

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

President and Committees

of Abington Township



For the Year Ending January 4th, 1915

COMMISSIONERS
of the
TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON
PENNSYLVANIA



Commissioners

CHARLES F. MEBUS, President
DAVID F. BENNINGHOFF, Vice-Pres.
HORACE BOWMAN
JOHN L. HALLOWELL
DANIEL WEBSTER
THEODORE EDWARDS

Solicitor

HARRY S. AMBLER, JR.

Town Clerk

NICHOLAS BAGGS

Member of Police
D. S. LEVER



Commissioner of Fire
Theodore Edwards

Finance Committee

BOWMAN, WEBSTER, MEBUS

Highway Committee

BENNINGHOFF, HALLOWELL, MEBUS

Police Committee

EDWARDS, BENNINGHOFF, BOWMAN

Fire Department

BENNINGHOFF, BOWMAN, EDWARDS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Abington, Pa., February 18, 1915.

Board of Township Commissioners,
Abington, Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:—

It is but right and proper that we should publish an annual report giving a brief review of the work done during the year. This report is primarily for the information of the taxpayers, but it has additional value in that it affords a means for easily making comparisons of the work done, from year to year; and the fact that a report is to be published annually, will necessarily require each committee and department, for the purpose of preparing the reports, to keep accurate records, which will stimulate doing things systematically and promote efficiency.

The reports of the committees which follow, review quite fully the work of the several departments, and I shall, therefore, but call your attention to some of the more important Township affairs.

The report of the **Finance Committee** shows the receipts and expenditures and appropriations made by ordinance in January, 1914, to the several departments. It is gratifying to be able to say that each department kept within its appropriation.

Two items of receipts require special explanation. \$43,813.73 was the balance received from the former Treasurer. This money was, however, not available for last year's business, as practically all of it was needed to pay off notes and unpaid bills of the year 1913.

\$35,000.00 represents temporary loans made during the year for the purpose of carrying on the Township business from the first of the year to the time that taxes were beginning to be paid in August; and \$10,000 represents a loan that had to be made to pay all bills for the last month in the year, as taxes were still outstanding at the end of the year. It is unfortunate that the fiscal year begins seven months before the date when taxes are first received, as this condition makes borrowing necessary from month to month, and paying interest on such loans. This item is practically a loss, and reduces the net income available for Township improvements.

As was the custom in former years, new street lights were placed where recommended by the Finance Committee. There is a constant demand for more street lights. The Committee was able to meet the most pressing ones without materially increasing the annual expenditures for this purpose, for the reason that the Township, in October, 1913, entered into a new contract with the Philadelphia Suburban Gas & Electric Company, whereby the annual rental per light (40 candle power) was reduced from \$24 to \$19. The condition of this contract was, however, that the new rate per lamp was not to decrease the amount paid yearly by the Township for street lighting, but additional lights were to be installed to make up for the reduced rate. Lights were distributed in the districts as follows:

Abington, 4; McKinley, 0; Saw Mill Hill, 0; Weldon, 9; Crestmont, 7; North Glenside, 3.

The report of the **Police Committee** is very complete, and deserves careful reading. The expenses of this department have been lower than for a number of years past, and this has been accomplished without reducing the efficiency of the police service.

The police department is, however, much handicapped because it has no auto-patrol. One should be provided, to enable the chief himself to better cover the Township and further to give immediate assistance to patrolmen on duty when calls are made by them.

The present quarters for the detention of prisoners are not only inadequate, but poorly adapted for this purpose. It is clearly the duty of the Township to safeguard the health of those detained by the police, but with the cells in their present location, in the basement of the Township Building, it is not possible to do so, especially when prisoners are detained for any length of time.

I hope means may be found, within another year or so, to add to, and rearrange the Township Building so that proper office room can be provided for the several departments, and more humane quarters for the prisoners.

The Highway Committee was laboring under many difficulties. Lack of funds in 1913 prevented even the most ordinary repairs being made to the roads, for the last six months in that year. The injunction proceedings in the beginning of 1914, tied up the funds for nearly four more months, preventing anything being done till late in the spring. The consequence was that extra expenditures were necessary to properly open the gutters on the sides of the roads. The heavy fall of snow added still more to the extraordinary expenses of the department, leaving an entirely inadequate sum for new work, and for surface treatment, which is badly needed by most of the water bound macadam roads.

The department is unfortunate in having, at the present time, to take what is left out of the Township revenues, after all the other departments have been provided for, including the fixed charges (sinking fund and interest on loans) which take more than one-fourth of the annual revenue, as will be seen by referring to the statement of the Finance Committee.

The Highway Committee has worked unremittingly to improve the sidewalks in the village sections of the Township. A small part of this work had to be done by the Township, but the expense will be recovered in time, as all properties were, or will be, liened, where the owners have neglected or refused to provide new sidewalks, or repair old ones, when so ordered by the Board.

Very substantial progress has been made in providing sidewalks along York Road, between Noble and Susquehanna Road. It is hoped that this work will be completed during the coming year, and that further progress will be made in laying sidewalks on York Road north of Abington Village. The safety of pedestrians, and especially the safety of the children going to the Abington schools, demand this improvement.

The specifications and contract for collecting garbage, ashes and rubbish, have been revised and improved to promote more efficient service to the householders.

The report of the Fire Department deserves special mention. I hope it will be carefully read by every taxpayer. The work which has been accomplished by these companies, not only in protecting property, but also in providing themselves with equipment to fight fires, deserves the highest commendation. The companies deserve better support than they have been getting in the past, and I earnestly urge the Board to seriously consider ways and means to provide, in the near future, increased appropriations to the Fire Companies.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation of the services rendered by the Township employees, and of the unselfish devotion to the interests of the Township by my colleagues on the Board, and also by the Solicitor, who has so ably guided us during the year.

Respectfully,

CHAS. F. MEBUS,
President.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Abington, January 4, 1915.

Chas. F. Mebus, President,
Abington Township Commissioners.

During the year 1914, the Finance Committee was greatly assisted in its work by the accounting system suggested by you at the first meeting, and subsequently adopted by the Board.

With this system it was possible to obtain an accurate and up to date record of expenditures and unexpended balances for each department. In fact, our Town Clerk has been in position to furnish the Board at each meeting, a comprehensive report of expenditures, etc.

We also adopted a system of Purchase Orders for the various supplies of the Township. This has worked out very satisfactorily, and affords an accurate record of unpaid bills, etc. A Purchase Order is issued for each article or articles required by the Township. We are thus able to charge each item of expense to the proper Department in approving the bills received for payment.

I am very pleased to state that we have in no way exceeded our appropriation in any one case.

The Financial Statement and the Auditors' Report, which follow, speak for themselves:

HORACE BOWMAN,
Chairman.

Financial Statement, Showing Appropriations and Expenditures for the Year
OFFICE EXPENSES

Appropriation	\$3,500.00
Expenditures—	
Salaries	\$1,560.00
Light	481.29
Advertising	467.80
Printing, Stationery and Miscellaneous.....	418.83
Telephone	119.28
Coal	160.25
Tax Books	75.00
Bond Town Clerk	5.00
	3,287.45
Balance unexpended	\$212.55

POLICE COMMITTEE

Appropriation	\$12,000.00
Expenditures—	
Salaries	\$8,108.92
Equipment	446.71
Feed for Horses	932.90
Shoeing Horses	232.10
Horses Purchased	290.00
Veterinarian Services	100.00
Uniforms	185.50
Telephones (Office and Call Boxes).....	876.90
Food for Prisoners.....	213.22

Medicine for Prisoners.....	4.05
Medical Attendance for Prisoners.....	9.00
Ice	16.69
Water	67.29
Repairs to Automobile and Motorcycle.....	66.83
Printing	34.00
Dues to Associations.....	20.00
Signs	60.60
Traveling Expenses	11.30

Total 11,676.01

Balance unexpended \$323.99

BOARD OF HEALTH

Appropriation \$1,500.00

Expenditures—

Salaries (Secretary and Health Officer).....	\$1,260.00
Advertising	134.75
Printing	24.75
Fumigating	25.00
Sundries	28.66

Total \$1,473.16

Balance unexpended \$26.84

ROAD LIGHTS

Appropriation \$7,800.00

Expenditures 6,925.93

Balance unexpended \$874.07

FIRE HYDRANTS

Appropriation \$1,600.00

Expenditures 1,544.13

Balance unexpended \$55.87

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation \$2,100.00

Expenditures—

Weldon Fire Company, less discount.....	\$492.50
Abington Fire Company, less discount.....	495.00
McKinley Fire Company, less discount.....	495.00
Edge Hill Fire Company, less discount.....	495.00
Salaries and Miscellaneous	78.30

Total 2,055.80

Balance unexpended \$44.20

ASHES AND GARBAGE REMOVAL

Appropriation \$1,600.00

Expenditures 1,466.66

Unexpended (December not paid)..... \$133.34

LEGAL EXPENSES

Appropriation	\$1,500.00
Expenditures—	
Salary	\$300.00
Account injunction proceedings.....	1,145.38
Miscellaneous	21.70
	1,467.08
Total	1,467.08
Balance unexpended	\$32.92

CONTINGENT EXPENSES

Appropriation	\$4,082.95
Expenditures—	
Interest on 1913 Temporary Loans to Jan. 1, 1914.	\$446.46
Interest on 1913 Temporary Loans, Jan. 1 to date	
paid	696.61
Interest on 1914 Temporary Loans.....	281.40
Auditors	64.00
Hire of Automobile	12.00
Typewriting	10.00
Postage—Sidewalks Notices	18.00
Repairs to Township Building	244.40
Advertising Ordinance 100	10.38
Map of Township, showing Lights and Fire Plugs	100.00
Steel Flag Pole	100.00
Sidewalks	1,516.27
Cemetery Wall, Changes in.....	58.28
Miscellaneous—Elect. Cap.....	\$1.50
Frame	\$3.75 5.25
Office Furniture	22.00
Fire Hydrants—Special bill not rendered for 5 years	152.64
	3,737.69
Total	3,737.69
Balance unexpended	\$345.26

SIDEWALKS (YORK ROAD)

Appropriation	\$2,000.00
Expenditures—	
Sidewalks (Half cost, other half paid by Property	
Owners)	\$940.49
Track moving	538.01
	1,478.50
Total	1,478.50
Balance unexpended	\$521.50

TEMPORARY LOANS, 1913, JENKINTOWN NATIONAL BANK

Appropriation	\$20,000.00
Expenditure	20,000.00
	20,000.00

TEMPORARY LOANS, 1913, FRANKLIN NATIONAL BANK

Appropriation	\$15,000.00
Expenditure	15,000.00
	15,000.00

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Appropriation \$20,000.00
 Expenditures—

Abington District No. 1

Material—

Stone—Wm. Tull\$1.00
 J. Balme 6.50
 E. Cannon 8.30
 Bethayres Stone
 Co.113.36
 _____ 129.16
 Westernite—L. A. Nagle & Co. 80.90
 Inlet—J. Thompson 61.80
 Lumber—S. L. Schively..... 6.96
 Nails—W. N. Goodwin..... 4.20
 Cement and Sand—Schively. 12.88
 Terra Cotta Pipe, J. W. Ball 2.16

Total Material 297.46
 Labor 1,815.54
 Surveys 20.24

Total Abington District\$2,133.24

Saw Mill Hill District No. 2

Material—

Stone—Beth. Stone Co.\$298.09
 W. Longstreth. 25.00
 J. T. Dyer Q. Co. 50.86
 Demurrage 4.00
 _____ 377.95
 Compound No. 1, Headley
 Good Roads Co..... 276.96
 Lumber—Nagle & Co. \$15.50
 Freight44 15.94

Total Material 670.85
 Labor 2,092.87

Total Saw Mill Hill District 2,763.72

Weldon District No. 3

Material—

Stone—General Crushed
 Stone Co..\$350.84
 John Schlimme 195.40
 Demurrage ... 17.00
 _____ 563.24
 Lumber—S. L. Schively 47.88
 F. G. Justice. 9.07 56.95
 Cement Gutters—Nagle & Co. 87.49
 Cement and Sand—G. D.
 Heist & Son..... 2.89
 Bricks—Florey Brick Co..... 5.00
 Tree—Krewson & Son..... 3.00

Total Material 718.57
 Labor 2,372.69
 Surveys 52.00

Total Weldon District 3,143.26

McKinley District No. 4

Material—	
Stone—J. T. Dyer Q. Co.....	\$120.00
Compound No. 1—Headley Good Roads Co.....	104.88
Cement Gutters—J. W. Ball.	16.93
Cement and Sand—Schively	4.50
Lumber—L. A. Nagle & Co...	14.76
Total Material	261.07
Labor	1,108.62
Surveys	12.50
Total McKinley District	1,382.19

Remlu District No. 5

Material—	
Stone—J. Schlimme...\$651.38	
General Crushed Stone Co..	103.05
Edge Hill Rock Co.	216.50
	970.93
Inlets—H. Young	6.00
J. Thompson Co.	56.50
Freight90
Pipe—G. D. Heist & Son ...	63.40
Cement and Sand—H. Lachot	146.25
G. D. Heist & Son	29.12
Bricks—Floreay Brick Co....	6.00
Oil—Gulf Refining Co.....	18.75
Total Material	1,234.45
Labor	1,369.56
Surveys	153.86
Total Remlu District	2,757.87

Crestmont District No. 6

Material—	
Stone—E. C. Cannon.....	\$15.66
Lumber—L. A. Nagle & Co....	18.32
Total Material	33.98
Labor	208.76
Total Crestmont District	242.74

Miscellaneous Bills

Repairs and supplies for automobile.....	\$235.81
Repairs and Supplies for Gasoline Roller...	242.00
Gasoline and Oils	157.00
Rent and Repairs to Water Cranes	125.06
Wood Alcohol	2.90
Lumber	3.25
Advertising and Printing.....	14.75
Insurance on Gasoline Rollers.....	80.00
Barrels, Headley Good Roads Co. (used in 1913)	19.50
Montgomery County Supervisors' Assn....	7.62

Toll	4.40	
Rent for Oil Plant.....	75.00	
Attachment for Distributing Oils.....	250.00	
Tools	86.40	
Placing new district lines on Township map	15.00	
License for automobile, 1914 and 1915	20.00	
Storing Machinery	49.25	
Clearing up fallen trees	14.50	
Total Miscellaneous Bills.....	\$1,402.44	
Allowance on Sprinkler in trade.....	150.00	
Net	1,252.44	
Road Oils—		
Barber Asphalt Co.....	450.30	
Asphalt Road Oil Co.....	941.10	
United States Asphalt Co.....	361.53	
W. S. French, applying oils	400.00	
	<u>2,152.93</u>	
Supervisor of Highways' Salary.....	1,260.00	
Removal of Snow	1,629.90	
*Total Expenditures	18,713.29	
Balance Unexpended	<u><u>\$1,281.71</u></u>	

*This does not include the 1913 bills paid in 1914. See special appropriation below.

TEMPORARY LOANS OF 1914

No Special Appropriation

Total Borrowed at Banks	\$45,000.00
Total Repaid	35,000.00
Balance due Banks	<u><u>\$10,000.00</u></u>

INDEBTEDNESS 1913 BILLS

Appropriation	\$8,796.68
Expenditures for Current Expenses.....	\$6,476.47
Expended for Highways	2,052.79
Total	<u><u>8,529.25</u></u>
Balance unexpended	<u><u>\$267.42</u></u>

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS—PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

Appropriation	\$23,331.00
Expenditures—	
Interest on Permanent Loans	\$13,490.00
Sinking Fund Loan 1906.....	1,660.00
Sinking Fund Loan 1907.....	1,860.00
Sinking Fund Loan 1911.....	1,167.00
Sinking Fund Loan 1912.....	3,280.00
Sinking Fund Loan 1913.....	550.00
State Tax on Loans.....	8,517.00
	<u>1,324.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$23,331.00</u></u>

Auditor's Report of the Account of W. Howard Wilson, Treasurer, and the
Commissioners of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pa.

From the first Monday of January, 1914, to the
first Monday of January, 1915

To Balance from John M. Harmer, former Treasurer.....	\$43,813.73		
" Tax Duplicate, 1914	\$83,342.45		
Less Discount allowed Taxpayers.....	\$2,750.79		
" Allowances—Duplicate assessments.....	\$156.10		
" Exonerations—Abington Memorial Hospital and Lawnview Cemetery 150.00			
" Exonerations due to removals, er- rors, deaths, etc.....	359.80		
" Amount of taxes on unseated lands, returned to County Commission- ers before Feb. 1, 1915, for Public Sale	796.40		
	1,462.30	4,213.09	79,129.36
To 5% penalty on uncollected taxes, \$5,070.46.....			253.52
" Interest on Bank Balance			190.82
" Amount received through Town Clerk			47,170.13
			\$170,557.61

CREDITS

By Finance Vouchers (see detailed schedule below).....	\$134,919.88
" Highway Vouchers (see detailed schedule next page)	20,771.08

TREASURER'S COMPENSATION

By 3% on \$79,129.36, net tax duplicate.....	\$2,373.88		
" 3% on 253.52 Penalty	7.61		
" 1% on 43,813.73 Bal. from former Treas....	438.14		
" 1% on 47,170.18 received from Town Clerk	471.70		
" 1% on 190.82 Bank Interest	1.91		
" Allowances for printing and postage.....	190.20	3,483.44	159,174.46

Balance in hands of Treasurer—Cash and uncollected Taxes.....	\$11,383.21
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FINANCE VOUCHERS

Temporary Loans, 1913	\$35,000.00	
Other debts of 1913.....	6,476.47	
		\$41,476.47
Interest on Permanent Loans	\$13,490.00	
Sinking Fund Loan, 1906.....	1,660.00	
Sinking Fund Loan, 1907.....	1,860.00	
Sinking Fund Loan, 1911.....	1,167.00	
Sinking Fund Loan, 1912.....	3,280.00	
Sinking Fund Loan, 1913.....	550.00	
State Tax on Loans	1,324.00	
		23,331.00
Office		3,287.45
Contingent		3,737.69
Board of Health		1,473.16
Police		11,676.01
Fire Department		2,055.80
Road Lights		6,925.93
Fire Hydrants		1,544.13

York Road Sidewalks	1,478.50
Removing Railroad Tracks	\$538.01
One half Huntingdon Valley C. C. and Reading R. R. 940.49	
Ashes and Garbage contract	1,436.66
Temporary Loan, 1914	35,000.00
Legal	1,467.08
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Total Finance Vouchers	\$134,919.88

HIGHWAY VOUCHERS

Debts from 1913	\$2,052.79
Labor and Material	15,092.21
Sundries	3,626.08
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Total Highway Vouchers	\$20,771.08

LIABILITIES

Balance of Loan, 1906	\$40,000.00
Balance of Loan, 1907	64,000.00
Loan of 1911	35,000.00
Loan of 1912	164,000.00
Loan of 1913	25,000.00
Temporary Loan, Jenkintown National Bank, demand note, dated November 30, 1914	10,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$338,000.00

CASH ASSETS

Sinking Fund Loan, 1905	\$1,633.06
Sinking Fund Loan, 1907	1,590.76
Sinking Fund Loan, 1911	3,630.26
Sinking Fund Loan, 1912	3,280.00
Sinking Fund Loan, 1913	550.00
Balance due from W. Howard Wilson, Treasurer—Cash in hand and uncollected taxes	11,383.21
	<hr/>
	\$22,067.29

We, the undersigned Township Auditors of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, do hereby report that we have audited, settled and adjusted the accounts of the Board of Township Commissioners of Abington Township, and of W. Howard Wilson, the Township Treasurer, for the year beginning the first Monday of January, 1914, and ending the first Monday of January, 1915, and find that the above statement of the list of receipts, expenditures, credits and debts is a true and correct account of said settlement and audit, and we find said accounts correct as stated above.

H. I. REYNOLDS,
JOHN R. ROBERTS,
HOWARD W. TRUMP,
Auditors.

REPORT OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE

Abington, Pa., December 31, 1914.

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Commissioners of Abington Township,
Montgomery County, Pa.

Dear Sir:

As Chairman of the Police Committee I beg leave to submit the following report for the fiscal year ending January 4th, 1915, as follows:

Appropriation for 1914 was \$12,000.00, of which \$323.99 remained unexpended. Expenditures in detail are shown in report of Finance Committee on page 5.

This department is entitled to the following credits:

Fines	\$340.00
Horses Sold	191.40
Deduction on Street Lights reported out.....	262.49
Manure Sold	14.92
Police Services	5.00
Board of Horses	3.50
Meals to Prisoners75
	\$818.06

Actual cost of this department for 1914, \$10,857.95.

INVENTORY

Bertillon and photograph equipment	\$300.00
10 Colt's revolvers	100.00
11 Smith & Wesson revolvers	70.00
15 pair handcuffs	60.00
10 flashlights	20.00
Holsters and belts	20.00
3 storage batteries	15.00
12 pair nippers	6.00
10 jacks	5.00
2 stretchers	10.00
1 searchlight	5.00
1 pair leg irons	5.00
7 horses	725.00
9 riding saddles	90.00
12 riding bridles	24.00
5 neck straps	5.00
23 horse blankets	46.00
7 stable blankets	4.00
2 sets single harness	10.00
1 set double harness	14.00
1 phaeton carriage	15.00
1 runabout carriage	40.00
1 patrol wagon	100.00
1 motor cycle	25.00
1 horse groomer	40.00
Forks, shovels, etc.....	5.00
Fire ropes and stands.....	10.00
3 H. & R. revolvers	9.00

1 Iver Johnson revolver	3.00
8 sets never slip chains	32.00

\$1,813.00

During the year 307 arrests were made and classified as follows:

Automobiles	33
Assault and battery	13
Assault and battery with intent to ravish.....	1
Aggravated assault and battery	3
Adultery	2
Burglary	3
Breaking and Entering	2
Cruelty to Animals	4
Carrying concealed weapons	7
Committed to Poor House	2
Disorderly conduct	30
Disorderly conduct and threats	1
Drunk and Disorderly	3
False pretense	4
Fornication and Bastardy	1
Grand Larceny (arrested for New Jersey).....	1
Intoxicated	21
Insane... ..	3
Jail Breaking	2
Larceny	30
Lost Boys	4
Larceny and Concealed Weapons	1
Malicious Mischief	10
Material witness	1
Non-support of child	1
Non-support of wife and children	3
Runaway boys	8
Reckless Driving of Automobile.....	2
Selling Liquor Without License	4
Suspicion	25
Threats to Kill	1
Trespassing	2
Vagrancy	79

307

Meals Served to Prisoners	1817
Lodgers Accommodated	44
Street Lights Reported Out	2538

Accidents Reported to this Department—

Automobiles	5
Trolleys	5
Steam Train	2
Poison	1
Falling out of tree	1
Falling off of buildings	1
	15

Suicide reported to this Department—

Suicide from poison	1
	1

Fires reported to this department—

Automobile	1
Buildings	6
Woods	6
	13

Prisoners Photographed and Measured	65
Finger Prints Taken	35

There was a total of \$818.06 collected during the year. There were no serious crimes committed during the year, and in no case was the loss of property heavy.

This, I think, reflects great credit on your officers, when you take into account that for a population of about 7500 there are but eight officers. This is one officer to 937 persons. There are 106 miles of roads in the Township to patrol.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Chief H. S. Lever for his hearty co-operation and support, and also the President, members of the Board, and the other members of this committee.

THEO. EDWARDS,
Chairman of Police Committee.

REPORT OF HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Abington, Pa., January 4, 1915.

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Commissioners of Abington Township.

Dear Sir:

Your Highway Committee appointed for the year 1914, wish to submit the following report:

The snows in the months of January, February and March made it necessary for us to spend a large portion of our Highway Fund to keep the roads passable. The snow lying in banks on the sides of the road, melting, disintegrated our macadam roads a great deal, which made it necessary for us to spend a large portion of our appropriation in filling pot holes. Meeting House Road from Susquehanna Road to Cheltenham Township Line was found to be full of holes and they were filled with three-quarter inch stone first mixed with Headley's No. 1 Compound; 77 tons of stone and 1800 gallons of the compound were used for this purpose. This work was done in the month of May. Later the surface of Meeting House Road from Second Street Pike to Fox Chase was given one application of the Atlantic Refining Company's Road Oil. Similar conditions as to holes in the surface prevailed in the Jenkintown and Fox Chase Road, and 1380 gallons of the same compound and 155 tons of trap rock were used in the repair of this road, together with the repair of the Jenkintown and Cheltenham Road.

In repairing the Valley Road near the P. & R. Railroad crossing we used 53 tons of broken stone. In addition to Meeting House Road, already mentioned, the following roads received one application of Atlantic Refining Company's Road Oil:

Welsh Road, from York Road to the end of the Willow Grove Park.
Prospect Avenue.

Valley Road, from York Road to the P. & R. Railroad.

Spring, Upland, Grove, Centre, and Noble Road.

Susquehanna Road, from Huntingdon Road to Hillside Cemetery.

Edge Hill Road, from Willow Grove Pike to Susquehanna Road.

Cloverly Lane, from Stevens' Lane to Woodland Avenue.

There were 12,698 gallons of oil used for this purpose, at 7½ cents per gallon applied. The following roads received one application of Aztec Road Oil:

Moreland Road, from Second Street Pike to City Line.

Cedar Road, from Second Street Pike to Jenkintown Road.

Mill Road, from P. & R. Railroad to Moreland Township Line.

Fox Chase Road, from Meeting House Road to Cedar Road.

Cypress Avenue, Tulpehocken Avenue, Ogontz Avenue.

Jenkintown Road, from Osceola Avenue to Forrest Avenue.

Forrest Avenue, from Township Line to Cypress Avenue.

There were 8,034 gallons of this material, at a cost of 6½ cents per gallon applied.

We believe that for a cheap surface treatment it pays to use these light road oils, as they keep the surface of the road water proof and keep the dust down for a long time after being applied, and recommend that they be applied earlier in the season this year.

The cost of applying road oils appears to be high; therefore the Committee has equipped one of its street sprinklers with a mechanical device for applying oil. With this equipment it is expected that a considerable saving will be effected by applying road oil the coming season.

The Jenkintown Road, from the railroad crossing at Switchville to the railroad crossing at Ardsley was given a surface treatment with liquid asphalt; Mt. Carmel Avenue, west of the Limekiln Pike, and 250 feet on Oakdale Avenue were given the same treatment.

There were 8,041 gallons of asphalt and 315 tons of trap rock screenings used for this purpose. The cost of the asphalt was 8½ cents per gallon applied. This does not include the cost of the stone, hauling and spreading the same, and sweeping surface of roadway preparatory to applying the surface treatment.

The result obtained appears to be quite satisfactory, notwithstanding the fact that the asphalt was applied rather sparingly, and the Committee feels justified to make use of this treatment more extensively the coming season.

Mt. Carmel Avenue, between Edge Hill Road and Tyson Avenue, has been widened to 50 feet, making the roadway between the curbing 30 feet. This road has been reconstructed and provision for taking the surface water underground has been made by laying 150 feet of 24 inch vitrified pipe in the sidewalk on the north side of the street, between the railroad Y. Two large storm water inlets were also constructed to the west of the railroad Y. There were 796 tons of broken limestone and 435 two-horse loads of quarry spalls used to make this improvement. There still remains some work to be done on this piece of road and should be done this year.

Linden Avenue, between Weldon and Geneva Avenues, was reconstructed; 140 tons of limestone were used for this purpose.

To provide for better drainage, five inlets at street corners in Noble, two at Mt. Carmel avenue and Willow Grove Turnpike, and one at Mt. Carmel and Central avenues, one of which was reconstructed and the balance built new.

In Noble, where waterbound macadam was frequently washed out by an excessive flow of storm water, we placed two tons of Westermite mixed with crushed stone. This is a new preparation to us and we are not prepared to say anything in regard to its qualities as yet, but that it is not washing and is holding the road together.

Nearly all the gutters on the township roads were cleaned out once and some oftener. In Glenside the filling of the sod gutters necessitated cutting out a great part of such gutters to obtain better drainage and prevent the washing of the macadam on the sides of the roadway.

We used 24 tons of broken stone to repair surface on Moreland Road, 126 for the same purpose on Cloverly Lane. Minor repairs were also made to Keswick and Lynnwood Avenues, Glenside, and to various other roads and culverts throughout the Township.

During the year Township Line Road, between Abington and Cheltenham Townships, has been built by State Aid, and is known as a State Aid Road. It is about two miles long, and our share of the cost is about \$4990.

There are about 106 miles of roads in the Township, divided as follows:

Water-bound Macadam.....	63 miles
Asphaltic Macadam	6 miles
Dirt Roads	23 miles
Private Roads not dedicated.....	14 miles

Attached hereto is an itemized statement of the amount of money spent in each district, which sums up as follows:

Abington, No. 1, \$2,133.24; Saw Mill Hill, No. 2, \$2,763.72; McKinley, No. 4, \$1,382.19; Weldon, No. 3, \$3,143.26; Remlu, No. 5, \$2,757.87; Crestmont, No. 6, \$242.74. For miscellaneous purposes, in which each District shared, we spent \$3,405.37. For the removal of snow we spent \$1,629.90, making a total of \$18,718.29. Expenditures in detail are shown on page 8.

Owing to our small appropriation, we did but little new work, and tried to keep our Main Highways in as good repair as possible.

We have been able to get the sidewalks on Old York Road started at a cost to the Township of \$1478.50. See special appropriation.

In conclusion, I wish to state that the Committee benefited very much by the able assistance of our President, Mr. Mebus, and I, as Chairman of the Highway Committee, wish to thank him for that assistance.

DAVID F. BENNINGHOFF,
Chairman of Highway Committee.

REPORT OF FIRE COMMITTEE

Abington, Pa., January 4, 1915.

Charles F. Mebus, President,
Abington Township Commissioners.

Dear Sir:

Your Fire Department desire to submit the following report for the year 1914:

There have been 60 fires reported this year, 18 of which were woods fires.

Of the fires reported, Abington Fire Company, of District No. 1, attended 23 fires; McKinley Fire Company, No. 1, of District No. 2, attended 14 fires; Weldon Fire Company, of District No. 3, attended 13 fires, and Edge Hill Fire Company, of District No. 4, attended 32 fires.

Some of these fires all of the companies attended. This is something which we are trying to avoid where it is possible for the Fire Company in the district to cope with the fire without having the whole Fire Department called out. We trust, with the co-operation of the taxpayers, to be able to avoid this condition next year.

The total value of buildings on fire this year was \$192,850.00. The value of the contents was \$84,325.00; making a total of \$277,175.00. The amount of damage to buildings was \$97,560.00, and to contents was \$47,400.00; making a total of \$144,960.00. This makes a saving to buildings and contents of \$132,215.00, and this estimate does not include adjoining property which might have been a total loss if it were not for the Fire Department.

Of these fires 20 were insured to the amount of \$186,400.00, while the damage to the same was only \$130,305.00, making a saving to buildings and contents of \$56,095.00 of the insured value.

Too much praise cannot be said of our Volunteer Firemen, who respond to the fire call at all hours of the night, or on Sundays or holidays. In fact, I know that many of our firemen spent nearly all of Christmas Day fighting a fire in one of our neighboring villages, and in another instance they stayed all night at a fire in order to protect the adjoining buildings, for which they received not one cent of compensation.

Our Fire Department is yet in its infancy, and we trust at the end of another year it will be more efficient. Each District is equipped with an automobile fire-fighting apparatus. What we need in this department is a force pump apparatus, the expense of which is so great that I think it advisable to purchase such an apparatus out of the funds of the township.

Very truly yours,

DAVID F. BENNINGHOFF,
Chairman of the Fire Department.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

To Mr. Charles F. Mebus, President:—

I beg to report that—

One lawsuit was brought against the Township during the year 1914. This was a bill in equity, filed by certain citizens, to test the right of the Commissioners to use borrowed money for any other purpose than permanent improvements. The Commissioners, upon the advice of their counsel, had acted on the assumption that they could borrow and use money obtained under a bond issue for any emergency or lawful Township purpose, provided they did not exceed the constitutional borrowing capacity of 2% of the assessed valuation of taxable property in the Township. Although many minor issues crept into the case, the Commissioners' actions were upheld by the Court and the prayer for an injunction dismissed.

The ordinances adopted by the Board covered the regular routine, with one exception, viz., Ordinance No. 101, which was enacted for the purpose of regulating burials and to prohibit the burial of non-residents without a permit. This ordinance has worked out very satisfactorily.

As the ordinances of the Township now number over one hundred, it is difficult, if not impossible, for the citizens to keep familiar with all their provisions. Your Solicitor would suggest that the Board consider the feasibility of publishing these ordinances in book form and distributing them through the Township.

In 1911, through proceedings instituted by divers citizens, a strip of land on the west side of the P. & R. Railway tracks, running from Jenkintown Station to Glenside Station, was cut off from Abington Township and annexed to Cheltenham Township without provision being made for Cheltenham Township assuming its proportionate share of the then bonded indebtedness of Abington Township. Your Solicitor started proceedings to properly charge Cheltenham Township with its share of this indebtedness. Frank S. Gentry, Esq., has been appointed by the Court as Auditor to take testimony and report to the Court. The testimony has been taken before the Auditor, and I trust that the matter will be satisfactorily disposed of during the coming year.

Ten municipal claims for sidewalks constructed by the Township were referred to me for attention, four of which were collected, amounting to \$448.95, and turned over to the Town Clerk. Sidewalk liens were filed against the proper owners to preserve the other six claims.

Forty-six (46) of the old tax liens of 1909 were revived during the year, of which four, amounting to \$66, were collected, and the proceeds turned over to the Town Clerk.

The collection of taxes on the many small unimproved lots of non-resident owners in Abington Township has been a serious problem for years. These lots, being of small value, when liened and sold for taxes, do not bring the Court costs. Moreover, the owners, being non-residents, cannot be arrested and jailed for their failure to pay the tax. This subject has been causing much agitation through other parts of the State, and has resulted in several recent decisions by the Supreme and Superior Courts. Under these decisions, your Solicitor has deemed it wise to have these unimproved lots returned to the County Commissioners to be sold by the County Treasurer under the Acts of the General Assembly known as the Unseated Lands Acts. This will permit the sale of these lots for the non-payment of taxes, without any expense to the Township.

A large percentage of the taxes of Montgomery County are paid by the four first-class Townships in the lower corner, which under the present status of the law are unjustly treated. For instance, the law provides that the County Commissioners shall furnish all second-class Townships, boroughs and school districts in the County with a tax duplicate every year free of charge, while first-class Townships are required to go to Norristown and

either write up the Tax Duplicate themselves, or hire some one there to do it for them. Moreover, since the County Commissioners are required to write up the duplicates for second-class Townships, and deliver them before March 1, of each year, they fix the appeal day from the assessments from second-class Townships first, and first-class Townships last, thereby preventing the first-class Townships from getting their tax duplicate until later in the year. Your Solicitor is now preparing an Act to be introduced in the Legislature to remedy this defect.

For years past the turnpikes in the upper end of the County have been freed one after another at the County expense. As the majority of the County taxes are paid by the inhabitants of the lower end of the County, some of its turnpikes might be thus freed. Abington Township has four turnpike roads running through it upon which tolls are collected. This is an unjust burden upon its inhabitants. Proceedings are now under way to have freed the Germantown & Willow Grove Plank Turnpike from Willow Grove to the Philadelphia City Line. Your Solicitor has voluntarily offered his services to assist in these proceedings and trusts that this turnpike will be freed and maintained at the County expense before January 1, 1916.

Respectfully submitted,

H. S. AMBLER, JR.,
Solicitor.

REPORT OF BOARD OF HEALTH

January 21, 1915.

Commissioners of Abington Township—

Gentlemen:

Your Health Board respectfully report that during the year 1914 physicians have reported the following cases:

German Measles	32
Whooping Cough	25
Measles	24
Chicken Pox	12
Tuberculosis	5
Diphtheria	5
Typhoid Fever	3
Mumps	2
Scarlet Fever	1
Pneumonia	1
Ophthalmia	1
Erysipelas	1
Nuisances Reported and Abated	18

Our Health Officer has, during the year, visited all the dairies, which furnish milk for Abington Township, and as a rule found them in good condition, and when they were not up to standard, the owners immediately put things in good order.

In some cases the Health Officer has made more than one visit.

Respectfully submitted,

LEON H. GILBERT,
President.

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