

No. 170, A.]

[Published June 21, 1907

CHAPTER 268.

AN ACT to create section 776m, statutes of 1898, relating to water and light commissions in towns.

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

SECTION 1. There is added a new section to the statutes of 1898, to be known as section 776m, to read:

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

Approved June 19, 1907.

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No. 95, A.]

[Published June 21, 1907.

CHAPTER 269.

AN ACT to create sections 1636—150 to 1636—176 inclusive, statutes of 1898, relating to tenement, lodging and boarding houses in cities.

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

SECTION 1. There are added to the statutes of 1898 twenty-seven new sections to read:

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Approved June 19, 1907.

(In effect July 1, 1907.)

purchase price, and to negotiate such bonds or obligations either directly in payment of such purchase price, or in raising money to make such payment.

(Ch. 239, 1907.)

Powers of town meetings. [*Section 776.*] 16. To vote to apply to the county board to designate for improvement any road or bridge in the town.

17. To vote to levy a tax during one or more successive years, in addition to any other tax authorized by law for the county road and bridge fund, at the same rate as that fixed by the county board for the county tax for such fund, the aggregate of such levies to equal one-half the cost of any such improvement in any such town.

(Ch. 352, 1907. Numbered "Sec. 776, 16 and 17" by Sec. 17, Ch. 676, 1907.)

Town water and light commissions: vote requisite to establish; petition and notice for. SECTION 776m. 1. Any town owning and operating lighting and water plants or either of them may establish a water and light commission. The question of establishing such commission shall be submitted to the voters of the town at any annual or duly called special town meeting upon a petition in writing therefor signed by at least twenty-five qualified voters of such town requesting that such question be submitted to the voters of the town. The petition shall be filed with the town clerk at least three weeks nor more than four weeks previous to the holding of any annual or special town meeting at which such question is to be submitted. Notice of the submission of such question shall be given in a manner provided for giving notice of a special town meeting.

Ballot: form; canvass. 2. Any qualified voter of the town may vote "For a commission" or "Against a commission" on a separate printed ballot, to be deposited in a box used only for such ballots, and the votes cast upon this question shall be canvassed in the same manner as votes are canvassed for town officers.

Commissioners: number, term, disqualification, vacancies. 3. If a majority of the votes cast on this question are for a commission then there shall be elected at any adjourned

or duly called special meeting for that purpose a board of five commissioners. One of the commissioners so elected shall serve for a term of one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years, and until their successors are elected and qualified, and the terms of the respective commissioners shall be determined by lot at their first meeting. At each annual town meeting thereafter there shall be elected one commissioner for a term of five years and until his successor is elected and qualified. No person shall at the same time be a member of the commission and a supervisor of the town. All vacancies shall be filled by the board until the first annual meeting thereafter, at which meeting the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term.

Compensation. 4. No compensation whatever shall be paid or allowed any commissioner; provided, however, if the board shall elect one of their members as secretary of the board he shall receive for his services as secretary such compensation as the board may determine.

Officers. 5. The commissioners shall at their first meeting elect one of their number president, one of their number or a duly qualified elector of such town secretary and fix his compensation, and shall elect such other officers as they may deem necessary.

Water and lighting plants; supervision. 6. The commission shall have full charge of conducting, operating and maintaining the water and lighting plant in such town. They shall make and adopt such laws, rules and regulations as they may deem necessary for the government, management and operation of such plant or plants, and fix the rates to be charged for the service of such water and lighting plant or either of them.

Appointments and removals. 7. The commission may appoint a superintendent and assistants, prescribe rules for their conduct and fix their compensation and shall have power to remove any superintendent or assistant for due cause.

Financial management. 8. The commission shall have exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys appropriated for such plant or the income from said plant or plants or either of them from whatever sources derived. The town treasurer

of such town shall be ex-officio treasurer of said commission, and all moneys appropriated for or collected by such commissioners, their officers, agents or employes shall be paid over to the town treasurer, and he shall give receipts therefor which shall be filed with the secretary of the commission. Said money shall be known and designated as the "Water and Light Fund" and shall be kept separate and apart from all other town funds. Said money shall be drawn from the treasury of such town by an order upon the treasurer, signed by the president of the commission, and attested by the secretary.

Reports, monthly and annual, on finances and property.

9. The commission shall on or before the fifteenth day of each month file with the town clerk a report showing the amount of money collected for rentals and from all other sources during the previous month and the amount of money disbursed, giving an itemized account showing to whom disbursed and for what purpose, and the amount of labor performed and materials purchased during the previous month. The commission shall make and file with the town clerk an annual report on the Tuesday next preceding the annual town meeting, which report shall show all moneys collected and received and an itemized statement of all moneys disbursed during the preceding year. The report shall also contain a statement of all materials purchased and all labor performed in the management, operation and maintenance of the water and lighting plants and shall include an inventory of all property under its control and management together with material and supplies on hand, and shall make such recommendations as the commission shall deem proper for the betterment of such plant.

(Ch. 268, 1907.)

Towns may adopt city park laws. [SECTION] 776n. Upon a majority vote at any town meeting in favor thereof, the powers granted to cities of the third and fourth class by subsection 29 of section 925—52 and by sections 926—17, 926—19 and 926—20 shall be extended to towns and may be exercised by the town board.

(Ch. 585, 1907.)

Town boards empowered to sue. SECTION 819. The supervisors of each town shall constitute a board, to be designated the "town board of," and any two