

No. 203, A.]

[Published March 21, 1917.

CHAPTER 17

AN ACT to detach certain territory from the town of Florence, in Florence county, and to create the town of Fern; to provide for town meetings therein and for the final settlement between said towns.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. All that portion of the present town of Florence, situated in Florence county, in the state of Wisconsin, and described as follows, to wit: All of township thirty-nine north of range seventeen east of the fourth principal meridian in the state of Wisconsin, and now forming part of the present town of Florence, in said county, is hereby set off and detached from the said town of Florence and created and constituted a separate town to be known and designated as the town of Fern.

SECTION 2. The first town meeting of said town of Fern shall be held in the schoolhouse known as the "Washburn schoolhouse" located in the northeast quarter of section twenty-nine of said township and range, on the first Tuesday in April, 1917, and at such town meeting the qualified electors of said town shall, by ballot, elect town officers for said town, and shall have the power to do any and all things that qualified electors of any duly organized town have the power to do. For the purpose of such town election the qualified electors of said town, assembled at the place aforesaid, shall, between the hours of nine and eleven o'clock, in the forenoon of said day, choose three of their number to act as inspectors, and two to act as ballot clerks of the election, and one to act as clerk of the election board, and such inspectors, ballot clerks and clerk of the election board shall, upon entering upon their respective duties, severally take the usual oath of office and file the same with their returns, and such inspectors and clerk of the election board shall respectively canvass and return the vote cast at such election, in all respects as provided by law for inspectors and election clerks at annual town meetings.

SECTION 3. Notice of said first town meeting shall be given by posting of notices thereof in at least five public places in said town at least ten days before the time of holding said first town meeting, by any duly qualified elector of said town, who shall make the proper affidavit of such posting and file the same on the day of said first town meeting with the inspector chosen at said meeting to conduct the same.

SECTION 4. When said town meeting shall have been held as herein provided and the town officers required by law duly

elected and qualified the said town of Fern shall be deemed and shall be duly organized and shall possess all the rights, powers, privileges and authority, and shall be subject to all the liabilities of other towns of said state.

SECTION 5. The assets, credits, indebtedness and liabilities as between said towns of Fern and Florence, shall be apportioned according to the provisions of section 672 of the statutes, except that in fixing the per cent of assets and credits accrued and indebtedness and liabilities chargeable to said town of Fern, the apportionment and division shall be made pro rata according to the assessment roll of the territory affected for the year 1916. And the town board of the town found to be indebted to the other shall have the power to levy a tax upon all the taxable property in the town so found to be indebted to pay such indebtedness.

SECTION 6. The supervisors of the town of Fern and the supervisors of the town of Florence shall, on the 16th day of April, A. D. 1917, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, meet at the town hall in the unincorporated village of Florence, in the town of Florence, for the purpose of making a settlement between said towns according to the provisions of this act, and at said meeting, or any subsequent or adjourned meeting, held by said town boards of supervisors, any three of the supervisors shall have full power and authority to send for and have brought before them at such meeting any persons, books, papers and records necessarily involved or needed in the settlement between said two towns; the town clerk of the town of Florence shall be and act as clerk of such joint meeting, and the clerk of the new town of Fern shall be present and assist as such clerk, and sufficient duplicates or copies of all proceedings had shall be made, in order that each town shall have at least one for the use and information of the town clerk and town board of supervisors thereof. Each town shall be chargeable with the expense and for the service of its own officers only, and the bills therefor shall be audited and paid by the respective towns of Fern and Florence as other bills are by law authorized to be paid.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved March 20, 1917.