

COMMISSIONER'S RECORD M

381

James F. Brass moved that the budget be printed in the official county paper and that several hundred copies of said budget be printed for distribution in the courthouse. Earl T. Black seconded the motion and on vote put by the Chairman Chris Schaeke, all Commissioners voted "Aye".

The Board of County Commissioners adjourned as a Board of County Commissioners to reconvene as a Board of Social Welfare to carry on business coming to their attention from that department.

Mrs. Mildred D. Watson, County Director, brought up the matter of the re-employment of men on the WPA. She stated that our full quota of 111 men are now back on WPA projects, but that a 100 or 150 still remained unemployed who previously had been on the projects and laid off because of the need of farm help during the busy season on the farms. The Commissioners decided it best to transmit a letter and also a wire to the government urging them to increase the quota of Douglas County for the WPA projects so that these men now out of work may return to their jobs as soon as possible.

The letter and wire follow:

Mr. William C. Connors
State Employment Director,
912-914 Kansas Avenue,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Connors:

As a Board of County Commissioners we are concerned over our reduced W. P. A. quota.

June 27, 1937, we closed all W. P. A. projects in our county in order that the 247 men on these projects could work in the harvest fields. These workers were advised of Mr. Hopkins' letter No. 132 which we quote:

"It is of particular importance at this time that project workers be given every encouragement to accept other employment even though of short duration. To this end you are directed to reassign immediately any certified project worker who has left project employment for other employment and has lost that employment through no fault of his own."

Our new quota, we understand, is 111. This number has been re-investigated by the relief office and their names given to the Area Engineer for re-assignment. As the remaining number who were laid off for harvest is expecting re-assignment, we urgently request that you increase Douglas County's W. P. A. quota for laboring men's projects to at least 247 as we have over 500 employable certified men on our rolls. There are not sufficient men with the reduced quota of 111 to man the Leocompton, Eudora, and Baldwin projects.

Douglas County is in the Dust Bowl of Eastern Kansas this summer. It is the third driest county in Kansas. The pastures, corn and hary are burned up. Last week the hail damage to crops and buildings in the county is estimated at over \$500,000.

We have not sufficient relief money to meet the additional increase of demand that will soon come to our relief office from this large employable certified group. We are, therefore, urging you consideration of a substantial increase in Douglas County's W. P. A. quota.

Very truly yours,

Chris Schaeke
Chairman Board of County
Commissioners.

Wire:

William C. Connors
State Employment Director,
912-914 Kansas Avenue,
Topeka, Kansas.

Relative our letter July 29 urge increase in Douglas Countys WPA quota now 111 have over five hundred certified men harvest over Douglas County third driest in Kansas men left WPA our request are forced on relief urge immediate increase in quota ANSWER

CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

The question of a Notary Public for the Welfare Department came up and it was decided that Mr. Leon G. Abele would be the proper person for such position in the Welfare Department.

The matter of having men who are in need of groceries work out their grocery order by cutting wood in the County's wood pile and then receiving the order at the end of the day was suggested by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board.

The Board adjourned to meet again as the Board of County Commissioners, August 4, 1937 at 9:30 A. M.

ATTEST:

T.R. Gernhart
T.R. Gernhart, County Clerk.

Chris Schaeke
Chris Schaeke, Chairman of the
Board of County Commissioners.

*Letter and Wire
WPA Quota*