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Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an estimate of appropriation for payment to boards on town-site entries in Oklahoma.

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TOWN-SITE ENTRIES IN OKLAHOMA.

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR PAYMENT
TO BOARDS ON TOWN-SITE ENTRIES IN OKLAHOMA.

JUNE 18, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be
printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 17, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of
Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior
of the 15th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation for payment
to boards on town-site entries in Oklahoma, under act of May 14, 1890,
and joint resolution of September 1, 1893, \$3,854.95.

Respectfully, yours,

O. L. SPAULDING,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 15, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a deficiency estimate,
amounting to \$3,854.95, for compensation due Oklahoma town-site
trustees appointed under the act of May 14, 1890, and joint resolution
of September 1, 1893, as recommended by the Commissioner of the
General Land Office.

The estimate meets with my approval, and is forwarded through your Department for the appropriate action of Congress.

Respectfully,

C. S. BLISS, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., June 15, 1898.

SIR: I submit herewith for your consideration an estimate for an appropriation to pay compensation due to Oklahoma town-site trustees appointed under act of May 14, 1890, and joint resolution of September 1, 1893.

Trustees appointed under said act and joint resolution were authorized and required to levy an assessment on the lots and blocks embraced in the several town sites according to their value in such sum as would be necessary to pay Government price of the land, the cost of survey, conveyance of lots, and for any other necessary expenses, and to pay the compensation of the trustees as provided in the act. Such assessments were levied in each town site in sums supposed to be sufficient for the purpose intended, but in the administration of these trusts many unforeseen events arose to extend the time and labor incident to the proper execution of the same, and in many instances the assessments levied have been found inadequate to the purpose intended.

Fourteen boards of trustees were appointed under the act and more than forty town sites were entered.

As a disposal of the several town sites progressed boards were discharged and unfinished business was consolidated in the hands of remaining boards, until now the remnant of business in all the town sites entered is consolidated in the hands of one board.

The money arising from assessments on many of the town sites has long since been exhausted, but in order to complete the trust and dispose of all lots in the several town sites it has been found necessary to continue at least one board of trustees in the Territory. All the expenses incident to the entry, allotment, and conveyance of lots in the several town sites have been paid so far except compensation due to the trustees themselves. Such compensation is largely in arrears to the present trustees and to some of those who are no longer in the service.

These trustees were required to attend at their respective offices and to perform the functions required of them by the law, and it is but just and right that they should be paid for such services under the terms of their appointment.

There is no other means by which such compensation can be paid, and it appears that the estimated amount of \$3,854.95 will be required to pay all such liabilities.

I therefore recommend that Congress be requested to appropriate said amount, to be expended in accordance with the estimate herewith submitted.

Very respectfully,

BINGER HERMANN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

*Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898,
by the General Land Office.*

TOWN SITES IN OKLAHOMA.

Payment to boards on town-site entries in Oklahoma:

To pay the amounts which shall be found due, after proper audit in each instance, to the persons constituting the boards appointed to carry into effect the provisions of the act of Congress approved May 14, 1890 (26 Stat., 109), entitled "An act to provide for town-site entries of lands in Oklahoma, and for other purposes," and the joint resolution of Congress making the provisions of said act applicable to town sites in the Cherokee Outlet, approved September 1, 1893 (28 Stat., 11): *Provided*, That no payments shall be made hereunder to the disbursing agents of said boards until after the accounts of said agents shall have in each instance been satisfactorily adjusted by the Commissioner of the General Land Office. (Acts of May 24, 1890, vol. 26, p. 109, sec. 1; Sept. 1, 1893, vol. 28, p. 11) \$3,854.95

NOTE.—A letter in explanation and support of estimate herewith.