

America's Historical Imprints

Date of Publication: 1799

Early American Imprints, Series 1, no. 36089 (filmed)

Title: Report of the Joint Committee of the Select and Common Councils, appointed to receive information on the subject of watering the city, and to employ agents, when necessary, for promoting that object. Printed by order of the corporation of Philadelphia.

Author: Philadelphia (Pa.). Councils.

Subjects:

Philadelphia (Pa.)--Water-supply.

Publication Information:

--Philadelphia:-- Printed by Zachariah Poulson, Junior, no. 106, Chesnut-Street., 1799.

Physical Description:

7, [1] p.

Printers, Publishers, Booksellers:

Poulson, Zachariah, 1761-1844, printer.

Place(s) of Publication:

United States--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Language:

English

References:

Evans 36089

Rink, E. Technical Americana, 2739

Copyright 2002 by the American Antiquarian Society and NewsBank, inc. All Rights Reserved.

Record Number: 0F2F82D0D6381470

Record Number: w006141

Article Bookmark (OpenURL Compliant): Early American Imprints, Series 1, no. 36089 (filmed)

http://docs.newsbank.com/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info:sid/iw.newsbank.com:EAIX&rft_val_format=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:ctx&rft_dat=0F2F82D0D6381470&svc_dat=Evans:eaidoc&req_dat=1095A8734553BB87

36089

**Philadelphia. Councils. Joint Committee on Water
Supply.**

Report of the Joint Committee.

Philadelphia, Poulson, 1799. 7 pp.

HSP copy.

... '1795'
R E P O R T

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

Select and Common Councils,

APPOINTED TO

Receive Information on the Subject of

WATERING THE CITY,

AND TO

Employ Agents, when necessary, for promoting
that Object.

Printed by order of the *Corporation of Philadelphia.*

—*Philadelphia:*—

PRINTED BY ZACHARIAH POULSON, JUNIOR,
No. 106, Chestnut-street.

1799.

The joint committee appointed to receive information on the subject of watering the city and to employ agents, when necessary, for promoting that object.

Report,

THAT since the passing of the resolutions of the Select and Common Councils, which empowered them, in conjunction with the Mayor of the city, to agree to so much of the contract, entered into by N. J. Roosevelt, as was necessary for the timely securing of two steam-engines. They have caused a copy of the same to be forwarded to him, accompanied with propositions for the following modification of the original proposed terms of contract, *that is to say,*

First, That it being apprehended the quantity of one million of gallons, in every twenty-four hours, might be inadequate for the supply of the city; that, in lieu of that quantity for the sum of three thousand dollars per engine, he should agree to deliver one million and five hundred thousand gallons within the time aforesaid, for the annual sum of three thousand five hundred dollars per engine, and for five thousand dollars each for three million of gallons within the same space of time, should this last quantity be found necessary, and for a proportionate price for any quantity more than one and an half and less than three million of gallons as aforesaid.

Second, That, instead of having a lease for a lot of ground on Schuylkill and the use of the extra power of the Schuylkill engine, to be determinable only on the event of non-performance of contract on his part, that he should agree to receive

receive a lease for the same, to be of a duration not exceeding a term of twenty-one years, to be determinable at any time, within that term, at the option of the city, on his non-performance of any part of the contract; that this lease should be renewable for a second term of seven years on the mutual agreement of both parties; and, should either party determine to decline a renewal of the lease for the said term of seven years, or to propose a renewal thereof with any alterations or different modification, due notice shall be given by one party to the other of any such intention, at least three years previous to the termination of the existing lease, and in case no agreement shall be effected for a renewal of the lease as aforesaid, any permanent improvements, which may be made and erected on the said lot of ground by the said Nicholas J. Roosevelt, at his own proper expense and cost, to be valued by referees to be mutually appointed by both parties, and to be paid for by the city at such valuation; and

Third, That, in lieu of his proposition to pay back again to the city thirteen thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars the cost of the Schuylkill engine, in fourteen years, by deduction from his annual compensation for attendance, repairs and fuel to said two engines, he should agree to pay a rent for the lot and extra power aforesaid, at the rate of eight hundred and twenty-five dollars per annum, to be deducted from his annual compensation as aforesaid.

On these propositions your committee have been advised, that they will be all acceded to, excepting the supply of three millions of gallons per twenty-four hours, for five thousand dollars each engine: he being of the opinion he cannot afford to undertake to large a supply, for a less sum than a thousand dollars each engine.

Your

Your committee having, in conjunction and in perfect agreement with the Mayor, thus far negotiated this business, may here add the information, that Roosevelt hath commenced the work of putting the steam-engines in forwardness, and will, conformably to the terms of the proposed contract, (not objected to on the part of the city) expect an installment payment, which will fall due on the sixth of March next coming. It must be obvious, that the taking-proper security, before any payment is made, is a measure that ought not to be neglected. The taking of this security was an essential part of the business referred to the care of the Mayor and your committee, but your committee apprehending that difficulties and embarrassments would arise and perplex the business, by taking security only for a partial performance of an essential, though not most material, part of the business, and leave the other parts of the proposed contracts insecured. have, on this view, declined requiring such partial security, before the Councils had an opportunity of deciding on the propriety of going fully into the whole contract, under the modifications as now reported by your committee.

If, with these modifications, Councils shall agree to have the contract fully executed, it will become necessary to vest the power of executing the same, either with the Mayor and the present Joint Committee, or with some other proper persons, to be fully authorized, as the Agents of the corporation, for such purpose.

To carry this into effect, your committee take the liberty of recommending the adoption of the following resolution:—

Resolved, That

they are hereby authorized and empowered, to execute, on the part of the Mayor,
Aldermen

Aldermen and citizens of Philadelphia, in due form the contract offered on the part of Nicholas J. Roosevelt, with such alterations and modifications as have been proposed to him, the said Nicholas J. Roosevelt, and by him acceded to, and with any other modification and alteration that can be obtained for the promoting of the city interests; and that the said contracts, when fully completed and interchanged, be deposited, for safe keeping with the Recorder of this city, and that three copies of the original so to be deposited, be made out, one of which shall be delivered to the Mayor for his use, one to the Select and one to the Common Councils, to be placed on file for the use of the members of each Council, at any time when a recurrence thereto shall become expedient.

Your committee will further mention for the information of councils, that, in the course of the frequent meetings of the committee, several propositions, to enter into contracts for different parts of the work, have been offered, and some of them appear more advantageous, for the interest of the city, than has been calculated on in the estimate of expence; but, however advantageous such propositions have been and may be, your committee are possessed of no authority to conclude any bargain or contract; and, as the season is now nearly at hand when vigorous and decisive measures should be adopted and promptly executed, to ensure a reasonable progress in the great object in contemplation, it appears to your committee, highly important that the councils constitute, and duly authorize, a proper agency, with full powers to form contracts and conclude bargains, or any advantageous offers which may present, and which it may be adviseable to accept. To answer this intention, your committee propose and recommend, for the consideration of councils the adoption of the following resolution:—

Resolved, That be and they hereby
 are, fully authorized and empowered to contract
 with, engage and employ any person or persons,
 who may or shall offer to engage or contract for the
 whole or any part of the work or works necessary
 to be executed, for the purpose of introducing a
 supply of water into the city, at such reasonable
 wages and compensation as shall be most for the in-
 terest of the city, having always due regard to the
 means and resources of the city, and to the securing
 of the performance of any engagements and con-
 tracts by such adequate provisions as circumstances,
 in particular cases, may render proper, and report-
 ing every proceeding of contract and engagement,
 made by virtue of this resolution, at the next meet-
 ing of the councils ensuing after any such proceed-
 ings.

Philadelphia, February 26th. 1799.

Committee of S. Council,

JOHN MILLER, junior.

SAMUEL M. FOX.

Committee of C. Council,

HENRY DRINKER, jun.

JOHN RUGAN.

DANIEL SMITH.