

CONVERSION TABLE FOR CHAPTER 60, TOWNS

This table is designed to assist in tracing chapter 60 of the statutes as affected by 1983 Wisconsin Act 532. Except where the section is repealed, the table does not show specifically what happened to the section. To find that information, see the notes accompanying Act 532 in the 1983 session laws.

<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>	<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>
60 01	60 01	60 18 (11)	compensation;
60 015	60 81		who sets 60 32 (1)(a)
60 02	60 09 (1)		when established 60 32 (4)
60 025	60 09 (2)	(12)	60 10 (2)(c)
60 03	repealed		and 60 22 (3)
60 04	60 33 (5)	(14)	60 10 (2)(e)
60 05 (1) to (5)	60 03	(15)	repealed
(6)	59 07 (22)(b)	(16)	60 10 (3)(c)
60 06	60 05	(18)	60 23 (3)(f)
60 065	repealed	(18m)	repealed
60 067	60 40 (1)	(20)	repealed
60 07 (1)	60 11 (1)	(20m)	60 10 (1)(b) 3 and
	60 11 (2)(a)		60 305 (2)
	notice 60 11 (5)	(21)	60 10 (2)(i)
	jurisdiction 60 11 (6)	(22)	60 10 (2)(i)
	where held;	(23)	60 10 (3)(d)
	annual 60 11 (3)(a)	(24)	60 10 (2)(j)
	where held;		
	special 60 12 (4)(a)	60 181	60 66 (1) and (2)
(2)	next meeting 60 11 (2)(b)	60 182	60 66 (3)
	notice 60 11 (5)	60 183	60 66 (4)(c)
	presiding officer 60 13 (1)(b)	60 184	60 66 (4) (b) and
(3)	where held 60 11 (3)(b)		(d)
	new towns 60 16 (2)	60 19 (1)(a)	officers elected 60 30 (1)
	change in		only electors 60 30 (2)(a)
	location 60 11 (3)(b)		treasurer and
60 08	60 11 (3)(b)		assessor 60 30 (2)(b)
60 09	60 11 (4) and		where county
	60 12 (5)		assessor 60 30 (2)(c)
60 10	60 16 (1)		clerk and assessor 60 305 (2)
60 11	officers; oath 60 16 (3)		combined office; 60 305 (4)(a)
	jurisdiction 60 16 (4)	(1)(am)	expiration
60 12	who may convene 60 12 (1)(b) and	(1)(b)	60 21 (1)
	(c)		quorum 60 20 (2)
	contents of		board size; wards 60 21 (3)(a) and
	request 60 12 (2)		(b)
	jurisdiction 60 12 (6)		increased board
60 13	60 12 (3)	(1)(c)	size 60 10 (2)(b)
60 14	60 13 (1)(a)		quorum 60 10 (2)(b), 60 20
60 15	chairperson's		(2)
	duties 60 13 (2)		increased board
	enforcement	(2)	size 60 21 (2)
	authority 60 13 (3)		where county
60 16	60 11 (7), 60 15		assessor 60 307 (1)
60 17	majority vote 60 14 (2)		method of
	order of business 60 14 (3) and		selection 60 307 (3)
	(4)(a)		independent
60 18 (intro)	60 10 (1)(intro),		contractor 60 307 (4)
	authorized (2)	(2m)	number and
	(intro.) and	(3)(a)	salaries 60 307 (5)
	(3)(intro)	(3)(b)	60 30 (2)(d)
	qualified voters 60 14 (1)		repealed
	voting 60 14 (2)		where county
(1)(intro)	60 10 (1)(a) and		assessor 60 307 (1)
	(2)(a)		number and
(1)(a) and	repealed		salaries 60 307 (5)
(b)			commencement
(4)	[see s 60 80]	(3)(c)	of office 60 307 (6)
(7)	60 10 (2)(d)	(4)	repealed
(8)	repealed	(5)	60 307 (1)
(9)	60 10 (2)(f)		appointed
(10)	60 10 (2)(g)		assessors 60 10 (2)(j)
(10m)	60 10 (1)(b) 4		method of
			selection 60 307 (3)

<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>	<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>
60 195	repealed	60 29 (30)	60 23 (2)
60 20	notice of election 60 30 (3)	(31)	60 06
	oath 60 31 (1), (3)(a)	(32)	60 23 (13)
	and (4)	(33)	repealed
	failure to file 60 31 (4)	(35)	60 23 (9)
	assessors 60 31 (3)	(36)	60 23 (20)
60 21	60 31 (2)	(38)	60 23 (1)
60 22	60 30 (4)(a)	(39)	60 23 (16)
60 225	60 30 (6)	(40)	60 23 (15)
60 23	60 30 (5)(a)	(41)	60 82
60 28	60 30 (5)(a)	(42)	60 23 (19)
60 29 (intro.)	board;	(43)	60 23 (5)
	designation 60 20 (1)	(44)(a)	60 10 (3)(a) and
	quorum 60 20 (2)		60 23 (6)
	where meeting	(44)(b)	repealed
	held 60 20 (3)	(45)	60 23 (4)
	powers 60 22 (intro.)	(46)	60 23 (12)
	60 23 (intro.)	60 295	60 23 (17)
(1)	60 22 (1)	60 30 (1)	sewerage
(1m)	contracts with		definition 60 70 (6)
	governments 60 47 (4)		sue and be sued 60 77 (2)
	not applicable to		construct sewers 60 77 (4)
	town 60 47 (6)		sell to outside
	work		users 60 77 (5)
(1x)	60 47 (5)	(2)	60 71 (5)
(2)	repealed	60 301	60 71 (1)
(3)	town employes 60 37 (1)	60 302 (1)	60 71 (2)(a)
	legal advice 60 37 (2)	(2)	60 71 (2)(b)
(4)	60 22 (2)	(3)	60 71 (2)(a)
(5)	60 22 (5)	(4)	plat or sketch 60 71 (2)(a)
(6)	60 23 (2)		verification 60 71 (2)(b)
(7)	60 56	(5)	60 71 (3)
(8)	60 56	(6)	repealed
(8m)	repealed	60 303 (1)	hearing 60 71 (4)(a)
(9)	use of firearms 60 23 (18)		comments and
	police personnel 60 56	(2)	objections 60 71 (4)(c)
(11)	60 50 (4)	(3)	60 71 (4)(b)
(12)	60 321 (2)		required findings 60 71 (6)(b)
(13)	60 22 (3)		order establishing 60 71 (6)(c)
(14)	repealed		district
(15)	60 23 (10)		body corporate 60 77 (2)
(16)	60 52	(4)	certified bills 60 71 (6)(c)
(17)	60 565		dismiss
(17a)	60 23 (14)		proceedings 60 71 (6)(f)
(18)(a)	fire protection;	(5)	notice 60 71 (4)(b)
	general 60 55 (1)		agencies at
	authority	(6)	hearing 60 71 (4)(c)
	funding 60 55 (2)		eliminate
	fire safety		territory 60 71 (6)(d)
	regulations 60 555		subsequent
(18)(b)	60 55 (1) and (2)	(7)	hearing 60 71 (6)(e)
(18)(c)	60 55 (1)(a) 2	(8)	60 71 (7)
(18m)	repealed	(9)	60 785 (1)
(19)	water mains and		60 785 (2)
	sewers 60 50 (2)	60 304	60 73
	special	60 305 (1)(a)	single town
	assessment 60 51		districts 60 74 (1)
(20)(a) to	60 55 (1) and (2)		multiple town
(d)			districts 60 74 (2)
(20)(e)	60 557		change from
(21)	repealed		appointment 60 74 (4)
(22)	60 23 (8)		to election
(24)	60 37 (1)		number of
(25)	60 46		commissioners 60 75 (1)
(26)(a)	street		residency 60 75 (3)(a) and
	improvements 60 50 (2)		(b)
	special		vacancies 60 75 (4)
	assessment 60 51		compensation 60 77 (3)
(26)(b)	60 51	(1)(b)	60 75 (2)
and (c)		(2)	60 77 (7)
(27)	60 50 (1)	(3)	60 77 (6)
(29)	60 50 (5)		

<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>	<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>
60 306 (1)	election of officers 60 76	60 37	bond 60 84 (2)
	in charge of affairs 60 77 (1)		monuments; materials 60 84 (3)(c)
	corporate seal 60 77 (2)		monuments; depth 60 84 (3)(d)
(2)	enter into contracts 60 77 (2)	60 38	monuments; where set 60 84 (3)(a)
	general powers 60 77 (4)		surveyor's certificate 60 84 (4)
	private sewage systems 60 77 (5)	60 39	..... 60 84
(2m)	..... 60 77 (5)	60 40	repealed
(3)(a)	..... 60 77 (6)	60 41	60 84 (3)(b)
(3)(b)	..... 60 70 (2)	60 42	repealed
(4) and	..... 60 77 (5)	60 43	60 31 (2)
(5)	.....	60 44	60 331
60 307 (1)	issue bonds 60 78 (1)	60 45 (1)	60 33 (1)
	adopt resolution 60 78 (2)	(2) and	60 33 (4)(b)
(2)	..... 60 78 (2)	(3)	.....
(3)	petition 60 78 (3)	(4)	60 33 (4)(c)
	election 60 78 (4)	(5)	60 33 (6)(b)
(4) and	..... 60 78 (5)	(6)	60 33 (6)(a)
(5)	.....	(7)	60 33 (2)
(6)	..... 60 78 (6)	(8)	repealed
(7)	form of bond 60 78 (6)	(9)	60 33 (7)(a)
	negotiation and sale 60 78 (7)	(11)	60 33 (7)(b)
(8)	..... 60 78 (8)	(12) and	repealed
(9)	..... 60 78 (9)	(13)	.....
(10)	..... 60 77 (5)	(14)	60 33 (9)(b)
60 308 (1)	repealed	(15)	repealed
(2)	repealed	(16)	60 33 (9)(c)
60 309 (1)	60 77 (5)	(17)	60 33 (9)(d)
(4)	repealed	(18)	repealed
60 31 (1)	60 79 (1)	(19)	60 33 (8)
(2)(a)	detachment when city or village subject to 60 79 (2)(a)	(20)	elections 60 33 (4)(a)
	..... 60 79 (2)(b)		schools 60 33 (9)(a)
(2)(b)	..... 60 79 (2)(c)		highways 60 33 (10)
(2)(c)	who operates district special assessments 60 79 (2)(d)		general duties 60 33 (11)
	..... 60 79 (2)(e)	60 46	60 07
(2)(d) and (e)	..... 60 79 (2)(d)	60 47	repealed
(3)	..... 60 79 (3)	60 48	60 31 (2)
(4)(intro) and (a) to (d)	..... 60 79 (4)	60 49 (1)	60 34 (1)(a)
(4)(e)	..... 60 79 (5)	(2)	repealed
60 315 (1)	definition 60 72 (1)	(3)	60 34 (1)(b)
	notice 60 72 (3)	(4)	60 34 (4)
	finding of menace 60 72 (4)	(5)	repealed
	certify to towns 60 72 (5)	(6)(a)	repealed
(2)	..... 60 72 (6)	(6)(b)	60 34 (5)
(3)	..... 60 72 (7)	(6m)(a)	repealed
(4)	repealed	(6m)(b)	60 34 (5)
(5)	60 72 (8)	(7) to	repealed
(6)	60 72 (9)	(11)	.....
(7)	60 72 (6)	(12)	60 34 (2)
(8)	60 785 (1)	60 491	60 341
60 316	60 785 (3)	60 50	60 43 (2)
60 32	repealed	60 51	repealed
60 33 (1)	repealed	60 52	repealed
(2)	60 44 (1)(b)	60 53	60 31 (2)
(3)	repealed	60 54 (1) to (6)	repealed
(4)	60 41	(6m)	60 35 (2)
60 34	repealed	60 55	60 351 (1)
60 35	repealed	60 555	62 09 (1)(e)
60 36	60 44 (3)	60 56	same fees if person other than constable if agent for plaintiff 60 351 (2)
60 37	contract with surveyor 60 84 (1)	60 60 (1)(a)	60 32 (1)(a)
		(intro)
		(1)(a)	60 32 (2)
		(1)(b)	60 323
		(2)(a)	60 305 (3)
		(2)(b)	combined offices 60 305 (1)

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<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>	<i>Stats. 1981-82</i>	<i>Stats. 1983-84</i>
60 60 (2)(b) election	60 305 (4)(b) and (c)	60 74 (2) zoning committee	60 61 (4)(a) and (b)
(4)	60 32 (3) and (4)		changes in
60 61	60 32 (1)(a)		ordinance
60 62	repealed	(3)	60 61 (4)(c) 1
60 63	60 51	(4)	60 61 (4)(c) 2
60 64	60 51		purpose
60 65 (1)	60 50 (3)		60 61 (1)(a)
(2) and	repealed		nonconforming
(3)			use
60 68	60 23 (7)	(5)	60 61 (5)(a)
60 70	repealed	(6)	60 61 (6)
60 71	60 51	(6)(b)	60 61 (1)(b)
60 72	60 54		60 61 (5)(b) to (d)
60 74 (1)(a)	60 61 (2)(intro)		nonconforming
(intro)			use
1 and 5	60 61 (2)(a) and (b)	(7)	60 61 (5)(a)
2	60 61 (2)(c)	(8)	60 62
3	60 61 (2)(d)	(9)	repealed
4	60 61 (2)(e)	60 75	60 63
6	60 64	60 756	60 65
(1)(am)	60 61 (3)		[see s. 60 83]
(1)(b)	60 61 (2)(f)	60 80	town meeting
			60 10 (3)(b)
			town board
			60 23 (3)(a) to (e)
		60 81	66 012
		60 82	60 23 (11)

CHAPTER 60

TOWNS

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60 305	Combined and part-time offices	60 72	Creation of town sanitary district by order of the department of natural resources
60 307	Appointment of town assessors.	60 73	Review of orders creating town sanitary districts
60 31	Official oath and bond.	60 74	Commissioners; method of selection
60 32	Compensation of elective town offices	60 75	Commissioners; requirements
60 321	Reimbursement of expenses.	60 76	Organization of the commission
60 323	Compensation when acting in more than one official capacity	60 77	Powers and duties
60 33	Duties of town clerk	60 78	Powers to borrow money and issue bonds
60 331	Deputy town clerk.	60 785	Additions; consolidation; dissolution.
60 34	Duties of town treasurer	60 79	Alteration of town sanitary districts.
60 341	Deputy town treasurer.		SUBCHAPTER X
60 35	Duties of town constable.		MISCELLANEOUS
60 351	Town constable fees.	60 80	Publication or posting of ordinances and resolutions.
60 36	Municipal judge.	60 81	Population; use of federal census.
60 37	Town employees.	60 82	Regional planning programs.
	SUBCHAPTER VI	60 83	Destruction of obsolete town records
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60 40	Preparation and adoption of budget		
60 41	Annual financial statement.		
60 42	Finance book.		

NOTE: 1983 Wisconsin Act 532, which completely revised chapter 60, has extensive notes explaining the revision. See the 1983 session laws. Also see the conversion table preceding this chapter.

SUBCHAPTER I

DEFINITIONS

60.001 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Annual town meeting" means the town meeting held under s. 60.11.

(2) "Special town meeting" means a town meeting, other than the annual town meeting, held under s. 60.12.

(3) "Town meeting" means the annual town meeting or a special town meeting.

History: 1983 a. 532.

SUBCHAPTER II

LEGAL STATUS; ORGANIZATION

60.01 Legal status; general powers. (1) A town is a body corporate and politic, with those

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powers granted by law. A town shall be designated in all actions and proceedings by its name, as "Town of"

(2) A town may:

(a) Sue and be sued.

(b) Acquire and hold real and personal property for public use and convey and dispose of the property.

(c) Enter into contracts necessary for the exercise of its corporate powers.

History: 1983 a 532

60.03 Division and dissolution of towns generally.

(1) **GENERAL RULE.** Subject to sub. (7), a town may be divided or dissolved under subs. (2) to (6).

(2) **PETITION.** If at least 20% of the residents of a town who have a freehold interest in real property located in the town and who constitute at least one-third of the electors of the town petition the county board to divide or dissolve the town and file the petition with the town clerk at least 60 days before the next annual town meeting, a referendum shall be held at the annual town meeting on the question of division or dissolution.

(3) **NOTICE OF REFERENDUM.** A town clerk who receives a petition under sub. (2) shall, at least 30 days before the annual town meeting, give notice that a referendum on the question of division or dissolution will be held at the annual town meeting. The notice shall describe any proposed division. Notice of a division or dissolution shall be published as a class 2 notice under ch. 985. Notice of a division referendum shall also be made by posting the notice in 3 public places in each subdivision of the town proposed by the petition under sub. (2). Notice of a dissolution referendum shall also be made by posting the notice in 3 public places in the town.

(4) **BALLOT QUESTION.** In a referendum under this section, the ballot on the question of division shall pose the question as "For Division" and "Against Division" and describe the proposed division. The ballot on the question of dissolution shall pose the question as "For Dissolution" and "Against Dissolution".

(5) **REFERENDUM VOTE; AUTHORITY OF COUNTY BOARD.** (a) *Division.* The electors of each subdivision proposed under sub. (2) shall vote separately. If a majority of the electors voting in either subdivision favors division, the town clerk shall certify the result to the county board of the county in which the town is located. Upon receipt of the certified result, the county board may divide the town accordingly. If the county board does not divide the town within 180 days after the board receives the

certified result of the referendum, the board's authority to divide the town, based on that referendum, lapses.

(b) *Dissolution.* If a majority of the electors votes in favor of dissolution, the town clerk shall certify the result to the county board of the county in which the town is located. Upon receipt of the certified result, the county board may dissolve the town. If the county board does not dissolve the town within 180 days after the board receives the certified result of the referendum, the board's authority to dissolve the town, based on that referendum, lapses.

(6) **VALIDITY OF PROCEEDING.** Any person aggrieved may have the validity of proceedings under this section reviewed by commencing an action in circuit court. An action brought under this subsection shall be brought within the time provided under s. 893.73 (1) (b). A town which has exercised the powers and functions of a town for one year is conclusively presumed to have been duly organized.

(7) **DIVISION NOT PERMITTED.** No town may be divided if division results in a town of less than 36 sections in area unless each resulting town of less than 36 sections contains 75 electors and real estate valued, at the last preceding assessment, at at least 40% of the equalized value of real estate in the town before division.

History: 1983 a 532

60.05 Organization of towns in special cases.

(1) **APPLICATION.** (a) In this subsection, "area" means any government township or any contiguous territory which is part of one or more towns, which is equal in area to more than one government township but not more than 2 government townships and which is within one county.

(b) Any area which has at least 300 residents who have a freehold interest in real property located in the area, at least 150 of whom are electors who have resided in the area for at least one year prior to verification of the petition under sub. (2), and which has an equalized valuation of at least \$5,000,000, according to the last preceding assessment, may be organized into a town if the remaining territory of any town of which the newly organized town was formerly a part is not less than 36 square miles and has not less than 75 electors and real estate valued at at least 40% of the equalized value of real estate in the town before division, according to the last preceding assessment.

(2) **PETITION.** To initiate a proceeding to organize a town under this section a petition, signed by a majority of the electors of the proposed town, shall be filed with the circuit court of the county in which the area is located. The petition shall demonstrate that the area is

entitled to be organized as a town under sub. (1) and shall contain an accurate description of the proposed area of the town, the name of the town of which the area is currently a part, the names of the electors of the proposed town and the proposed name of the new town. The petition shall be verified by at least 3 signers. Upon receipt of a petition, the court shall establish the time and place for a hearing on the petition and direct that a copy of the petition and order be served upon the clerk of the town of which the proposed town is currently a part. The petition and order shall be served upon the clerk at least 20 days before the hearing. The court shall order that a notice of the hearing be published in the area of the proposed town as a class 3 notice under ch. 985.

(3) HEARING. The court shall conduct a hearing on the petition and shall permit any elector or taxpayer of the area of the proposed town, or of any town of which the proposed area is currently a part, to be heard. The court may adjourn the hearing from time to time and refer any issue of fact to a referee. The fees and expenses of the referee shall be established and apportioned by the court after the trial of any issue and paid by any town of which the area of the proposed town is a part.

(4) COURT ORDER. If, after the hearing under sub. (3), the court finds that the area of the proposed town meets the requirements of sub. (1), the court shall enter an order establishing a new town under the name proposed in the petition and shall designate the location of the first town meeting of the new town. The clerk of court shall immediately file certified copies of the order with the secretary of state and the county clerk.

(5) APPORTIONMENT OF DEBTS. Assets and liabilities of the newly organized town and any town or towns of which it was a part shall be apportioned under s. 66.03.

(6) ATTACHMENT OF REMAINDER OF OLD TOWN. If the remaining territory of any town from which a new town is organized is divided into 2 detached parts by the organization of the new town, the detached portion with the least number of electors shall be attached to and become part of the new town.

History: 1983 a 532

60.06 Validity of attachment or detachment. The town board may bring an action to test the validity of an ordinance attaching or detaching all or part of the territory of the town to or from any town, village or city. Any expense incurred by the town board and its agents, attorneys and representatives in the action shall be paid by the town.

History: 1983 a 532

60.07 Delivery of papers to clerk of new town. If a new town is organized, the town clerk of the town from which the new town was organized shall deliver, if removable, all of his or her official papers and files pertaining to the new town and a certified copy of all relevant official records, papers and files not removable to the office of the clerk of the new town. Any record, paper or file delivered to the office of the clerk of a new town under this section shall have the same effect as if originally filed there.

History: 1983 a 532

60.09 When a county constitutes a town. (1) GENERALLY. If a county is not divided into towns, it shall, for purposes of town government, be considered one town.

(2) MENOMINEE COUNTY. The county of Menominee consists of one town, known as the town of Menominee.

History: 1983 a 532

SUBCHAPTER III

TOWN MEETING

60.10 Powers of town meeting. (1) DIRECT POWERS. The town meeting may:

(a) *Raise money.* Raise money, including levying taxes, to pay for expenses of the town, unless the authority has been delegated to the town board under sub. (2) (a).

(b) *Town offices and officers.* 1. Fix the compensation of elective town offices under s. 60.32, unless the authority has been delegated to the town board under sub. (2) (k).

2. Combine the offices of town clerk and town treasurer under s. 60.305 (1).

3. Combine the offices of town assessor and town clerk under s. 60.305 (2).

4. Establish or abolish the office of town constable and establish the number of constables. Abolition of the office is effective at the end of the term of the person serving in the office.

5. Designate the office of town clerk, town treasurer or the combined office of clerk and treasurer as part-time under s. 60.305 (1) (b).

(c) *Election of town officers.* 1. Adopt a plan under s. 5.60 (6) to elect town board supervisors to numbered seats.

2. Provide under s. 8.05 (3) (a) for the nomination of candidates for elective town offices at a nonpartisan primary election.

(d) *Public waterways.* Appropriate money for the improvement and maintenance of a public waterway under s. 81.05

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(e) *Cemeteries.* Authorize the acquisition and conveyance of cemeteries under s. 157.50 (1) and (3).

(f) *Administrator agreements.* Approve agreements to employ an administrator for more than 3 years under s. 60.37 (3) (d).

(2) DIRECTIVES OR GRANTS OF AUTHORITY TO TOWN BOARD. Except as provided under par. (c), directives or grants of authority to the town board under this subsection may be general and continuing or may be limited as to purpose, effect or duration. A resolution adopted under this subsection shall specify whether the directive or grant is general and continuing or whether it is limited as to purpose, effect or duration. A resolution that is continuing remains in effect until rescinded at a subsequent town meeting by a number of electors equal to or greater than the number of electors who voted for the original resolution. This subsection does not limit any authority otherwise conferred on the town board by law. By resolution, the town meeting may:

(a) *Raise money.* Authorize the town board to raise money, including levying taxes, to pay for expenses of the town.

(b) *Membership of town board in populous towns.* In a town with a population of 2,500 or more, direct the town board to increase the membership of the board under s. 60.21 (2).

(c) *Exercise of village powers.* Authorize the town board to exercise powers of a village board under s. 60.22 (3). A resolution adopted under this paragraph is general and continuing.

(d) *General obligation bonds.* Authorize the town board to issue general obligation bonds in the manner and for the purposes provided by law.

(e) *Purchase of land.* Authorize the town board to purchase any land within the town for present or anticipated town purposes.

(f) *Town buildings.* Authorize the town board to purchase, lease or construct buildings for the use of the town, to combine for this purpose the town's funds with those of a society or corporation doing business or located in the town and to accept contributions of money, labor or space for this purpose.

(g) *Disposal of property.* Authorize the town board to dispose of town property, real or personal, other than property donated to and required to be held by the town for a special purpose.

(h) *Exercise of certain zoning authority.* In a town located in a county which has adopted a zoning ordinance under s. 59.97, authorize, under s. 60.62 (2), the town board to adopt town zoning ordinances under s. 61.35.

(i) *Watershed protection and soil and water conservation.* Authorize the town board to en-

gage in watershed protection, soil conservation or water conservation activities beneficial to the town.

(j) *Appointed assessors.* Authorize the town board to select assessors by appointment under s. 60.307 (2).

(k) *Compensation of elective town offices.* Authorize the town board to fix the compensation of elective town offices under s. 60.32 (1) (b).

(3) AUTHORIZATION TO TOWN BOARD TO APPROPRIATE MONEY. The town meeting may authorize the town board to appropriate money in the next annual budget for:

(a) *Conservation of natural resources.* The conservation of natural resources by the town or by a bona fide nonprofit organization under s. 60.23 (6).

(b) *Civic functions.* Civic and other functions under s. 60.23 (3).

(c) *Insects, weeds and animal diseases.* The control of insect pests, weeds or plant or animal diseases within the town.

(d) *Rural numbering systems.* Posting signs and otherwise cooperating with the county in the establishment of a rural numbering system under s. 59.07 (65).

(e) *Cemetery improvements.* The improvement of the town cemetery under s. 157.50 (5).

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.11 Annual town meeting. (1) REQUIREMENT. Each town shall hold an annual town meeting, as provided in this section.

(2) WHEN HELD. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), the annual town meeting shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday of April.

(b) The annual town meeting may set a date different than provided under par. (a) for the next annual town meeting if the date is within 10 days after the 2nd Tuesday of April.

(3) WHERE HELD. (a) The annual town meeting may be held in the town or in any village or city within or adjoining the town.

(b) The annual town meeting shall be held at the location of the last annual town meeting unless the location is changed by the town board. If the town board changes the location, it shall publish a class 2 notice under ch. 985 stating the location of the meeting, not more than 20 nor less than 15 days before the date of the meeting.

(4) ADJOURNMENT. The annual town meeting may be recessed to a time and date certain if the resumed meeting is held within 30 days after the date of the meeting originally scheduled under sub. (2).

(5) NOTICE. No public notice of an annual town meeting is required if held as provided under sub. (2) (a). If held as provided under

sub. (2) (b), notice of the time and date of the meeting shall be given under s. 60.12 (3)

(6) JURISDICTION. An annual town meeting may transact any business over which a town meeting has jurisdiction.

(7) POLL LIST. An annual town meeting may require the clerk of the town meeting to keep a poll list with the name and address of every elector voting at the meeting

History: 1983 a 532.

60.12 Special town meetings. (1) WHO MAY CONVENE. A special town meeting may be convened if:

(a) Called by a town meeting.

(b) A written request, signed by a number of electors equal to not less than 10% of the votes cast in the town for governor at the last general election, is filed with the town clerk.

(c) Called by the town board.

(2) TIME, DATE AND PURPOSE TO BE STATED. If a special town meeting is requested or called under sub. (1), the time, date and purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the request or as part of the call.

(3) NOTICE. The town clerk shall, not more than 20 nor less than 15 days before the date of a special town meeting, publish a class 2 notice of the meeting under ch. 985. The notice shall state the purpose, date, time and location of the meeting. If notice is posted, the same time and content requirements apply.

(4) LOCATION. (a) A special town meeting may be held in the town or in any village or city within or adjoining the town.

(b) A special town meeting shall be held where the preceding annual town meeting was held, unless the location is changed by the town board.

(5) ADJOURNMENT. A special town meeting may be recessed to a time and date certain if the resumed meeting is held within 30 days after the date of the originally scheduled meeting.

(6) JURISDICTION. Any business which may be transacted at an annual town meeting may be transacted at a special town meeting.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.13 Presiding officer. (1) WHO PRESIDES. (a) If present, the town board chairperson shall chair the town meeting. If the town board chairperson is absent, another town board supervisor shall chair the town meeting. If no town board supervisor is present, the town meeting shall elect the chairperson of the meeting.

(b) If the annual town meeting is held in a year when the office of town board chairperson is filled by election, the person holding the office on the day prior to the date of the election to fill

the office shall preside at the annual town meeting and is entitled to receive the per diem which is ordinarily paid to the presiding officer. If such person is absent or refuses to serve as the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall be chosen under par. (a).

(2) DUTIES. The town meeting chairperson shall conduct the meeting's proceedings in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedure.

(3) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY. The town meeting chairperson shall maintain order and decorum, and may order any person to leave a town meeting if the person has conducted himself or herself in a disorderly manner and persisted in such conduct after being directed by the chairperson to cease the conduct. If the person refuses the chairperson's order to withdraw, the town meeting chairperson may order a constable or other law enforcement officer to take the person into custody until the meeting is adjourned.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.14 Procedure. (1) QUALIFIED VOTERS. Any qualified elector of the town, as defined under ch. 6, may vote at a town meeting.

(2) METHOD OF ACTION; NECESSARY VOTES. All actions of a town meeting shall be by vote. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the electors voting.

(3) ORDER OF BUSINESS. At the beginning of the town meeting, the town meeting chairperson shall state the business to be transacted and the order in which the business will be considered. No proposal to levy a tax, except a tax for defraying necessary town expenses, may be acted on out of the order stated by the town meeting chairperson.

(4) RECONSIDERATION OF ACTIONS. (a) A vote of the town meeting may be reconsidered at the same meeting at which the vote was taken if the town meeting votes to reconsider within one hour after the initial vote was taken.

(b) No action of a town meeting may be reconsidered at a subsequent town meeting held prior to the next annual town meeting unless a special town meeting is convened under s. 60.12 (1) (b) or (c) and the written request or the call for the meeting states that a purpose of the meeting is reconsideration of the action.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.15 Clerk. The town clerk shall serve as clerk of the town meeting. If the town clerk is absent, the deputy town clerk shall serve as town meeting clerk. If the deputy clerk is absent, the town meeting chairperson shall appoint a clerk for the meeting. The clerk of the town meeting shall keep minutes of the proceed-

ings. The clerk of the town meeting shall keep a poll list if required by the annual town meeting under s. 60.11 (7). The town meeting minutes shall be signed by the clerk of the town meeting and filed in the office of the town clerk within 5 days after the meeting.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.16 First town meeting in new towns. (1)

WHEN HELD. The first town meeting in a newly organized town shall be held at 8 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the first April after the town is organized. If the 2nd Tuesday of the first April after a town is organized has passed and the first town meeting has not been held, 3 qualified electors of the town may call the first town meeting any time thereafter by posting notice of the town meeting in at least 3 public places at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

(2) WHERE HELD. The first town meeting shall be held at the location designated in the documents which established the town. The location may be within the town or, if convenient, within a city or village in the county in which the town is located.

(3) OFFICERS. The qualified electors present at the first town meeting shall choose one elector as chairperson of the town meeting, 2 electors as inspectors and one elector as clerk. The inspectors and clerk shall take and sign the oath required of inspectors at elections under s. 7.30 (5). The oath may be administered to the inspectors and clerk by the chairperson and either inspector may then administer the oath to the chairperson. After they have signed the oath, the chairperson, clerk and inspectors shall conduct the first town meeting.

(4) JURISDICTION. The first town meeting may conduct any business that a town meeting may conduct under ss. 60.11 and 60.12.

History: 1983 a. 532, 538.

SUBCHAPTER IV

TOWN BOARD

60.20 Town board. (1) MEMBERSHIP. The town board consists of the supervisors of the town. The board shall be designated "Town Board of . . ."

(2) QUORUM. Two supervisors constitute a quorum of a 3-member town board, 3 supervisors constitute a quorum of a 4-member or 5-member town board, and 4 supervisors constitute a quorum of a 7-member town board under s. 60.21 (3).

(3) MEETINGS. Meetings of the town board may be held in the town or in any town, city or

village within or adjoining the town, subject to subch. IV of ch. 19.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.21 Town board, increased size authorized. (1)

IN TOWNS WHERE BOARD HAS VILLAGE POWERS. Any town board authorized to exercise village powers may, by ordinance, increase the number of supervisors to no more than 5. If the number of supervisors is increased to 4, the town shall elect 2 supervisors each year. If the number is increased to 5, the town shall elect 3 supervisors in odd-numbered years and 2 supervisors in even-numbered years. An increase in the number of town board supervisors under this subsection does not create a vacancy on the town board.

(2) WHERE TOWN OF CERTAIN POPULATION. (a) If directed by the town meeting under s. 60.10 (2) (b), a town board of 5 members, elected at-large, shall be established in towns having a population of 2,500 or more.

(b) If a 5-member board is established and the seats of the board are numbered, the board may, by ordinance, stagger the terms of its supervisors so that the chairperson and 2 supervisors running for even-numbered seats on the town board serve 2-year terms and the other 2 supervisors serve one-year terms, with each subsequent election to be for 2-year terms so that elections occur in both odd-numbered and even-numbered years.

(c) If a 5-member board is established and the seats of the board are not numbered, the board may, by ordinance, stagger the terms of its members so that the chairperson and 2 supervisors receiving the highest number of votes in the next election serve 2-year terms and the other 2 supervisors serve one-year terms, with each subsequent election to be for 2-year terms so that elections occur in both odd-numbered and even-numbered years.

(d) An ordinance to stagger the terms of supervisors may be adopted to apply to the initial election of 5 supervisors or to any subsequent election.

(e) An increase or reduction in the membership of a town board under this subsection take effect on January 1 of the first odd-numbered year following the most recent federal decennial or special census, but does not create any vacancy on a town board prior to the spring election.

(3) IN A COUNTY CONTAINING ONE TOWN. (a) The town board of a town in any county containing only one town may consist of not more than 7 members. One or more members shall be elected from the town at-large and one member shall be elected from each town board ward, of which there shall be not less than 2 nor more

than 5. The member elected from the town at-large who has the highest number of votes shall be the town board chairperson.

(b) The number and boundaries of the town board wards and the number of town board members to be elected from the town at-large shall be designated by the legislature when the town is first established. Thereafter, the number of wards shall be subject to reapportionment and increase or decrease and the number of town board members elected at-large shall be subject to increase or decrease by majority vote of the town board. In order to provide that all inhabitants are adequately represented, each ward shall have substantially the same number of inhabitants, shall, insofar as practicable, consist of contiguous territory and shall be in compact form. The total number of town board members may not be changed from the number initially fixed by the legislature.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.22 General powers and duties. The town board:

(1) **CHARGE OF TOWN AFFAIRS.** Has charge of all affairs of the town not committed by law to another body or officer or to a town employe.

(2) **CHARGE OF ACTIONS.** Has charge of any action or legal proceeding to which the town is a party.

(3) **VILLAGE POWERS.** If authorized under s. 60.10 (2) (c), may exercise powers relating to villages and conferred on village boards under ch. 61, except those powers which conflict with statutes relating to towns and town boards.

(4) **JURISDICTION OF CONSTABLE.** Shall determine the jurisdiction and duties of the town constable.

(5) **PURSUE CERTAIN CLAIMS OF TOWN.** Shall demand payment of penalties and forfeitures recoverable by the town and damages incurred by the town due to breach of official bond, injury to property or other injury. If, following demand, payment is not made, the board shall pursue appropriate legal action to recover the penalty, forfeiture or damages.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.23 Miscellaneous powers. The town board may:

(1) **JOINT PARTICIPATION.** Cooperate with the state, counties and other units of government under s. 66.30, including cooperative arrangements involving the acquisition, development, remodeling, construction, equipping, operation and maintenance of land, buildings and facilities for regional projects, whether or not located in the town.

(2) **UTILITY DISTRICTS.** Establish utility districts under s. 66.072 and provide that any

convenience or public improvement in the district be paid for under that section.

(3) **APPROPRIATIONS FOR CIVIC AND OTHER FUNCTIONS.** If authorized under s. 60.10 (3) (b), appropriate reasonable amounts of money for gifts or donations to be used to:

(a) Further civic functions and agricultural societies.

(b) Advertise the attractions, advantages and natural resources of the town.

(c) Attract industry.

(d) Establish industrial complexes.

(e) Establish, maintain and repair ecological areas.

(f) Provide for the organization, equipment and maintenance of a municipal band or for the employment of other bands to give concerts and municipal entertainment in the town.

(4) **TOWN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.** In order to promote and develop the resources of the town, appropriate money for and create a town industrial development agency or appoint an executive officer and provide staff and facilities for a nonprofit organization organized to act under this subsection. A town industrial development agency created under this subsection may:

(a) Develop data regarding the industrial needs of, advantages of and sites in the town.

(b) Engage in promotional activities to acquaint prospective purchasers with industrial products manufactured in the town.

(c) Coordinate its activities with the county planning commission, the department of development and private credit development organizations.

(d) Engage in any other activity necessary for the continued improvement of the town's industrial climate.

(5) **COOPERATION IN COUNTY PLANNING.** Cooperate with the county in rural planning under ss. 27.015, 59.07 (65) and 59.97.

(6) **CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.** If authorized by the town meeting under s. 60.10 (3) (a), appropriate money for the conservation of natural resources or for payment to a bona fide nonprofit organization for the conservation of natural resources within the town or beneficial to the town. No payment may be made to a nonprofit organization unless the organization submits and the town board approves a detailed plan of the work to be done. The plan shall include the name of the owner of any property on which work is to be performed.

(7) **OBSTRUCTIONS IN NONNAVIGABLE WATERS.** Remove, at the expense of the town, any obstruction located in the town which prevents the natural flow of water in a nonnavigable stream. One or more town board supervisors, or a

60.23 TOWNS

designee of the board, may enter upon any land if necessary to remove the obstruction.

(8) EMERGENCY PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL. Appropriate money for the control of insects, weeds or plant or animal diseases if:

(a) An emergency arises within the town due to insects, weeds or plant or animal diseases; and

(b) The board determines that any delay resulting from calling a special town meeting to authorize the town board to appropriate money for this purpose under s. 60.10 (3) (c) would result in serious harm to the general welfare of the town.

(9) RESIDENT PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS AND NURSES IN CERTAIN TOWNS. In a town comprised entirely of one or more islands, annually appropriate money to retain a physician or, if no physician is available, a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner, as a resident within the town.

(10) BOWLING ALLEYS, POOL TABLES AND AMUSEMENT DEVICES. Regulate, including the licensing of, bowling alleys, billiard and pool tables and other amusement devices maintained in commercial facilities. If a license is required, the board shall establish the term of the license, not to exceed one year, and the license fee. The board may suspend or revoke, for cause, a license issued under this subsection. Any person violating a regulation adopted under this subsection shall forfeit to the town an amount established by the town board.

(11) LIBRARY THEFT. Adopt an ordinance to prohibit conduct which is the same or similar to that prohibited by s. 943.61 and impose a forfeiture for violation of the ordinance.

(12) REIMBURSEMENT OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION IN HAZARDOUS AREAS. Reimburse a school district for costs incurred by the district under s. 121.54 (9) in transporting pupils who reside in the town.

(13) EXCHANGE TAX CREDIT FOR COUNTY LAND. Authorize the town treasurer to exchange any credit the town has with the county, arising from delinquent real estate taxes, for county-owned land.

(14) ASSOCIATIONS OF TOWNS. Appropriate money to purchase membership in any association of town boards for the protection of town interests and improvement of town government.

(15) VACATION OF ALLEYS. Vacate any alley in the town under s. 66.296. The town board may not vacate, under this subsection, an alley adjacent to land fronting a state or county trunk highway.

(16) CEMETERIES. Provide for cemeteries under ch. 157.

(17) CHANGE STREET NAMES. Name, or change the name of, any street in the town under s. 81.01 (11).

(18) USE OF FIREARMS. Regulate the careless use of firearms and impose forfeitures for violation of the regulations.

(19) FENCES IN SUBDIVISIONS. If authorized under s. 60.10 (2) (c) to exercise village powers, by ordinance require a subdivider to construct a fence under s. 90.02 on the boundary of a subdivision, as defined under s. 236.02 (8), as a condition of plat approval by the town. The fence shall be maintained under s. 90.05 (2) and repaired under ss. 90.10 and 90.11.

(20) DISPOSITION OF DEAD ANIMALS. Notwithstanding ss. 59.07 (84) and 95.50 (3), dispose of any dead animal within the town or contract for the removal and disposition with any private disposal facility. A town may enter into a contract with any other governmental unit under s. 66.30 to provide for the removal and disposition. A town may recover its costs under this subsection by levying a special assessment under s. 66.345.

History: 1983 a 532

60.24 Powers and duties of town board chairperson. (1) GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES.

The town board chairperson shall:

(a) *Preside at board meetings.* Preside over meetings of the town board.

(b) *Preside at town meetings.* Preside over town meetings as provided under s. 60.13.

(c) *Sign documents.* 1. Sign all ordinances, resolutions, bylaws, orders, regulations, commissions, licenses and permits adopted or authorized by the town board unless the town board, by ordinance, authorizes another officer to sign specific types of documents in lieu of the chairperson. The board, by ordinance, may authorize use of a facsimile signature under this paragraph.

2. Sign all drafts, order checks and transfer orders as provided under s. 66.042.

(d) *Assure administration of statutes.* Supervise the administration of statutes relating to the town and town operations to see that they are faithfully executed.

(e) *Act on behalf of board.* Act, on behalf of the town board, to:

1. See that town orders and ordinances are obeyed.

2. See that peace and order are maintained in the town.

3. Obtain necessary assistance, if available, in case of emergency, except as provided under ch. 166.

(f) *Act on authorization of board.* If authorized by the town board, act on behalf of the board, to:

1. Direct, as appropriate, the solicitation of bids and quotations for the town's purchase of equipment, materials and services and submit the bids and quotations to the town board for approval.

2. Represent, or designate another officer to represent, the town at meetings of, and hearings before, governmental bodies on matters affecting the town.

(2) ADMINISTER OATHS. The town board chairperson may administer oaths and affidavits on all matters pertaining to the affairs of the town.

(3) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. In addition to the powers and duties under this section, the town board chairperson has the following responsibilities:

(a) Nominate election officials when the town board disapproves the nominee of a party committee under s. 7.30 (4) (b) 2.

(b) Serve as caucus official under s. 8.05 (1) (c).

(c) Sue on official bonds under s. 19.015.

(d) Execute and sign a certificate of indebtedness in connection with obtaining a state trust fund loan under s. 24.67.

(e) Serve as town fire warden under ss. 26.13 and 26.14.

(f) Appoint members of the board of harbor commissioners under s. 30.37 (3).

(g) Appoint members of library boards under ss. 43.54 (1) (a) and 43.60 (3).

(h) Exercise the powers and duties specified for a mayor under s. 62.13 if the town creates a joint board of police and fire commissioners or joint police or fire department with a village under s. 61.65 (3g) (d) 2 or a board of police and fire commissioners under s. 60.57.

(i) Provide an annual estimate of funds necessary for any utility district established under s. 66.072 (2).

(j) Publish annually a notice regarding noxious weeds and appoint one or more commissioners of noxious weeds under ss. 66.96 to 66.99.

(k) Sign general obligation bonds issued by the town under s. 67.08 (1).

(L) If authorized by the town board, represent the interests of the town in connection with appearances before the state tax appeals commission under s. 70.64 (5).

(m) Approve the bond of the town treasurer delivered to the county treasurer under s. 70.67 (1).

(n) Perform duties in connection with selection of jurors in actions relating to the taking of property to provide access to a cemetery, fair-ground or land used for industrial exhibitions under s. 80.48 (3) and (4).

(o) Sign orders for payment of work performed and materials furnished on town highways under s. 81.04.

(p) See that all tunnels in the town are constructed under s. 81.35 and that they are kept in good repair.

(q) Serve as a member of the county highway committee under s. 83.015 (1) (d).

(r) Close county trunk highways when rendered dangerous for travel and notify the highway commissioner under s. 83.09.

(s) Appoint members to the airport commission under s. 114.14 (2).

(t) Vote or designate another supervisor to vote on whether to abolish a city school district and create a common school district or a unified school district containing the territory of a city school, when an order for school district reorganization has been issued under s. 120.50.

(u) Perform the town chairperson's duties related to jewelry auction sales under s. 130.07.

(v) Under s. 167.10 (8), enforce regulation of fireworks under s. 167.10.

(w) Perform the town chairperson's duties related to stray animals and lost goods under ch. 170.

(x) Perform the town chairperson's duties related to distrained animals under ch. 172.

(xm) Perform the town chairperson's duties related to animals that have caused damage in the town under ch. 173.

(y) Perform the town chairperson's duties related to municipal power and water districts under ch. 198.

(ym) Cause actions to be commenced for recovery of forfeitures for violations of town ordinances that can be recovered in municipal court under s. 778.11.

(z) Notify the district attorney of forfeitures which may not be recovered in municipal court under s. 778.12.

(zm) Approve bonds furnished by contractors for public works under s. 779.14 (1).

History: 1983 a. 532

SUBCHAPTER V

TOWN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYES

60.30 Election of town officers; general provisions. (1) ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS. (a) At the annual spring election in odd-numbered years, each town shall elect:

1. Except as provided under par. (b), 3 town board supervisors. One of the supervisors shall be designated on the ballot as town board chairperson.

2. A town clerk and a town treasurer or a person to serve in the combined office of town clerk and town treasurer under s. 60.305 (1).

3. A town assessor, if election of the assessor is required, or a person to serve in the combined office of town clerk and town assessor under s. 60.305 (2).

4. The number of constables established by the last preceding town meeting unless the office has been abolished and has not been reestablished by the town meeting under s. 60.10 (1) (b) 4.

(b) If the town board has increased the number of supervisors under s. 60.21, town board supervisors shall be elected at the annual spring election as provided in that section.

(2) RESTRICTIONS. (a) Only an elector of the town may hold a town office, other than an assessor appointed under s. 60.307.

(b) No person may hold the offices of town treasurer and town assessor at the same time.

(c) No assessor may be elected in any town appointing assessors under s. 60.307 or in any town which is under the jurisdiction of a county assessor under s. 70.99.

(d) No person may assume the office of town assessor unless certified by the department of revenue, under s. 73.09, as qualified to perform the functions of the office of town assessor. If a person is elected to the office and is not certified by June 1 of the year elected, the office is vacant and the town board shall fill the vacancy from a list of persons certified by the department of revenue.

(3) NOTICE OF ELECTION. Within 5 days after completion of the canvass under s. 7.53, the town clerk shall transmit a notice of election to each person elected to a town office.

(4) TERM OF OFFICE. (a) Every elected town officer shall hold the office for 2 years.

(b) The regular term of elected town officers, other than the town assessor, commences on the 2nd Tuesday of April in the year of their election. The regular term of an elected assessor commences on June 1 in the year of the assessor's election.

(5) TEMPORARY VACANCY. (a) If any elected town officer, other than a town board supervisor, is absent or temporarily incapacitated from any cause, the town board may appoint, if there is no deputy officer for the office, a suitable person to discharge the duties of the office until the officer returns or the disability is removed. Appointees shall file the official oath and bond required under s. 60.31.

(b) If any elected town officer, other than a town board supervisor, refuses to perform any official duty, the town board may appoint a suitable person to perform those duties which

the officer refuses to perform. An appointee shall file the official oath and bond required of the office under s. 60.31. This paragraph does not preclude a finding that refusal to perform official duties constitutes cause under s. 17.13 (3).

(6) TOWN OFFICERS RESIDING IN NEW INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY OR ANNEXED TERRITORY. Notwithstanding s. 17.03 (4), if, due to incorporation or annexation, any town officer, except a town board supervisor or a municipal judge, becomes a resident of a city or village, the officer shall continue in the town office and discharge the duties of the office until completion of the term for which elected.

History: 1983 a 532, 538

60.305 Combined and part-time offices. (1) CLERK AND TREASURER. Except as provided under sub. (3), the town meeting may:

(a) Combine the offices of town clerk and town treasurer. If the offices are combined, the town board shall provide for an annual audit under s. 60.43 (2).

(b) Designate as part-time the office of town clerk, the office of town treasurer or the combined office of town clerk and town treasurer.

(2) CLERK AND ASSESSOR. Except as provided under sub. (3), the town meeting may combine the offices of town clerk and town assessor. If a person elected to a combined office is not certified under s. 73.09 by June 1 of the year elected, the combined office is vacant.

(3) TOWN IN COUNTY WITH ONLY ONE TOWN. (a) In the town in any county containing only one town, the town board may, by resolution:

1. Combine 2 or more town offices.
2. Designate any town office as a part-time position.

3. Combine, if concurred in by the county board, the offices of town clerk and county clerk and any other town and county offices if the offices combined are not incompatible and the combination is not expressly forbidden by law.

(b) If the town board and county board agree to combine a county and town office under this subsection, the election to fill the combined office shall be under s. 59.12. No separate election for the town office may be held until the county board, by resolution, revokes the combination and the town board, by resolution, concurs.

(4) GENERAL PROVISIONS. (a) A combination of offices under this section takes effect on the latest date that any current term of an office to be combined expires.

(b) Except as provided under sub. (3) (b) for combined town and county offices, the election

to fill any combined office shall be under s. 60.30.

(c) The combination of town offices may be revoked in the same way that they were combined. No separate election for a town office, if combined, may be held until the combination is so revoked.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.307 Appointment of town assessors. (1) APPLICABILITY. This section does not apply to any town within the jurisdiction of a county assessor under s. 70.99.

(2) TOWN MEETING AUTHORIZATION. If authorized by the town meeting under s. 60.10 (2) (j), the town board may select assessors by appointment.

(3) METHOD OF SELECTION. If authorized under sub. (2), a town board may appoint an assessor and any assistants by one of the following methods:

(a) If the town has a civil service system, under that system. If the town has no civil service system, the town board may adopt a civil service system under s. 66.19 (2) for the selection of assessors.

(b) If the town does not have or adopt a civil service system, the town board shall appoint assessors on the basis of merit, experience and general qualifications for a term not to exceed 3 years.

(4) INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AS ASSESSOR.

(a) In this subsection, "independent contractor" means a person who either is under contract to furnish appraisal and assessment services or is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, business or profession in which the services are offered to the general public.

(b) An independent contractor may be appointed as the town assessor. The independent contractor shall designate the individual responsible for the assessment. The designee shall file the official oath under s. 19.01 and sign the affidavit of the assessor attached to the assessment roll under s. 70.49. No individual may be designated by an independent contractor unless he or she has been granted the appropriate certification under s. 73.09.

(5) ASSESSORS; ASSISTANTS; NUMBER AND SALARIES. The town board shall determine the number of assistant assessors required and the salaries to be paid the assessor and assistant assessors. If the assessor and assistant assessors are appointed under civil service, the salaries shall be within the civil service salary schedule and appointments shall be from the civil service lists.

(6) COMMENCEMENT OF OFFICE. An initial appointee under this section shall take office at the

expiration of the terms of the last elected assessors.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.31 Official oath and bond. (1) OFFICIAL OATH. Except as provided in sub. (3), every elected or appointed town officer shall take and file the oath under s. 19.01 within 5 days after notification of election or appointment.

(2) OFFICIAL BOND. Every town clerk, deputy town clerk, town treasurer, deputy town treasurer, elected assessor and town constable shall execute and file an official bond provided by the town. No natural person may be a surety on a bond under this subsection. The bond may be furnished by a surety company under s. 632.17 (2). The amount of the bond shall be fixed by the town board. If the amount of the bond is not fixed by the board, the amount shall be the same as that required of the last incumbent of the office. If the town board at any time determines that the bond is insufficient, it may require an additional bond to be filed within 10 days, in an amount fixed by the board.

(3) EXCEPTIONS. (a) An elected assessor shall take and file the official oath and bond at any time between May 27 to May 31.

(b) Municipal judges shall take and file the official oath and bond under s. 755.03.

(4) FAILURE TO FILE OATH OR BOND. If any person elected or appointed to a town office fails to file a required official oath or bond within the time prescribed by law, the failure to file constitutes refusal to serve in office.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.32 Compensation of elective town offices.

(1) ESTABLISHED BY TOWN MEETING OR BOARD. (a) Except as provided under par. (b), the town meeting shall establish the compensation of elective town offices.

(b) If authorized by the town meeting under s. 60.10 (2) (k), the town board shall establish the compensation of elective town offices, other than the office of town board supervisor.

(2) NATURE OF COMPENSATION. Compensation under this section may be:

(a) An annual salary.

(b) A per diem compensation for each day or part of a day necessarily devoted to the service of the town and the discharge of duties.

(c) A combination of pars. (a) and (b).

(3) CHANGES DURING TERM. Subject to sub. (4), the town meeting or, if authorized to establish compensation, the town board may make a change in the compensation of an elective town office to take effect during the term of office.

(4) WHEN ESTABLISHED. Compensation under this section shall be established prior to the latest date and time for filing nomination pa-

60.32 TOWNS

pers for the office. After that date and time, no change may be made in the compensation of the office that applies to the current term of office.

History: 1983 a 532

60.321 Reimbursement of expenses. (1)

GENERALLY. The town board may provide for reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred by any officer or employe of the town in the performance of official town duties. The board may determine who is eligible for expense reimbursement, which expenses are reimbursable and the amount of reimbursement. Expenses reimbursable under this section include, but are not limited to:

(a) Traveling expenses, including mileage, lodging and meal expenses.

(b) Costs associated with programs of instruction related to the officer's or employe's office or employment.

(2) MANUALS. The town board may purchase handbooks and manuals that will materially assist town officials and employes in the performance of official duties.

History: 1983 a 532

60.323 Compensation when acting in more than one official capacity. Except for offices combined under s. 60.305, no town may compensate a town officer for acting in more than one official capacity or office of the town at the same time.

History: 1983 a 532

60.33 Duties of town clerk. The town clerk shall:

(1) CLERK OF TOWN MEETING. Serve as clerk of the town meeting under s. 60.15.

(2) CLERK OF TOWN BOARD. (a) Serve as clerk of the town board, attend meetings of the board and keep a full record of its proceedings.

(b) File all accounts approved by the town board or allowed at town meetings and enter a statement of the accounts in the town's record books.

(c) File with the town board claims approved by the clerk, as required under s. 60.44 (2) (c).

(3) FINANCE BOOK. Maintain a finance book, which shall contain a complete record of the finances of the town, showing the receipts, with the date, amount and source of each receipt; the disbursements, with the date, amount and object of each disbursement; and any other information relating to town finances prescribed by the town board.

(4) ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS. (a) Perform the duties required by chs. 5 to 12 relating to elections.

(b) Transmit to the county clerk, within 10 days after election or appointment and qualifi-

cation of any town supervisor, treasurer, assessor or clerk, a written notice stating the name and post-office address of the elected or appointed officer. The clerk shall promptly notify the county clerk of any subsequent changes in such offices.

(c) Transmit to the clerk of circuit court, immediately after the election or appointment of any constable or municipal judge in the town, a written notice stating the name of the constable or municipal judge and the term for which elected or appointed. If the judge or constable was elected or appointed to fill a vacancy in the office, the clerk shall include in the notice the name of the incumbent who vacated the office.

(5) SALE OF REAL PROPERTY. Execute the conveyance of real property of the town.

(6) NOTICES. (a) Publish or post ordinances and resolutions as required under s. 60.80

(b) Give notice of annual and special town meetings as required under ss. 60.11 (5) and 60.12 (3).

(7) RECORDS. (a) Comply with subch. II of ch. 19 concerning any record of which the clerk is legal custodian.

(b) Demand and obtain the official books and papers of any municipal judge if the office becomes vacant and the judge's successor is not elected or appointed and qualified, or if any municipal judge dies. The town clerk shall dispose of the books and papers as required by law.

(8) LICENSES. Issue any license or permit granted by the town board when presented with a receipt from the town treasurer indicating that any required fee has been paid.

(9) SCHOOLS. (a) Perform the clerk's duties under chs. 115 to 121, relating to public instruction.

(b) Within 10 days after the clerk's election or appointment, report his or her name and post-office address to the administrator of each cooperative educational service agency which contains any portion of the town. The clerk shall report to the administrator the name and post-office address of each school district clerk within 10 days after the name and address is filed in the clerk's office.

(c) Make and keep in the clerk's office a map of the town, showing the exact boundaries of school districts within the town.

(d) Apportion, as provided by law, tax revenues collected by the town for schools.

(10) HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES. Perform the duties specified in chs. 80 to 92, relating to highways, bridges and drains.

(10m) NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUE. Notify the clerk of the county in which the town is located, by March 15, of the proportion of

property tax revenue and of the credits under s. 79 10 that is to be disbursed by the county clerk to each taxing jurisdiction located in the town.

(11) IN GENERAL. Perform all other duties required by law, ordinance or lawful direction of the town meeting or town board.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.331 Deputy town clerk. Each town clerk may appoint one or more deputies for whom the town clerk is responsible. A deputy shall take and file the official oath and bond under s. 60.31. The town clerk may designate a deputy to perform the clerk's duties during the absence, sickness or other disability of the clerk.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.34 Duties of town treasurer. The town treasurer shall:

(1) RECEIVE AND DISBURSE TOWN MONEY. (a) Receive and take charge of all money belonging to the town, or which is required by law to be paid into the town treasury, and disburse the money under s. 66.042.

(b) Keep an itemized account of all moneys received and disbursed, specifying the source from which it was received, the person to whom it was paid and the object for which it was paid. The treasurer shall issue numbered receipts for all funds received. At the request of the town board, the treasurer shall present the account books, and any supporting documents requested, to the board.

(2) DEPOSIT OF TOWN MONEY. (a) Deposit as soon as practicable the funds of the town in the name of the town in the public depository designated by the town board. Failure to comply with this paragraph is grounds for removal from office.

(b) When money is deposited under par. (a), the treasurer and the treasurer's sureties are not liable for any loss as defined in s. 34.01 (6). The interest arising from the money deposited shall be paid into the town treasury.

(3) RECORDS. Comply with subch. II of ch. 19 concerning records of which the treasurer is legal custodian.

(4) TAXES. Perform all of the duties relating to taxation required of the town treasurer under chs. 70 to 79.

(5) PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT OF SCHOOL TAXES. (a) To make partial apportionment of levies by school districts and vocational, technical and adult education districts out of any funds available in the town treasury prior to the tax apportionment provided by s. 74.03 (5) within 5 days after the filing of a written request by the district board. The town board may not deny such a request. The district board may not

receive more than one payment under this subsection during any month.

(b) On or before January 15 and February 15 and any other date specified by the town board, make a payment to the appropriate treasurer of any school district, and to the appropriate vocational, technical and adult education district treasurer, if the district has not received a payment under par. (a) during that month. That payment shall be the proportion of the school district's or vocational, technical and adult education district's levy that the general property taxes collected in the town, except collections for state trust fund loans, state tax and state special charges, up to the last day of the preceding month bears to the total general property tax levy in the town for all purposes except levies for state trust fund loans, state tax and state special charges. The town treasurer may make the payments required under this paragraph without authorization by the town board.

(c) On or before January 15 and any other date specified by the town board, pay, under s. 74.031, to the appropriate school district treasurer and vocational, technical and adult education district treasurer the proportion of the district's levy that the general property taxes collected in the town, except collections for state trust fund loans, state tax and state special charges, up to the last day of the preceding month bears to the total general property tax levy in the town for all purposes except levies for state trust fund loans, state tax and state special charges.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.341 Deputy town treasurer. Each town treasurer may appoint a deputy for whom the treasurer is responsible. The deputy shall take and file the official oath and bond under s. 60.31. In case of the absence, sickness or other disability of the treasurer, the deputy shall perform the treasurer's duties.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.35 Duties of town constable. (1) A town constable shall perform the duties established by the town board under s. 60.22 (4).

(2) A town constable shall keep his or her office in the town. No constable who keeps his or her office outside the limits of the town may receive fees for any service performed.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.351 Town constable fees. (1) Town constables shall collect the fees prescribed for sheriffs in s. 814.70 for similar services.

(2) If any person except a party to an action performs the services of a town constable, the

person shall collect the fees to which the town constable would be entitled.

(3) No town constable may serve or execute any summons, writ or process in any action or proceeding in which he or she is agent or attorney for the plaintiff or if he or she is interested in the collection of any claim which is the subject of the action or proceeding. A town constable may not recover any costs, fees or expenses, nor may any costs or fees be taxed for any services rendered in violation of this subsection.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.36 Municipal judge. The town board may provide for the election of a municipal judge under ch. 755.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.37 Town employes. (1) **GENERAL.** The town board may employ on a temporary or permanent basis persons necessary to carry out the functions of town government. The board may establish the qualifications and terms of employment, which may include the residency of the employe. The board may delegate the authority to hire town employes to any town official or employe.

(2) **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** The town board may designate, retain or employ one or more attorneys on a temporary or continuing basis to counsel the town on legal matters or represent the town in legal proceedings.

(3) **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.** (a) The town board may create the position of town administrator and establish the qualifications, compensation and terms of employment for the position. The town administrator may be employed to serve at the pleasure of the town board or for a fixed term. If employed for a fixed term, the town board may suspend or remove the town administrator for cause.

(b) The town administrator shall perform all lawful duties assigned by the town board which do not conflict with duties and powers conferred by law on other town officers.

(c) No elected town officer may serve as town administrator.

(d) A town may join with one or more towns, villages or cities, in any combination, to employ a person as administrator for the towns, villages or cities. The governing body of each town, village and city may enter into an agreement for this purpose, which may include agreement to share the costs of the position. The town board may not enter into an agreement under this paragraph to employ an administrator for more than 3 years unless the town meeting approves the agreement.

History: 1983 a. 532

SUBCHAPTER VI

FINANCE

60.40 Preparation and adoption of budget.

(1) **FISCAL YEAR; ANNUAL BUDGET.** The town fiscal year is the calendar year. A town budget shall be adopted annually.

(2) **PREPARATION.** The town board is responsible for preparation of the proposed budget required under s. 65.90. In preparing the budget, the town board may provide for assistance by any person.

(3) **HEARING.** The town board shall conduct the budget hearing required under s. 65.90.

(4) **ADOPTION.** The town board shall adopt the town budget.

(5) **AMENDMENT.** The town budget may be amended by the town board under s. 65.90 (5).

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.41 Annual financial statement. The town board annually shall prepare a statement of the financial condition of the town and present the statement to the annual town meeting. In preparing the statement, the town board may provide for assistance by any person. The statement shall include the previous year's revenues and expenditures and the current indebtedness of the town.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.42 Finance book. The town clerk shall maintain a finance book under s. 60.33 (3).

History: 1983 a. 532

60.43 Financial audits. (1) **GENERAL.** The town board may provide for financial audits under s. 66.041.

(2) **AUDIT OF COMBINED CLERK AND TREASURER OFFICE.** If the offices of town clerk and town treasurer are combined under s. 60.305 (1) (a), the town board shall arrange for an audit of the town financial records at least once every year. The audit may be conducted either by a certified public accountant, appointed by the town board and not otherwise employed by the town, or by the department of revenue if the department provides such a service.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.44 Claims against town. (1) **GENERAL PROCEDURE.** (a) Claims for money against a town or against officers, officials, agents or employes of the town arising out of acts done in their official capacity shall be filed with the town clerk as provided under s. 893.80 (1) (b).

(b) The town board shall allow or disallow the claim. Notice of disallowance shall be made as provided under s. 893.80 (1) (b).

(2) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE. (a) The town board, by ordinance, may provide a procedure for approving financial claims against the town which are in the nature of bills and vouchers. The ordinance shall provide that payment may be made from the town treasury under s. 66.042 after the town clerk reviews and approves in writing each bill or voucher as a proper charge against the treasury, after having determined that:

1. Funds are available under the town budget to pay the bill or voucher.

2. The item or service covered by the bill or voucher has been duly authorized.

3. The item or service covered by the bill or voucher has been supplied or rendered in conformity with the authorization.

4. The claim appears to be a valid claim against the town.

(b) The town clerk may require submission of proof to determine compliance with the conditions under par. (a) 1 to 4.

(c) The ordinance shall require that the clerk file with the town board at least monthly a list of the claims approved, showing the date paid, name of claimant, purpose and amount.

(3) COURT ACTIONS TO RECOVER CLAIMS. Subsection (2), or an ordinance adopted under that subsection, does not affect the applicability of s. 893.80. No action may be brought or maintained against a town upon a claim unless the claimant complies with s. 893.80.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.45 Disbursements from town treasury. Disbursements from the town treasury shall be made under s. 66.042.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.46 Public depository. The town board shall designate one or more public depositories for depositing funds of the town. The treasurer and the treasurer's surety are not liable for loss, as defined under s. 34.01 (6), of money deposited in the name of the town in a designated public depository. Interest accruing from town money in a public depository shall be credited to the town.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.47 Public contracts and competitive bidding. (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Public contract" means a contract for the construction, execution, repair, remodeling or improvement of any public work or building or for the furnishing of materials or supplies, with an estimated cost greater than \$5,000.

(b) "Responsible bidder" means a person who, in the judgment of the town board, is financially responsible and has the capacity and competence to faithfully and responsibly comply with the terms of the public contract.

(2) ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS. Except as provided in subs. (4) and (5), no town may enter into a public contract unless the town board, or a town official or employe designated by the town board, advertises for proposals to perform the terms of the public contract by publishing a class 2 notice under ch. 985. The town board may provide for additional means of advertising for bids.

(3) CONTRACTS TO LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER. The town board shall let a public contract for which advertising for proposals is required under sub. (2) to the lowest responsible bidder. Section 66.29 applies to public contracts let under this section.

(4) CONTRACTS WITH GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES. This section does not apply to public contracts entered into by a town with a municipality, as defined under s. 66.30 (1) (a).

(5) EXCEPTION FOR EMERGENCIES. This section is optional with respect to public contracts for the repair and construction of public facilities when damage or threatened damage to the facility creates an emergency, as declared by resolution of the town board, that endangers the public health or welfare of the town. This subsection no longer applies when the town board declares that the emergency no longer exists.

(6) APPLICATION TO WORK BY TOWN. This section does not apply to any public work performed directly by the town.

History: 1983 a 532.

SUBCHAPTER VII

PUBLIC WORKS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

60.50 Public works. Without limitation because of enumeration, the town board may:

(1) ACQUIRE LANDS. Notwithstanding s. 60.10 (2) (e), acquire lands to lay, construct, alter, extend or repair any highway, street or alley in the town.

(2) STREETS, SEWERS AND WATER MAINS. Provide for laying, constructing, altering, extending, replacing, removing or repairing any highway, street, alley, sanitary sewer, storm sewer or water main in the town.

(3) SIDEWALKS. Provide for construction, removal, replacement or repair of sidewalks under s. 66.615.

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(4) **LIGHTING HIGHWAYS.** Provide for lighting for highways, as defined under s. 340.01 (22), located in the town.

(5) **LAKE IMPROVEMENTS.** Provide for making improvements in any lake or waterway located in the town.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.51 Payment for public works; special assessments. The town board may levy and collect special assessments and charges under s. 66.60 to pay for all or part of the cost of any public work or improvement. Special assessments may be paid under s. 66.54. Reassessments shall be under s. 66.635.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.52 Sewer and water systems of adjoining municipality. (1) With the approval of the town board, any city or village adjoining a town may construct and maintain extensions of its sewer or water system in the town. An extension of a sewer or water system under this subsection is subject to s. 62.175 (1) and the rights of abutting property owners.

(2) An abutting property owner who is permitted to connect with and use a sewer or water system constructed under sub. (1) may not be deprived of the use of the sewer or water system, except for nonpayment of water or sewer charges, without the approval of the town board.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.53 Service pipes and laterals. Sections 62.16 (2) and 66.625, relating to service pipes and laterals, are applicable to towns.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.54 Solid waste transportation. (1) The town board may designate any town highway which provides reasonable access to a solid waste disposal site or facility licensed under s. 144.44 as appropriate for the transportation of solid waste into, within or through the town for the purpose of disposing of the waste at the site or facility and may prohibit the use of other town highways for that purpose.

(2) Any person violating a prohibition enacted under sub. (1) shall forfeit not more than \$1,000.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.55 Fire protection. (1) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.** (a) The town board shall provide for fire protection for the town. Fire protection for the town, or any portion of the town, may be provided in any manner, including:

1. Establishing a town fire department.

2. Joining with another town, village or city to establish a joint fire department. If the town board establishes a joint fire department with a village under s. 61.65 (2) (a) 3, the town board shall create a joint board of fire commissioners with the village under s. 61.65 (2) (b) 2.

3. Contracting with any person.

4. Utilizing a fire company organized under ch. 213.

(b) The town board may provide for the equipping, staffing, housing and maintenance of fire protection services.

(2) **FUNDING.** The town board may:

(a) Appropriate money to pay for fire protection in the town.

(b) Charge property owners a fee for the cost of fire calls made to their property.

(c) Levy taxes on the entire town to pay for fire protection.

(d) Levy taxes on property served by a particular source of fire protection, to support the source of protection.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.555 Fire safety regulations. The town board, by ordinance, may adopt regulations to prevent, detect and suppress fire and related fire hazards. The regulations may include provision for the inspection, at reasonable times, of property in the town for compliance with regulations adopted under this section.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.557 Reimbursement for fire calls on highways. (1) If a town incurs costs for a fire call by responding to a vehicle fire on a county trunk highway, the county maintaining that portion of the highway where the vehicle was located at the time of the fire shall reimburse the town up to \$200 for the costs if the town submits written proof that the town has made a reasonable effort to collect the cost from the person to whom the fire call was provided.

If the town collects the cost from such person after the county reimburses the town, the town shall return the amount collected to the county.

(2) If a town incurs costs for a fire call on a state trunk highway or any highway that is a part of the national system of interstate highways and maintained by the department of transportation, the department of transportation shall reimburse the town up to \$200 for the costs if the town submits written proof that the town has made a reasonable effort to collect the cost from the person to whom the fire call was provided. If the town collects the cost from such person after the department reimburses the town, the town shall return the amount collected to the department.

History: 1983 a 532, 538.

60.56 Law enforcement. (1) GENERAL AUTHORITY. (a) The town board may provide for law enforcement in the town or any portion of the town in any manner, including:

1. Establishing a town police department.
2. Joining with another town, village or city to create a joint police department. If the town board establishes a joint police department with a village under s. 61.65 (1) (a) 3, the town board shall create a joint board of police commissioners with the village under s. 61.65 (1) (b) 2.
3. Contracting with any person.

(b) The town board may provide for the equipping, staffing, housing and maintenance of law enforcement services.

(2) FUNDING. The town board may appropriate money to fund law enforcement services.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.565 Ambulance service. The town board shall contract for or operate and maintain ambulance services unless such services are provided by another person. The town board may purchase equipment for medical and other emergency calls.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.57 Police and fire commission. (1) The town board may:

- (a) If the town has a police department, establish a board of police commissioners.
- (b) If the town has a fire department, establish a board of fire commissioners.
- (c) If the town has both a police and fire department, establish a board of police and fire commissioners.

(2) A board created under this section shall be organized in the same manner as boards of police and fire commissioners under s. 62.13 (1).

(3) A board created under this section is subject to the provisions of s. 62.13 (2) to (5) and (7) to (12) to the extent that the provisions apply to 2nd and 3rd class cities. In applying s. 62.13 under this section, the town board chairperson has the powers and duties specified for a mayor, the town board has the powers and duties specified for a common council and the town has the powers and duties specified for a city.

History: 1983 a. 532.

SUBCHAPTER VIII

LAND USE AND PLANNING

60.61 General zoning authority. (1) PURPOSE AND CONSTRUCTION. (a) Ordinances adopted under this section shall be designed to promote the public health, safety and general welfare.

(b) Authority granted under this section shall be liberally construed in favor of the town exercising the powers. This section may not be construed to limit or repeal any powers possessed by any town.

(2) EXTENT OF AUTHORITY. Subject to sub. (3), if a town is located in a county which has not adopted a county zoning ordinance under s. 59.97, the town board, by ordinance, may:

(a) Regulate, restrict and determine: the areas within which agriculture, forestry, mining and recreation may be conducted; the location of roads, schools, trades and industries; the location, height, bulk, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures; the percentage of a lot which may be occupied; the size of yards, courts and other open spaces; the density and distribution of population; the location of buildings designed for specified uses; the trades, industries or purposes that may be engaged in or subject to regulation; and the uses for which buildings may not be erected or altered.

(b) Establish districts of such number, shape and area necessary to carry out the purposes under par. (a).

(c) Establish building setback lines.

(d) Regulate, restrict and determine the areas in or along natural watercourses, channels, streams and creeks in which trades and industries, filling or dumping, erection of structures and the location of buildings may be prohibited or restricted.

(e) Adopt an official map showing areas, outside the limits of villages and cities, suited to carry out the purposes of this section.

(f) Regulate, restrict and determine the location, height, bulk, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures and objects of natural growth in any area of the town in the vicinity of an airport owned by the town or privately owned, divide the territory into several areas and impose different restrictions for each area. In exercising its power under this paragraph, the town board may, by eminent domain, remove or alter any buildings, structures or objects of natural growth which are contrary to the restrictions imposed in the area in which they are located, except railroad buildings, bridges or facilities other than telegraph, telephone and overhead signal system poles and wires.

(g) Encourage the protection of groundwater resources.

(3) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY. Before exercising authority under sub. (2), the town board shall petition the county board to initiate, at any regular or special meeting, action to adopt a county zoning ordinance under s. 59.97. The town board may proceed under sub. (2) if:

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(a) The county board fails or refuses, at the meeting, to direct the county zoning agency to proceed under s. 59.97;

(b) The county zoning agency's report and the recommended county zoning ordinance prepared pursuant to the report are not presented to the county board within one year; or

(c) The county zoning agency report and recommended county zoning ordinance are presented to the county board within one year and the county board at its next meeting following receipt of the report fails to adopt the ordinance.

(4) PROCEDURE. (a) The town board shall appoint a town zoning committee consisting of 5 members.

(b) Before the town board may adopt an ordinance under sub. (2), the town zoning committee shall recommend zoning district boundaries and appropriate regulations and restrictions for the districts. In carrying out its duties, the town zoning committee shall develop a preliminary report and hold a public hearing on the report before submitting a final report to the town board. If the town zoning committee makes a substantial change in its report following the public hearing, it shall hold another public hearing on the report. After the final report of the town zoning committee is submitted to the town board, the board may adopt an ordinance under sub. (2) following a public hearing held by the board on the proposed ordinance.

(c) 1. After the town board has adopted a town zoning ordinance, the board may alter, supplement or change the boundaries or regulations established in the ordinance if a public hearing is held on the revisions. The board shall give notice of any proposed revisions in the zoning ordinance and of the time and place of the public hearing on them by a class 2 notice under ch. 985. The board shall allow any interested person to testify at the hearing.

2. A proposed amendment, supplement or change to the town zoning ordinance must be adopted by not less than a three-fourths vote of the town board if a protest against the proposed amendment, supplement or change is presented to the town board prior to or at the public hearing under subd. 1 and:

a. The protest is signed and acknowledged by the owners of at least 50% of the area proposed to be altered; or

b. The protest is signed and acknowledged by the abutting owners of at least 50% of the total perimeter of the area proposed to be altered that is included within 300 feet of the parcel or parcels to be rezoned.

(d) 1. In this paragraph, "comprehensively revise" means to incorporate numerous and substantial changes in the zoning ordinance.

2. The town board may, by a single ordinance, comprehensively revise an existing town zoning ordinance. The ordinance shall be adopted under par. (b).

(5) NONCONFORMING USES. (a) An ordinance adopted under this section may not prohibit the continued use of any building or premise for any trade or industry for which the building or premise is used when the ordinance takes effect. An ordinance adopted under this section may prohibit the alteration of, or addition to, any existing building or structure used to carry on an otherwise prohibited trade or industry within the district. If a use that does not conform to an ordinance adopted under this section is discontinued for a period of 12 months, any future use of the land, building or premise shall conform to the ordinance.

(b) Except as provided in par. (d), immediately after the publication of a town zoning ordinance, the town board shall provide for the compilation of a record of the present use of all buildings and premises used for purposes not in conformity with the zoning ordinance. The record shall contain the names and addresses of the owner of the nonconforming use and any occupant other than the owner, the legal description of the land, and the nature and extent of the use of the land. The record shall be published in the town as a class 1 notice under ch. 985. Within 60 days after final publication, upon presentation of proof to the town board, errors or omissions in the record may be corrected. At the expiration of the 60-day period, the record shall be filed in the office of the town clerk and a certified copy of the record filed in the office of the register of deeds. The record is prima facie evidence of the extent and number of nonconforming uses existing at the time the ordinance takes effect. Errors or omissions in the record shall be corrected by the town board upon petition of any citizen or by the board on its own motion. The decision of the board concerning errors or omissions is final.

(c) Immediately after the record of nonconforming uses is filed with the town clerk, the clerk shall furnish the town assessor the record of nonconforming uses within the town. After the assessment for the following year and each succeeding assessment, the town assessor shall file a written report, certified by the board of review, with the town clerk listing all nonconforming uses which have been discontinued since the prior assessment. The town clerk shall record discontinued nonconforming uses as soon as reported by the assessor. In this para-

graph, "town assessor" includes the county assessor assessing the town under s. 70.99.

(d) Paragraphs (b) and (c) do not apply to towns issuing building permits as a means of enforcing the zoning ordinance or of identifying nonconforming uses or to towns which have established other procedures for this purpose.

(6) **ENFORCEMENT.** The town board may by ordinance provide for the enforcement of all ordinances adopted under this section. The board may impose forfeitures and other penalties for violation of ordinances adopted under this section. To enforce compliance with ordinances adopted under this section, the town or the owner of real estate within a district affected by the ordinance may seek a court order.

History: 1983 a. 532, 538.

60.62 Zoning authority if exercising village powers. (1) Subject to subs. (2) and (3), if a town board has been granted authority to exercise village powers under s. 60.10 (2) (c), the board may adopt zoning ordinances under s. 61.35.

(2) If the county in which the town is located has adopted a zoning ordinance under s. 59.97, the exercise of the authority under sub. (1) is subject to approval by the town meeting or by a referendum vote of the electors of the town held at the time of any regular or special election.

(3) In counties having a county zoning ordinance, no zoning ordinance or amendment of a zoning ordinance may be adopted under this section unless approved by the county board.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.63 Community living arrangements. For purposes of s. 60.61, the location of a community living arrangement, as defined in s. 46.03 (22), in any town shall be subject to the following criteria:

(1) No community living arrangement may be established after March 28, 1978 within 2,500 feet, or any lesser distance established by an ordinance of the town, of any other such facility. Agents of a facility may apply for an exception to this requirement, and such exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the local township. Two community living arrangements may be adjacent if the town authorizes that arrangement and if both facilities comprise essential components of a single program.

(2) Community living arrangements shall be permitted in each town without restriction as to the number of facilities, so long as the total capacity of the community living arrangements does not exceed 25 or one percent of the town's population, whichever is greater. If the capacity of the community living arrangements in the

town reaches such total, the town may prohibit additional community living arrangements from locating in the township. Agents of a facility may apply for an exception to this requirement, and such exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the town.

(3) A foster family home which is the primary domicile of a foster parent, which is for 4 or fewer children and which is licensed under s. 48.62 shall be permitted use in all residential areas and is not subject to subs. (1) and (2) except that foster homes operated by corporations, child welfare agencies, churches, associations or public agencies shall be subject to subs. (1) and (2).

(4) If the community living arrangement has capacity for 8 or fewer persons being served by the program, meets the criteria listed in subs. (1) and (2), and is licensed, operated or permitted under the authority of the department of health and social services, the community living arrangement is entitled to locate in any residential zone, without being required to obtain special zoning permission except as provided under sub. (10).

(5) In all cases where the community living arrangement has capacity for 9 to 15 persons being served by the program, meets the criteria listed in subs. (1) and (2), and is licensed, operated or permitted under the authority of the department of health and social services, that facility is entitled to locate in any residential area except areas zoned exclusively for single-family or 2-family residences except as provided in sub. (10), but is entitled to apply for special zoning permission to locate in those areas. The town may grant such special zoning permission at its discretion and shall make a procedure available to enable such facilities to request such permission.

(6) In all cases where the community living arrangement has capacity for serving 16 or more persons, meets the criteria listed in subs. (1) and (2), and is licensed, operated or permitted under the authority of the department of health and social services, that facility is entitled to apply for special zoning permission to locate in areas zoned for residential use. The town may grant such special zoning permission at its discretion and shall make a procedure available to enable such facilities to request such permission.

(7) The department of health and social services shall designate a single subunit within the department to maintain appropriate records indicating the location and the capacity of each community living arrangement, and such information shall be available to the public.

60.63 TOWNS

(8) In this section, "special zoning permission" includes but is not limited to the following: special exception, special permit, conditional use, zoning variance, conditional permit and words of similar intent.

(9) The attorney general shall take all necessary action, upon the request of the department of health and social services, to enforce compliance with this section.

(10) Not less than 11 months nor more than 13 months after the first licensure of a community living arrangement and every year thereafter, the town board of a town in which a community living arrangement is located may make a determination as to the effect of the community living arrangement on the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the town. The determination shall be made according to the procedures provided under sub (11). If the town board determines that a community living arrangement's existence in the town poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the town, the town board may order the community living arrangement to cease operation unless special zoning permission is obtained. The order is subject to judicial review under s. 68.13, except that a free copy of the transcript may not be provided to the community living arrangement. The community living arrangement must cease operation within 90 days after the date of the order, or the date of final judicial review of the order, or the date of the denial of special zoning permission, whichever is later.

(11) A determination made under sub. (10) shall be made after a hearing before the town board. The town shall provide at least 30 days' notice to the community living arrangement that such a hearing will be held. At the hearing, the community living arrangement may be represented by counsel and may present evidence and call and examine witnesses and cross-examine other witnesses called. The town board may call witnesses and may issue subpoenas. All witnesses shall be sworn by the town board. The town board shall take notes of the testimony and shall mark and preserve all exhibits. The town board may, and upon request of the community living arrangement shall, cause the proceedings to be taken by a stenographer or by a recording device, the expense thereof to be paid by the town. Within 20 days after the hearing, the town board shall deliver to the community living arrangement its written determination stating the reasons therefor. The determination shall be a final determination.

History: 1983 a 532

60.64 Historic preservation. The town board, in the exercise of its zoning and police powers

for the purpose of promoting the health, safety and general welfare of the community and of the state, may regulate any place, structure or object with a special character, historic interest, aesthetic interest or other significant value for the purpose of preserving the place, structure or object and its significant characteristics. The town board may create a landmarks commission to designate historic landmarks and establish historic districts. The board may regulate all historic landmarks and all property within each historic district to preserve the historic landmarks and property within the district and the character of the district.

History: 1983 a 532

60.65 Board of adjustment. (1) TOWN BOARD SHALL APPOINT. If a zoning ordinance has been adopted under s. 60.61, the town board shall establish and appoint a board of adjustment.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.** The board of adjustment consists of 3 members. Not more than one town board supervisor may be a member of the board of adjustment. The initial terms of the members of the board of adjustment are one, 2 and 3 years, respectively, starting from the first day of the month next following the appointment. Successors shall be appointed or elected at the expiration of each term and their term of office shall be 3 years and until their successors are appointed or elected. Members of the board of adjustment shall reside within the town. The board shall choose a chairperson. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose office becomes vacant. The town board may compensate the members of the adjustment board.

(3) **POWERS AND DUTIES.** The town board may authorize the board of adjustment to, in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, permit special exceptions to the terms of the zoning ordinance under s. 60.61 consistent with the ordinance's general purpose and intent and with applicable provisions of the ordinance. This subsection does not preclude the granting of special exceptions by the town zoning committee designated under s. 60.61 (4) or the town board, in accordance with regulations and restrictions adopted under to s. 60.61.

(4) **PROCEDURE.** The town board shall adopt regulations for the conduct of the business of the board of adjustment consistent with ordinances adopted under s. 60.61. The board of adjustment may adopt rules necessary to implement the regulations of the town board. Meetings of the board shall be held at the call of the chairperson and other times as the board may determine. The chairperson or, in his or her absence, the acting chairperson, may adminis-

ter oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses. The board shall keep minutes of its proceedings showing the vote of each member upon each question or, if absent, indicating that fact and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the board and shall be a public record.

(5) **EXERCISE OF COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT POWERS.** Boards of adjustment under town zoning ordinances shall have the powers and duties provided for boards of adjustment under s. 59.99 and shall carry out their duties in the manner provided for boards of adjustment by s. 59.99.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.66 Town park commission. (1) ESTABLISHED BY ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. The annual town meeting may establish a town park commission consisting of 7 members.

(2) **APPOINTMENT AND TERM.** (a) The town board shall appoint the members of the commission within 60 days after the commission is established. Each member shall take and file the official oath.

(b) Except as provided under par. (c), members shall serve a term of 7 years, commencing July 1 of the year in which appointed. The town board shall appoint a successor during the month of June immediately preceding the expiration of the member's term.

(c) The first 7 members shall be appointed for staggered terms so that on the first day of July in each of the 7 years next following the year in which they are appointed, the term of one member expires.

(d) A member shall hold his or her office until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.

(3) **ORGANIZATION.** (a) Within 30 days after the appointment and qualification of the initial members of the commission, the commission shall hold a meeting to appoint officers and establish bylaws for its operation.

(b) The commission may appoint necessary assistants and employes to carry out its functions, make rules and regulations concerning their work and remove them at pleasure.

(c) The town board shall provide sufficient office space for the maps, plans, documents and records of the commission.

(4) **POWERS AND DUTIES.** (a) In this subsection, "park" means a public park, parkway, boulevard or pleasure drive.

(b) The commission shall have charge of and supervision over all parks located in the town and may exercise the powers of a board of park commissioners under ss. 27.08 and 27.10 (1).

(c) Within 2 years after its organization under sub. (3), the commission shall:

1. Make a thorough study of the town with reference to reserving lands for park purposes.

2. Make plans and maps of a comprehensive town park system.

3. Present the results of its study and its plans to the town meeting.

(d) The commission may:

1. Lay out, improve and maintain parks in the town.

2. Lay out, grade, construct, improve and maintain highways, roads and bridges in a park or connecting the park with any other park or with any municipality.

3. Establish regulations for the use and enjoyment of the parks by the public.

4. With town board approval, acquire, in the name of the town, by purchase, land contract, lease, condemnation or otherwise, tracts of land suitable for parks. No land acquired by the commission may be disposed of by the town without the consent of the commission. If the land is disposed of, all money received for the land shall be paid into a town park fund.

5. Accept, in the name of the town, grants, conveyances and devises of land and bequests and donations of money to be used for parks located in the town.

History: 1983 a 532.

SUBCHAPTER IX

TOWN SANITARY DISTRICTS

60.70 Definitions. In this subchapter:

(1) "Commission" means the town sanitary district commission.

(1m) "Commissioner" means a member of a commission.

(2) "Equalized full value" means the assessed full value adjusted to reflect the full value as determined under s. 70.57.

(3) "Municipality" means a city, village or town.

(4) "Pollution" means contaminating or rendering unclean or impure the waters of the state, or making them injurious to public health, harmful for commercial or recreational use, or deleterious to fish, bird, animal or plant life.

(5) "Private sewage system" has the meaning given under s. 145.01 (14).

(6) "Sewerage system" means all structures, conduits and pipelines by which sewage is collected, transported, pumped, treated and disposed of, except plumbing inside and in connection with buildings served, and service pipes from building to street main.

(7) "Solid waste" has the meaning given under s. 144.01 (15).

(8) "Solid waste disposal" has the meaning given under s. 144.43 (4r).

(9) "Town sanitary district" or "district" means a town sanitary district created under this subchapter.

(10) "Water supply system" means all structures, conduits and appurtenances by means of which water is delivered to consumers except piping and fixtures inside buildings served and service pipes from building to street main.

(11) "Waters of the state" has the meaning given under s. 144.01 (19).

History: 1983 a. 532

60.71 Creation of town sanitary district by town board order. (1) TOWN BOARD AUTHORITY.

(a) The town board may establish one or more town sanitary districts under this section.

(b) If a proposed town sanitary district is in more than one town, the town board of the town containing the largest portion of the equalized full value of taxable property within the proposed district has exclusive jurisdiction to establish the town sanitary district.

(2) **PETITION.** (a) At least 51% of the persons owning land or the owners of at least 51% of the land within the limits of the territory proposed to be organized into a town sanitary district may petition the town board for the establishment of a town sanitary district. The petition shall be addressed to the town board and filed with the town clerk. The petition shall contain the following information:

1. The proposed name of the town sanitary district.

2. A statement of the necessity for the proposed work.

3. A statement that the public health, safety, convenience or welfare will be promoted by the establishment of the town sanitary district and that the property to be included will be benefited by the proposed district.

4. A legal description of the boundaries of the proposed town sanitary district.

5. A plat or sketch showing the approximate area and boundaries of the proposed town sanitary district.

6. A general description of the proposed improvements.

(b) One or more of the petitioners shall verify that the petition was signed personally by the persons whose signatures appear on the petition. The petition is presumed to have been signed by the persons whose signatures appear on the petition. No petition with the requisite number of valid signatures may be declared void because of alleged defects in the information required to be included in the petition. The

town board at any time may permit a petition to be amended to conform to the facts.

(3) **BOND.** At least 15 days prior to the hearing under sub (4), the petitioners shall file a personal or a surety bond with the town clerk, with security approved by the town board, sufficient to pay all of the expenses connected with the proceedings if the town board refuses to organize the district. The petitioners shall maintain the bond until either the town board issues an order to organize the district, the petitioners pay the costs of the town board under sub. (6) (f) or the proceedings are otherwise terminated. If the town board determines that a bond is insufficient, it may order the execution of an additional bond within a specified time, but not less than 10 days from the date of the order. If the petitioners fail to execute or maintain the bond, the town board may dismiss the petition.

(4) **HEARING.** (a) The town board shall schedule and conduct a hearing within 30 days after receipt of any petition with the requisite number of valid signatures.

(b) The town board shall publish a class 2 notice, under ch. 985, of the hearing. The notice shall contain an announcement of the hearing and a description of the boundaries of the proposed town sanitary district. The town board shall mail the notice to the department of health and social services and the department of natural resources at least 10 days prior to the hearing.

(c) Any person may file written comments on the formation of the district with the town clerk. Any owner of property within the boundary of the proposed district may appear at the hearing and offer objections, criticisms or suggestions as to the necessity of the proposed district and the question of whether his or her property will be benefited by the establishment of the district. A representative of the department of health and social services and of the department of natural resources shall attend the hearing and advise the town board.

(5) **TERRITORY COMPRISING A DISTRICT.** (a) A town sanitary district may not include any territory located within a village or city.

(b) A town sanitary district may include territory located within a metropolitan sewerage district or any other similar district outside of the boundaries of a village or city for the purpose of auxiliary sewer construction by the town sanitary district.

(6) **DECISION BY THE TOWN BOARD.** (a) Within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing under sub (4), the town board shall issue written findings and a decision on formation of the proposed town sanitary district.

(b) As part of its findings, the town board shall determine if:

1. The proposed work is necessary.
2. Public health, safety, convenience or welfare will be promoted by the establishment of the district.
3. Property to be included in the district will be benefited by the district.

(c) If the town board's findings required by par. (b) are all in the affirmative, the town board shall issue an order establishing the boundaries of the town sanitary district, declaring the district organized and giving the district a corporate name. After the district is established, the town board and the petitioners may submit to the commission certified bills covering their reasonable costs and disbursements in connection with the petition and hearing. The commission shall pay the expenses out of the funds of the district.

(d) If the town board's findings required by par. (b) are in the affirmative, except that part of the territory described in the petition will not be benefited by the establishment of the district, the town board shall issue an order under par. (c), but shall exclude such territory from the district.

(e) If the town board determines that other territory not described in the original petition should be included within the town sanitary district, the town board shall continue the hearing for not more than 30 days and publish a class 2 notice, under ch. 985, of the continued hearing. The notice shall contain a description of the revised boundaries of the proposed town sanitary district.

(f) Except as provided in par. (d), if any of the town board's findings under par. (b) are partly or wholly in the negative, the town board shall dismiss the proceedings and order the petitioners to pay, within 30 days, all reasonable costs and disbursements of the town board in connection with the proceedings.

(7) **FILING THE ORDER.** The town board shall file copies of the order establishing the town sanitary district with the department of natural resources and with the register of deeds in each county in which the district is located.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.72 Creation of town sanitary district by order of the department of natural resources.

(1) **DEFINITION.** In this section, "department" means the department of natural resources.

(2) **HEARING.** The department shall conduct a public hearing to determine whether to order the establishment of a town sanitary district under this section.

(3) **NOTICE.** The department shall give notice of a hearing under this section by mail to the

town clerk of each town in the area to be affected at least 30 days prior to the hearing. The town board shall publish a class 2 notice, under ch. 985, of the hearing. The notice by the town board shall contain an announcement of the hearing and a description of the area identified by the department for inclusion in the town sanitary district.

(4) **FINDING.** Following the public hearing, the department shall determine if private sewage systems or private domestic water supply systems, or both, in the affected towns constitute a threat to public health, safety, convenience or welfare or of pollution of waters of the state, and that there is no local action to correct the situation. The department shall issue its determination as written findings.

(5) **ORDER.** If the department's findings under sub. (4) are in the affirmative, the department shall issue an order specifying the work which is necessary and designating the property which is to be included in the proposed town sanitary district.

(6) **TOWN BOARD ACTION.** Notwithstanding s. 60.71, upon receipt of an order from the department under sub. (5), the town board may order the establishment of a town sanitary district or create a utility district under s. 66.072.

(7) **TOWN BOARD FAILURE TO ACT.** If the town board fails to establish a town sanitary district within 45 days after receipt of the department's order, the department shall issue an order establishing boundaries of the town sanitary district, declaring the district organized and giving the district a corporate name. The department's order establishes the district without any further action by the town board. The department shall file a copy of the order with the register of deeds in each county in which the district is situated and with the town clerk of each town in which the district is situated.

(8) **COMMISSIONERS.** (a) After a town sanitary district has been established under sub. (6) or (7), the town board shall appoint or provide for the election of commissioners or constitute itself as the commission under s. 60.74 within 60 days after the expiration of the review period under s. 60.73, if no appeal is filed, or within 60 days after the department's order is affirmed in a proceeding under s. 60.73. If the town board does not appoint or provide for the election of commissioners or constitute itself as the commission, the department shall appoint, for 2-year terms, 3 commissioners who meet the residence and property-ownership requirements of s. 60.75 (3).

(b) If the department appoints commissioners under par. (a), the town board, after the initial 2-year terms, shall appoint or provide for

the election of commissioners under s. 60.74 or constitute itself as the commission. If the town board does not appoint or provide for the election of commissioners or constitute itself as the commission within 60 days after the initial 2-year terms expire, the department shall appoint, for staggered terms as provided in s. 60.74, 3 commissioners who meet the residence and property-ownership requirements of s. 60.75 (3).

(c) If the town board fails to fill any vacancy on the commission within 60 days, the department shall appoint a person who meets the residence and property-ownership requirements of s. 60.75 (3) to fill the vacancy.

(d) The department shall file notice of all appointments of commissioners with the town clerk in each town in which the district is located.

(9) **STATUTES APPLICABLE.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, and unless clearly inapplicable, all other statutes relating to town sanitary districts shall apply to any town sanitary district created under sub. (6) or (7).

History: 1983 a 532.

60.73 Review of orders creating town sanitary districts. Any person aggrieved by any act of the town board or the department of natural resources in establishing a town sanitary district may bring an action in the circuit court of the county in which his or her lands are located, to set aside the final determination of the town board or the department of natural resources, within 90 days after the final determination, as provided under s. 893.73 (2). If no action is taken within the 90-day period, the determination by the town board or the department of natural resources is final.

History: 1983 a 532.

60.74 Commissioners; method of selection.

(1) **SINGLE TOWN DISTRICTS.** If a town sanitary district is located entirely within one town, the town board shall determine how commissioners will be selected. The town board may appoint the commissioners, provide for their election or constitute itself as the commission. If the town board constitutes itself as the commission, it shall do so by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the town board supervisors. The town board shall determine the method of selection for the initial commissioners within 60 days after the town sanitary district is established.

(2) **MULTIPLE TOWN DISTRICTS.** (a) If a town sanitary district is located in 2 or more towns, the town board of the town containing the largest portion of the equalized full value of taxable property of the district shall determine, within 60 days after the district is established,

how commissioners will be selected. The town board may appoint commissioners or provide for their election.

(b) If, as a result of a change in each town's share of the equalized full value of taxable property in the district, a town's share exceeds the share of the town first authorized to determine selection under par. (a), the town board of the town with the greater share, within 60 days, may provide for the election or appointment of commissioners to replace the commissioners selected under par. (a). Any commissioner selected under par. (a) shall serve until new commissioners are appointed or elected under this paragraph.

(3) **ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS.** (a) If the town board provides for the election of commissioners, the town board shall either schedule the election of the first commissioners at the next regular spring election or call a special election. If the town board schedules the election of the first commissioners at the next regular spring election, the town board shall appoint commissioners, within the time limits specified in sub. (1) or (2), to serve until the 3rd Monday of April in the year when the next regular spring election is held.

(b) After the first commissioners are elected, all subsequent commissioners shall be elected at a regular spring election.

(4) **CHANGE FROM APPOINTMENT TO ELECTION.** (a) If the commissioners of a district have been appointed, a petition requesting that commissioners be elected may be submitted to the town board responsible for the selection of commissioners under sub. (1) or (2). The petition shall state whether the petitioners wish to have the first commissioners elected at a special election or at the next regular spring election. The petition shall be signed by at least 20% of the qualified electors of the district.

(b) Upon receipt of the petition, the town board shall provide for the election of commissioners. If the petition requests the election of the first commissioners at a special election, the special election shall be scheduled in accordance with s. 8.50. After the first commissioners are elected, all subsequent commissioners shall be elected at a regular spring election.

(c) If the commissioners are elected at a special election, the current appointed commissioners continue to serve until their successors are elected and qualify. If the commissioners are elected at a regular spring election, the current appointed commissioners continue to serve until the 3rd Monday of April following the election of the commissioners.

(5) **CHANGE FROM ELECTION TO APPOINTMENT.** (a) If the commissioners have been elected as the

result of a petition under sub. (4), the town board may not change the method of selection from election to appointment except as provided under par. (b).

(b) A petition signed by at least 20% of the qualified electors of the district, requesting a change to appointment of commissioners, may be submitted to the town board. Upon receipt of the petition, the town board shall submit the question to a referendum at the next regular spring election or general election, or shall call a special election for that purpose. The inspectors shall count the votes and submit a statement of the results to the commission. The commission shall canvass the results of the election and certify the results to the town board which has authority to appoint commissioners.

(c) If the change in the method of selection of commissioners is approved at the referendum, the town board shall appoint commissioners within 60 days after the referendum is conducted.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.75 Commissioners; requirements. (1)

NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), the commission shall consist of 3 members.

(b) If the town board constitutes itself as the commission, the number of commissioners shall be the number of town board supervisors.

(2) **TERMS.** (a) Except as provided in pars. (b) and (c), commissioners shall serve for staggered 6-year terms.

(b) Except as provided under par. (c), of the commissioners first appointed or elected in a newly established town sanitary district, one shall be appointed or elected for a term of 2 years, one for a term of 4 years and one for a term of 6 years. If the commissioners first elected in a newly established town sanitary district are elected at a special election, the town board shall specify shorter staggered terms for the commissioners so that their successors may be elected at a regular spring election.

(c) If the town board constitutes itself as the commission, the terms of the commissioners are concurrent with the terms of the town board supervisors.

(d) An elected commissioner shall hold office until the 3rd Monday of April in the year that his or her successor is elected. An appointed commissioner shall hold office until a successor takes office.

(3) **RESIDENCE; REQUIREMENT TO OWN PROPERTY.** (a) Except as provided in par. (b) or (c), all commissioners shall be residents of the town sanitary district.

(b) If commissioners are elected or appointed and if the sanitary district is composed primarily of summer resort property, at least one of the commissioners shall be a resident of the district. Any commissioner who is not a resident shall own property within the town sanitary district.

(c) If the town board constitutes itself as the commission, par. (a) does not apply.

(4) **VACANCIES.** Any vacancy on an elective or appointive commission may be filled by appointment by the town board for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any vacancy on a commission consisting of town board supervisors remains vacant until a successor town board supervisor is appointed or elected.

(5) **OATH OF OFFICE.** Before assuming office, each commissioner shall take and sign the oath of office required under s. 19.01 and file the oath with the town clerk.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.76 Organization of the commission. (1)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), the commission shall organize by electing one of its members president and appointing a secretary and treasurer.

(b) When the town board constitutes the commission, the town chairperson shall be the commission president, the town clerk shall be the commission secretary and the town treasurer shall be the commission treasurer.

(2) **SECRETARY; DUTIES.** The secretary shall keep a separate record of all proceedings and minutes of meetings and hearings. At the end of each fiscal year, the secretary shall submit to the town board of each town in which the district is located a report showing a complete audit of the financial transactions of the commission during the fiscal year. The report shall be incorporated in the annual financial statement of the town containing the largest portion of the equalized full value of all taxable property in the district.

(3) **TREASURER.** The commission may require the treasurer to execute an indemnity bond, provided by the district, in an amount which the commission finds appropriate for the proper performance of the treasurer's duties.

(4) **FISCAL YEAR.** The town sanitary district fiscal year is the calendar year.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.77 Powers and duties. (1) AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION. The commission has charge of all affairs of the town sanitary district.

(2) **CORPORATE STATUS.** The district is a body corporate with the powers of a municipal corporation for the purposes of carrying out this subchapter. The district may sue and be sued and may enter into contracts. The commission

may provide for a corporate seal of the town sanitary district.

(3) **COMPENSATION; EXPENSES.** The town board of the town having the largest portion of the equalized full value of all taxable property in the district may fix the compensation of the commissioners, the secretary and the treasurer. The commissioners and the secretary and treasurer of the commission may receive actual and necessary expenses incurred while in the performance of the duties of the office in addition to any other compensation.

(4) **GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES.** The commission may project, plan, construct and maintain a system of water supply, solid waste collection and disposal of sewerage, including drainage improvements, sanitary sewers, surface sewers or storm water sewers, or all of the improvements or activities or any combination of them necessary for the promotion of the public health, comfort, convenience or welfare of the district. The commission may provide chemical or mechanical treatment of waters for the suppression of swimmers' itch, algae and other nuisance-producing aquatic growths.

(5) **SPECIFIC POWERS.** The commission may:

(a) Sell any of its services to users outside of its corporate limits.

(b) Require the installation of private sewage systems.

(c) Issue rules or orders, which shall be published as a class 1 notice under ch. 985.

(d) Provide an office for the district.

(e) Fix and collect charges for solid waste collection and disposal, sewage service and water supply service. The commission may fix and collect sewage service charges under s. 66.076 and water supply service charges under s. 66.069.

(f) Levy special assessments to finance the activities of the district, using the procedures under s. 66.60.

(g) Provide for the operation as a single enterprise of its water supply, solid waste or sewerage system, or any part or combination of parts of the system.

(h) Obtain by purchase, lease, gift, grant or bequest any real property situated in this state and any personal property that may be needed for the purposes of this subchapter.

(i) Sell, convey or dispose of any part of its interest in real or personal property which it has acquired that is not needed to carry out the powers and duties of the commission.

(6) **SPECIFIC DUTIES.** The commission shall:

(a) Let contracts for any work or purchase that involves an expenditure of \$5,000 or more to the lowest bidder in the manner prescribed by

the commission. Section 66.29 applies to contracts let under this paragraph.

(b) On or before November 1 of each year, levy a tax on all taxable property in the district and apportion the tax among the municipalities in which the district is located on the basis of equalized full value, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subchapter. The amount of the tax in excess of that required for maintenance and operation of the district and for principal and interest on bonds or promissory notes may not exceed, in any one year, one mill on each dollar of the equalized full value of all taxable property in the district. The commission shall certify in writing to the clerk of every municipality in which the district is located the total amount of tax levied in the municipality.

(7) **INTEREST IN CONTRACTS; PENALTY.** No commissioner may have an interest, directly or indirectly, in a contract with, work or labor done for or material furnished to the town sanitary district or to anyone on the district's behalf, unless the interest is in a contract not exceeding \$1,000 in any one year or in the publication of required legal notices by the district or a commissioner if the publication rate does not exceed the rate prescribed by law. A commissioner who violates this subsection shall forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$500.

History: 1983 a 532

60.78 Powers to borrow money and issue bonds. A town sanitary district may borrow money and issue and execute bonds, notes and other forms of indebtedness under this section.

(1) **AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS; PURPOSES.** A town sanitary district may issue bonds for the construction or extension of surface or storm water sewers, drainage improvements, sanitary sewers or a system of water supply, sewerage or solid waste disposal, or all or any combination of these purposes, or for the purpose of acquiring real property.

(2) **RESOLUTION.** Before issuing bonds, the commission, at a meeting in which all commission members are present, shall adopt a resolution stating the amount of the proposed issue, the purpose of the issue and any other information which the commission considers necessary or useful. The commission shall publish the resolution as a class 2 notice, under ch. 985, within 30 days after adoption of the resolution. The notice shall include a description of the opportunity and procedure for submitting a petition to request a special election on the bond issue.

(3) **PETITION.** Within 30 days after the 2nd insertion of the notice under sub. (2), a petition may be filed with the secretary of the commission requesting submission of the bond issue to

a vote of the electors of the town sanitary district. The petition shall be signed by at least 10% of the electors of the town sanitary district.

(4) **ELECTION.** If a petition meeting the requirements of sub. (3) is filed, the commission shall submit the resolution for the proposed bond issue to the electors of the district for approval at a spring election or general election, or shall call a special election for that purpose. The inspectors shall count the votes and submit a statement of the results to the commission. The commission shall canvass the results of the election and certify the results to the clerks of the towns having territory within the district. The town clerks shall file the certificates in the official town records.

(5) **TAXES.** Except as provided under sub. (9), after the adoption of the resolution under sub. (2) and before the issuance of the bonds, the commission shall levy by resolution a direct annual irrevocable tax sufficient in amount to pay, and for the express purpose of paying, the interest on the bonds as it falls due, and to pay and discharge the principal of the bonds at maturity. After the bonds are issued, the commission shall, on or before November 1 annually, certify in writing to the clerk of any town having territory in the district the total amount of the tax to be raised by the town. Upon receipt of the certificate, the clerk of each town shall place the certificate on the tax rolls, to be collected as other taxes are collected. The moneys, when collected, shall be paid to the treasurer of the district.

(6) **FORM OF BONDS.** Every bond issued by a town sanitary district shall be a negotiable instrument, payable to the bearer or registered under s. 67.09, shall mature in a period not exceeding 20 years from the date of the bonds and shall bear interest. Each bond shall contain a statement of the equalized full value of all of the taxable property in the district and of the aggregate amount of the existing bonded indebtedness of the district and shall state that a direct annual irrevocable tax has been levied by the district sufficient to pay the interest on the debt when it falls due and to pay and discharge the principal of the debt at maturity. The bonds shall be executed in the name of the town sanitary district under s. 67.08 (1).

(7) **NEGOTIATION AND SALE.** The commission shall negotiate and sell, or otherwise dispose of, the bonds for not less than par and accrued interest. If the purpose for which the bonds have been authorized does not require an immediate sale of the entire issue, portions of the issue may be sold as needed.

(8) **TEMPORARY BORROWING.** A town sanitary district, when in temporary need, may borrow money as if it were a city under s. 67.12.

(9) **MORTGAGE BONDS.** A town sanitary district, in lieu of levying a direct annual irrevocable tax under this section, may borrow money and issue mortgage bonds under s. 66.066. A town sanitary district may provide in the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds that any of the bonds, to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the resolution, are subordinated and junior in standing, with respect to the payment of principal and interest and the security of the bonds, to other mortgage bonds of the town sanitary district.

History: 1983 a 532

60.785 Additions; consolidation; dissolution.

(1) **ADDITIONS.** (a) Territory may be added to a town sanitary district under the procedure in s. 60.71. The required signatures shall be obtained from property owners in the territory proposed to be added to the district.

(b) In lieu of commencing the process of adding territory by petition of property owners, the commission may request the town board to add territory to the town sanitary district. Except for the requirement of a petition, the town board shall use the procedure in s. 60.71.

(2) **CONSOLIDATION.** (a) Any town sanitary district may be consolidated with a contiguous town sanitary district by resolution passed by a two-thirds vote of all of the commissioners of each district, fixing the terms of the consolidation and ratified by the qualified electors of each district at a referendum held in each district. The ballots shall contain the words "for consolidation", and "against consolidation". If a majority of the votes cast on the referendum in each town sanitary district are for consolidation, the resolutions are effective and have the force of a contract. Certified copies of the resolutions and the results of the referendum shall be filed with the secretary of natural resources and with the register of deeds in each county in which the consolidated district is situated.

(b) Within 60 days after the referendum, the appropriate town board shall appoint or provide for the election of commissioners or constitute itself as the commission for the consolidated district, as provided in s. 60.74.

(c) Consolidation of a district does not affect the preexisting rights or liabilities of any town sanitary district and actions may be commenced or completed on such rights or liabilities as though no consolidation had occurred.

(3) **DISSOLUTION.** (a) A town sanitary district may be dissolved using the procedure for creating a town sanitary district under s. 60.71. The

petition shall state why the town sanitary district does not meet the standards of s. 60.71 (6) (b). If the town board, after the hearing, finds that one or more of the standards of s. 60.71 (6) (b) are not met, the town board shall order the dissolution of the town sanitary district, except that a board may not order the dissolution of a district if, following dissolution, all outstanding indebtedness of the district would not be paid or provision for payment of the indebtedness would not be made.

(b) Any unexpended funds remaining after dissolution of the district shall be distributed by the commission on an equitable basis to the municipalities or persons who supplied the funds.

(c) The town board's order may be reviewed under the procedures and time limits in s. 60.73.

History: 1983 a. 532.

60.79 Alteration of town sanitary districts. (1)

INCORPORATION OR ANNEXATION OF ENTIRE TOWN SANITARY DISTRICT. If any territory which includes an entire town sanitary district is incorporated as a city or village or if the territory is annexed by a city or village:

(a) The incorporation or annexation dissolves the district without further action by the commission or the town board and without any right to appeal the dissolution.

(b) The property of the district passes to the city or village and the city or village shall assume all assets and liabilities of the district. If any mortgage bonds or mortgage certificates are outstanding, the transfer of the property is subject to the bonds or certificates. If any general obligation bonds are outstanding, the city or village shall levy and collect an annual irrevocable tax on all taxable property in the city or village in an amount necessary to pay the interest and principal of the bonds when due.

(c) The city or village continues to collect special assessments levied by the former district and shall apply the special assessments to the purpose for which the original assessment was made.

(2) INCORPORATION OR ANNEXATION OF PART OF A TOWN SANITARY DISTRICT. (a) The incorporation or annexation of territory within the town sanitary district detaches that territory from the district.

(b) The city or village and the town sanitary district are subject to pars. (c) to (e) if territory constituting less than the entire town sanitary district is annexed or incorporated and:

1. The territory is served by the town sanitary district with a water supply or sewerage system; or

2. The territory is not served by the town sanitary district with a water supply or sewerage

system, but the district has obligations related to the territory subject to incorporation or annexation which require payment for longer than one year following the incorporation or annexation.

(c) The city or village and the town sanitary district shall divide the assets and liabilities of the town sanitary district under s. 66.03, except that the ownership of any water supply or sewerage system shall be determined under par. (dm).

(d) 1. Any water supply or sewerage system, including all mains and all property of the system, shall belong to and be operated by the district or the city or village, in whichever the major portion of the patrons reside on the date of annexation or incorporation, unless other provision is made by agreement of the governing body of the city or village and the commission. Express power is hereby granted to the governing body of the city or village and the commission to contract with each other relative to the operation and property of any water supply or sewerage system.

2. In determining the major portion of the patrons, each location served shall be considered as one patron irrespective of the manner in which the title to the property is held.

(dm) If the responsibility for continuing the operation is vested in the town sanitary district, it shall continue, except by agreement, until the proportion of users changes so that a majority of the patrons reside in the city or village, at which time the property and the responsibility shall shift to the city or village.

(e) Any special assessment levied before the incorporation or annexation shall continue to be collected by the district or city or village which is operating the water supply or sewerage system and shall be applied to the purpose for which the original assessment was made.

(3) SERVICE AREA. No city or village which secures a water supply or sewerage system under this section is required to serve an area outside its corporate limits greater than that included in the town sanitary district at the time of annexation or incorporation. The city or village shall continue to serve the area previously included within the district.

(4) CITY OR VILLAGE AUTHORITY. A city or village which obtains a water supply or sewerage system under this section may:

(a) Continue, alter or discontinue operation by a commission.

(b) Continue or discontinue existing methods of financing construction and operation of the system.

(c) Finance or refinance the system under s. 66.066, including issuance of refunding bonds authorized in ss. 66.066 (2) (b) and 67.04,

including issuance of refunding bonds authorized in ss. 67.04 (2) (r) and 67.12 (12) for the purposes stated in those sections or for refunding purposes.

(d) Levy special assessments within the area of the former town sanitary district under s. 66.60. Special assessments may be levied regardless of the time when the improvement was commenced or completed, when used for refunding purposes in conjunction with issuance of general obligation-local improvement bonds under s. 66.54 (9) or special assessment bonds under s. 66.54 (10).

(5) COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS BY TOWNS. Towns shall aid cities and villages and villages, and cities shall aid towns, in the levy and collection of special assessments, property taxes and all service charges under this section by entering them on town, city or village assessment and tax rolls and collecting and forwarding the moneys to the levying municipality.

History: 1983 a. 532

SUBCHAPTER X

MISCELLANEOUS

60.80 Publication or posting of ordinances and resolutions. (1) GENERAL REQUIREMENT. The town clerk shall publish as a class 1 notice under ch. 985, or post in at least 3 places in the town likely to give notice to the public, the following, within 30 days after passage or adoption:

(a) Resolutions, motions and other actions adopted by the town meeting, or in the exercise of powers, under s. 60.10.

(b) Ordinances adopted by the town board.

(c) Resolutions of general application adopted by the town board and having the effect of law.

(2) REQUIREMENT FOR FORFEITURES. If an ordinance imposes a forfeiture, posting may not be used in lieu of publication under sub. (1).

(3) EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION. An ordinance, resolution, motion or other action required to be published or posted under this section shall take effect the day after its publication or posting, or at a later date if expressly provided in the ordinance, resolution, motion or action.

(4) AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING. If an ordinance, resolution, motion or other action is posted under this section, the town clerk shall sign an affidavit attesting that the item was posted as required by this section and stating the date and places of posting. The affidavit shall be filed

with other records under the jurisdiction of the clerk.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.81 Population; use of federal census. If the census of a town is required, the last federal census, including a special federal census, if any, shall be used.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.82 Regional planning programs. The town board may act jointly with other municipalities in the area to establish and maintain a regional planning program to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the town as part of the region. The board may make payments out of the general fund for the town's share of the cost of the program.

History: 1983 a. 532

60.83 Destruction of obsolete town records. The town board may provide for the destruction of obsolete town records under s. 19.21 (4).

History: 1983 a. 532

60.84 Monuments. (1) SURVEY, CONTRACT FOR. The town board may contract with the county surveyor or any registered land surveyor to survey all or some of the sections in the town and to erect monuments under this section as directed by the board.

(2) BOND. Before the town board executes a contract under sub. (1), the surveyor shall execute and file with the town board a surety bond or other financial security approved by the town board.

(3) MONUMENTS. (a) Monuments shall be set on section and quarter-section corners established by the United States survey. If there is a clerical error or omission in the government field notes or if the bearing trees, mounds or other location identifier specified in the notes is destroyed or lost, and if there is no other reliable evidence by which a section or quarter-section corner can be identified, the surveyor shall reestablish the corner under the rules adopted by the federal government in the survey of public lands. The surveyor shall set forth his or her actions under this paragraph in the certificate under sub. (4).

(b) All monuments set under this section are presumed to be set at the section and quarter-section corners, as originally established by the United States survey, at which they respectively purport to be set.

(c) To establish, relocate or perpetuate a corner, the surveyor shall set in the proper place a monument, as determined by the town board, consisting of:

60.84 TOWNS

1. A stone or other equally durable material, not less than 3 feet long and 6 inches square, with perpendicular, dressed sides and a square, flat top. As prescribed by the town board, the top shall be engraved with either:

a. A cross formed by lines connecting the corners of the top; or

b. If the monument is set at a section corner, the number of the section or, if set at a quarter-section corner, "1/4S"; or

2. A 3-inch diameter iron pipe, not less than 3 feet long, with pipe walls not less than one-quarter inch thick, galvanized or coal-charred to prevent rust. The pipe shall have a flat plate, screwed to the top, engraved as prescribed in subd. 1. The pipe shall have a suitable bottom plate or anchor.

(d) A monument under par. (c) shall be set 2 1/2 feet in the ground. If the monument is located in a highway, the top of the monument shall be even with or below the surface of the highway.

(4) CERTIFICATE. The surveyor shall prepare a certificate setting forth a complete and accurate record of any survey under this section, including the exact bearings and distances of each monument from each other monument nearest it on any line in the town. The certificate shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county in which the surveyed land is located.

History: 1983 a. 532