

CHAPTER 153.

[Published March 18, 1876.]

AN ACT to provide for the corporation of fire departments in unincorporated villages.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Organization of fire companies. SECTION 1. Any number of persons not less than fifteen, residing in any unincorporated village, may unite for the purpose of organizing a hook and ladder, fire engine, sack or other fire company (or department) for the purpose of protecting life and property in such village. They may sign and acknowledge before some proper officer authorized to take the acknowledgment of deeds, a certificate in writing, in which shall be stated the name of such company (or department), the names of the incorporators and the name of the village, town and county in which the operations of such company (or department) are to be conducted. Such certificate shall be filed and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county in which such company (or department) is located.

Powers of corporation. SECTION 2. Upon filing a certificate as provided in section one of this act, the persons who shall have signed and acknowledged such certificate, and their associates and successors shall thereupon be a body politic and corporate by the name and style named in such certificate. The said corporation shall have power to contract and be contracted with; to sue and be sued; to plead and to be impleaded with; to defend and be defended in all courts of law and equity in this state, and shall have perpetual succession, and be vested with all the powers and privileges necessary to carry out and fulfill the objects of their corporation indicated by its corporate name.

May acquire and hold property. SECTION 3. They shall have power and authority to acquire, purchase, possess, be seized with, and enjoy property, real and personal, not exceeding ten thousand dollars in value, and sell, rent, demise, convey, or otherwise dispose of their real or personal estate at pleasure; also to effectuate loans, borrow money for the use of the corporation, to issue their bonds therefor, and to execute, sign, seal, and deliver deeds, mortgages, or other instruments in writing, as the case may require.

SECTION 4. The said corporation shall have power to establish for its government, a constitution and by-laws not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this state, and to make such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to carry into effect the object of their association, and the members shall have power to assemble and meet at such times and places as may be agreed upon, and they shall elect once in each year a foreman, first assistant foreman, second assistant foreman, secretary, and treasurer, and the same shall be a board of trustees, and to take charge of the real and personal property of said corporation, and the said property shall be solely devoted to the purposes of said associations, and all real and personal estate which has been, or may hereafter be lawfully conveyed by devise, gift, grant, purchase, or otherwise, shall descend, with all improvements and appurtenances, in perpetual succession to and be held by the trustees in trust for said corporation. The trustees may sue and be sued in [the] company's name, and be subject to other duties as may be prescribed by the laws of said corporation; and the said officers shall hold their offices for the term of one year, or until their successors are duly elected. And the members may elect or appoint such other officers as may be deemed necessary.

May establish by-laws and adopt rules for government of corporation, and shall elect officers.

SECTION 5. The said corporation may prescribe the mode of adopting new members and expel members for bad behavior, or for violating the constitution, by-laws, rules, regulations, or disobeying orders from the proper officers of said corporation, and may also impose such fines for the punishment for such offenses as they may deem fit, not to exceed the sum of fifteen dollars and costs, for any one offense, and may collect the same by suit and execution before any justice of the peace in the county in which said corporation is located, and the same when collected shall be paid into the treasury of said company.

May expel members and punish offenses

SECTION 6. The secretary of each company shall, within ten (10) days after the election of officers in each year, make out and deliver to the town clerk of the town in which such corporation is located, a report giving the names of officers elected for the ensuing year, and also after the election of officers or appointment of same to fill vacancies that may occur during the year. Each and every member so reported shall be exempt from military duty, except in case of war or invasion and insurrection, and said company (or department) shall

Secretaries of companies shall report officers elected to town clerk.

Exemptions.

have all the benefits derived by all the general laws now in force, or that may hereafter become in force, and any secretary (or other person) who shall report to the town clerk that any person belongs to a fire company, for the purpose of getting them the benefits derived from this section, or any other law of this state, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be punished by a reasonable fine or imprisonment in the county jail not less than one, or more than ten days for any one offense. Justices of the peace shall have jurisdiction of such cases to try and determine the same.

Organization
of fire depart-
ment.

SECTION 7. One company with a membership of not less than thirty, two or more companies with a membership of not less than fifteen each, equipped with one hook and ladder truck, one steam, hand or chemical fire engine, with at least two hundred feet of good sound rubber or leather hose, (located in the same unincorporated village) shall constitute a fire department for all intents and purposes by law, and it shall be lawful for the members of the company or companies (jointly), to meet and elect one of their members chief of the fire department and deliver to him a certificate of election, and he shall hold his office for the term of one year from date of such certificate or his successor is duly elected, or said certificate shall be signed by the secretary of such companies. He shall have control of said company or companies at all times and they shall obey his orders and he shall be ex-officio trustee of each company, and shall be vested with all the power and privileges, and be liable to the same penalties as fire wardens are in incorporated villages.

Duty of town
clerks.

SECTION 8. It is hereby made the duty of town clerks in each town containing a fire department or fire company, to receive the said department or company's reports, as provided by this act, and file the same as other papers are filed in their offices, and deliver to the treasurer of each company (or department) a receipt therefor.

Purpose of cor-
poration.

SECTION 9. The purpose and object of said corporations shall be to aid and assist in the extinguishing of fires at or near such villages, and for refusal to attend any fire within three-quarters of a mile from location of engine or truck houses, (when notified), shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars for each offense, to the town authorities for the benefit of the

poor fund, and shall be collected by suit same as other forfeitures are collected.

SECTION 10. This act shall be published immediately, and shall be in force from and after its passage and publication, and all acts and parts of acts contravening the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Approved March 7, 1876.

CHAPTER 154.

[Published March 15, 1876.]

AN ACT to legalize certain tax sales in the county of Chippewa.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The sale of lands for the non-payment of taxes in the town of Eagle Point, in the county of Chippewa, by the treasurer of said county, in September, A. D. 1875. is hereby legalized and made valid to all intents and purposes, the same as if chapter 242, of the general laws of 1873, had not been enacted. Sale of lands legalized.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 7, 1876.

CHAPTER 155.

[Published March 17, 1876.]

AN ACT to amend chapter forty-five (45), of the general laws of 1871, entitled, "An act to amend section one (1), of chapter fifty-three (53), of the general laws of 1858, entitled, 'an act for the formation and protection of county agricultural societies.' "

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section one (1), of chapter forty-five Amended. (45), of the general laws of 1871, entitled, "An act to amend section one (1), of chapter fifty-three (53), of the general laws of 1858, entitled, 'an act for the