible, be expended for those improvements which benefit the greatest number of people. We realize, of course, that there are sound reasons why any or all of Chapel Hill's streets should be paved. But it seems to us, that providing an additional thoroughfare from one end of the town to the other, would be a move of the greatest value to the town.

Very truly yours,

R. W. McGEACHEY,
DISTRICT ENGINEER.

McG/h

Book 6, page 268

COPY

Chapel Hill, N. C.
Feb. 2, 1934.

Mr. George Lawrence,
CWA Office,
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

I have your letter of Jan. 26 from Mr. McGeachey, District Engineer for the CWA, and your wire of Jan. 29 from Col. Joseph Hyde Pratt.

The Board of Aldermen met last night to consider these communications. They feel that there must be a misunderstanding as to the decision made on what streets were to be included in the street surfacing project.

Let me give you the steps taken by the Board of Aldermen in lining up the Town Projects. I think that it was in October that I saw from newspaper reports that there would be available to municipalities funds to relieve unemployment to be used for worthwhile projects. I called a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen and they decided that the dredging of Bolin creek below the outfall would be a worthy project and that an application be dispatched to Raleigh as soon as possible.

Upon suggestion of the Board of Aldermen I appointed a special CWA committee consisting of two members of the board, the City Manager, and City Engineer, The Mayor to act as chairman. The City Manager, being a full time official would do the detail work.

Some time later it was learned that the Town might obtain funds for surfacing its streets, if immediate action were taken. The City Manager and City Engineer estimated that approximately 76,500 square yards would be needed for an initial program. The City Manager or Engineer gave the newspaper a map program. The City Manager or Engineer gave the newspaper a map purporting to be a tentative layout of streets to be surfaced. This newspaper map of the story that appeared in the Chapel Hill Weekly the week prior to the published map was the first knowledge any member of the special committee or member of the Board of Aldermen had as to what streets might be considered. As a result of this newspaper map a delegation of citizens appeared before the Board and asked why their street was not included. The City Manager explained that the layout as shown in the newspaper was decided upon by him in order to get an estimate and application to Raleigh as soon as possible. As chairman of the CWA committee I stated at the meeting that no streets had been decided upon and that the CWA committee would make a study of all streets and

sidewalks and make a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen.

The special CWA committee made a careful study of the town and made a written report to the Board of Aldermen. The Board considered the committee's report and accepted it.

Now as to why certain streets were recommended for surface treatment and others not included. The committee had 76,500 square yards of surface treatment available. This was not sufficient to pave the entire town so only the more important ones could be treated. The committee recommended that all streets having concrete curb and gutter should be surfaced. These streets from an engineering standpoint will support surface treatment better than streets without such drainage facilities. The gutter prevents raveling at the edge, which if not patched will mean the eventual disintegration of the entire roadway. Certainly from a maintenance standpoint the streets having curb and gutter will be less expensive to maintain. In addition to this, the curb and gutter were paid for (at least in part) by special assessment, and therefore deserve special consideration.

Rosemary street from Church to the City Limit was carefully considered but not recommended. This street is in bad condition and will require considerable cut and fill and gravel surfacing to put it in shape. The Western Union pole line should be moved and the street widened. This involves building new shoulders to the present street. The committee felt that this improvement should be made, but to put surface treatment on a newly graded road is a waste of money. It simply will not hold up. If we were putting down concrete it would be different, but a one inch veneer of tar and stone will not hold unless the base is thoroughly compact and free of excess clay. In addition to this we have no assurance that the Jones Ferry road (that part of Rosemary in Carrboro) would have to be improved if traffic is to have an outlet through Carrboro. It is doubtful if the paving of Rosemary street would give much traffic relief unless another through street is opened through Carrboro. At the present time, Franklin Street which is 52 ft. wide and Rosemary Street which is approximately 20 ft. wide converge in Carrboro to a 30 ft. road. You will see by this that Franklin street a concrete paved street, is adequate for through traffic until another outlet is found through Carrboro. I am citing these reasons why Rosemary street was not included in the streets to be treated in answer to Col. Pratt's inquiry.

We regret very much that no town official had an opportunity to confer with Mr. McGeachey when he was in Chapel Hill.

Mr. Lawrence, I have tried to give you a complete picture as to the workings of the special C.W.A., Committee and the Board of Aldermen in regard to the C.W.A., projects in Chapel Hill as possible. If you feel that our decision as to what streets should be surfaced is not satisfactory, then, of course, we should like to go into the matter further with you. The committee and the Board of Aldermen have had no easy task in making a decision as to what streets should be surfaced. If we had

Book 6. Page 270-

sufficient material, we should like to treat all streets with surface treatment, even though some of them would probably last only a year due to their poor condition to receive surface treatment.

Assuring you that the Town of Chapel Hill appreciates the improvement made possible through use of C.W.A., funds, and our determination to co-operate with you in every way possible, I am

Cordially yours,

JOHN M. FOUSHEE, Mayor.

Cobb & Homewood

CONTRACTING ENGINEERS

Chapel Hill, N. C.

February 10, 1934.

Book 6, Page 271-

Mr. John L. Caldwell,
Town Manager,
Town of Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your acceptance of this letter will confirm our verbal agreement concerning the furnishing of your requirements of crushed stone to be used for surface treating the streets of Chapel Hill under the C. W. A. project. We agree to furnish you approximately 2,600 tons of crushed stone meeting State Highway specifications, delivered into your trucks at our crushing plant near Carrboro, at the price of \$1.65 per ton, the quantities to be determined by scale weights. You agree to keep a representative at our scales to weigh the stone and to issue us receipts for same.

You agree to furnish us without charge from the C. W. A. list such labor as we may require in getting up and loading the stone in the woods and also truck drivers, and laborers used at the crusher.

Yours very truly,

COBB & HOMEWOOD

By *Dollie Cobb, Jr.*

ACCEPTED:

Town of Chapel Hill, N. C.

By *John L. Caldwell*
City Manager.

Minutes 7/14/34