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CHAPTER 98

AN ACT to amend 61.34 (3), 62.22 (1) and 67.12 (12) (a); and to create 66.52 and 67.04 (2) (zo) of the statutes, relating to the acquisition and improvement of sites for industrial purposes by cities and villages.

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

SECTION 1. 61.34 of the statutes is amended to read:

61.34 (3) The village board may acquire property, real or personal, within or without the village, for parks, libraries, historic places, recreation, beautification, streets, waterworks, sewage or waste disposal, harbors, improvement of watercourses, public grounds, vehicle parking areas, and for any other public purpose; may acquire real property within or contiguous to the village, by means other than condemnation, for industrial sites; may improve and beautify the same; may construct, own, lease and maintain buildings on such property for instruction, recreation, amusement and other public purposes; and may sell and convey such property. Condemnation shall be as provided by ch. 32.

SECTION 2. 62.22 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

62.22 (1) The governing body of any city may by gift, purchase or condemnation acquire property, real or personal, within or without the city, for parks, recreation, waterworks, sewage or waste disposal, airports or approaches thereto, cemeteries, vehicle parking areas, and for any other public purpose; may acquire real property within or contiguous to the city, by means other than condemnation, for industrial sites; may improve and beautify the same; may construct, own, lease and maintain buildings on such property for public purposes; and may sell and convey such property. The power of condemnation for any such purpose shall be as provided by ch. 32.

SECTION 3. 66.52 of the statutes is created to read:

66.52 (1) It is declared to be the policy of the state to encourage and promote the development of industry to provide greater employment opportunities and to broaden the state's tax base to relieve the tax burden of residents and home owners. It is recognized that the availability of suitable sites is a prime factor in influencing the location of industry but that existing available sites may be encroached upon by the development of other uses unless protected from such encroachment by purchase and reservation. It is further recognized that cities and villages have broad power to act for the commercial benefit and the health, safety and public welfare of the public. However, to implement that power legislation authorizing borrowing is necessary. It is, therefore, declared to be the policy of the state to authorize cities and villages to borrow for the reservation and development of industrial sites ,and the expenditure of funds therefor is determined to be a public purpose.

(2) For financing purposes, the purchase, reservation and development of industrial sites undertaken by any city or village is a public utility within the meaning of s. 66.066. In financing under that section. rentals and fees shall be considered as revenue. Any indebtedness created hereunder shall not be included in arriving at the constitutional debt limitation.

(3) Sites purchased for industrial development under this section or pursuant to any other authority may be developed by the city or village by the installation of utilities and roadways but not by the construction of buildings or structures. Any such sites may be sold or leased for industrial purposes but only for a fair consideration to be determined by the governing body.

SECTION 4. 67.04 (2) (zo) of the statutes is created to read:

67.04 (2) (zo) To acquire and develop sites for industrial purposes to the extent permitted by s. 66.52 (3).

SECTION 5. 67.12 (12) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

67.12 (12) (a) In addition to the powers heretofore given, any city, village, town, school district or town sanitary district may borrow money for the acquisition of lands for public purposes, for permanent improvements of lands, for public work or improvement, and the enlargement or extension thereof, or for equipment or machinery or for general and current municipal expenses, and in the case of cities and villages for the acquisition and development of industrial sites to the extent permitted by s. 66.52 (3).

Approved May 16, 1957.
