

1915.

APPROVAL, BONDS OF BERLIN RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ERIE COUNTY—\$4,900.00.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, May 28, 1930.

*Retirement Board, State Teachers Retirement System, Columbus, Ohio.*

1916.

EXPENSES—FOR TRIP MADE OUTSIDE STATE TO SIGN BONDS VIA RENTAL OF SIGNATURE MACHINE—WHETHER SUCH EXPENSES OF AUDITOR AND COMMISSIONERS CHARGEABLE TO COUNTY CONSIDERED.

**SYLLABUS:**

*Whether on not the expenses of county commissioners, their clerks and the county auditor, made on a trip outside of the state for the purpose of signing a large issue of bonds by the use of a signature machine, and the rental of such machine, may properly be paid from the county treasury is a question of fact to be determined from all of the circumstances.*

COLUMBUS, OHIO, May 28, 1930.

*Bureau of Inspection and Supervision of Public Offices, Columbus, Ohio.*

GENTLEMEN:—Acknowledgment is made of your communication requesting my opinion as follows:

“The county commissioners, two of their clerks, and the county auditor of a certain county in this state, made a trip to Chicago for the purpose of signing a large issue of bonds by the use of a signature machine.

Question 1. May the expense of such officers incurred in traveling to Chicago and return be legally paid out of the county treasury?

Question 2. Can the rental of the signature machine be legally paid out of the county treasury?

Question 3. In the event that these items have been paid, may they be recovered if held to be illegally paid?”

The question of reimbursing public officers for expenditures made in connection with their official business and duties has frequently been under consideration by this office in recent years. In my former opinion to you, No. 1747, issued under date of April 8, 1930, it was held, as disclosed by the syllabus:

“A board of education may legally pay personal traveling expenses of its clerk when under the direction of said board he travels to Columbus to confer with the Department of Education with reference to the state equalization fund, when such mission is reasonably necessary in view of the facts and circumstances.”

My said opinion above mentioned referred to an opinion of my immediate