

No. 121, S.]

[Published June 30, 1919.

## CHAPTER 430.

AN ACT to create sections 937f to 937t, inclusive, of the statutes, relating to community centres and subdivision (47) of section 1038 of the statutes, relating to exemption of property of such community centres from taxation.

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

SECTION 1. Fifteen new sections are added to the statutes and a new subdivision is added to section 1038 to read: Section 937f. 1. A community centre may be created and a community house therein erected, maintained, operated, and managed in any tract of contiguous territory containing either an area of not less than sixteen square miles, or a population of at least five hundred inhabitants, such territory to be bounded by town, school district, section, quarter-section or ward lines, or streams, lakes, swamps or similar natural boundaries. Such house, if dedicated to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of the United States may be called by the name of memorial community house of such district.

2. A petition praying for submission of the question establishing such a community centre to the electors of such tract qualified to vote for state officers may be presented if wholly within any town, city or village, to the chairman, mayor or president thereof as the case may be, and if comprising territory in two or more such public corporations to the said officer of the corporation having the greatest area in such proposed district. Said petition shall designate a proposed name and shall describe the boundaries of the proposed community centre, which shall not include any territory included in any community centre already organized hereunder, and shall be signed by at least one-fourth of the persons resident therein qualified to vote at any school district meeting.

3. Said officer shall within ten days of the receipt of said petition, notify the said officers of any other public corporations a part of whose territory is included of the receipt of said petition, and shall set a date and place for a meeting of all such officers for the purpose of fixing a time and place for holding such community centre election, at which time and place it shall be their duty to meet and fix the time and place for holding the election hereinafter provided for which shall not be more than sixty days after presentation of the petition. If any officer is unable to attend such meeting he shall delegate one of the other officers of his town, village or city, as the case may

be, to attend and act in his place. In case said tract lies within a single public corporation, the officer to whom the petition is presented shall within five days of its receipt fix a time and place for holding such election. The election shall be noticed and conducted for the entire tract of territory which is to be included in the proposed community centre by the election officers of the corporation in which the election is to be held.

4. The time and place of such election being fixed, the person to whom the petition was presented shall forthwith notify the clerk of his corporation of the time and place fixed for such election, and such clerk shall at once cause ten days' notice of such election to be given by posting a copy thereof in at least six different public places in such tract or territory, or by publishing such notice in any newspaper published therein once each week for two weeks immediately prior to the time set for holding the election. The election shall be conducted and the vote canvassed according to the statutes for conducting town meetings.

Section 937g. 1. In all cases the vote shall be by ballot with separate ballot boxes for each public corporation of which any territory is included in the petition. Ballots written or printed shall be either "For the community house," or "Against the community house," or either "Yes" or "No" or any other designation plainly showing the voter's intent. If a majority of the electors voting from each public corporation of the territory proposed to be included are in favor of such organization, the proposal shall be deemed carried, otherwise not. If carried, the result shall then be certified at once by the election officers within six days thereafter to the clerk of each town, village and city concerned, and to the clerk of the county, and by the latter promptly to the secretary of state, each of whom shall file such certificate, and such tract of territory shall thereupon constitute a public corporation from the date of such election, of the name designated in the petition.

2. The expenses, if any, of any such election conducted for the purpose of determining a community centre shall be borne in the first instance by the municipality to whose officer the petition is presented, which shall have a claim therefor against the community centre corporation if organized, and if defeated, against each other corporation for its share apportioned on the basis of the assessed valuation of the territory included in the petition as last determined by the local boards of equalization.

Section 937h. 1. The officers of such community centre shall be a director, treasurer, and clerk, with the usual powers and

duties of such officers, who shall constitute the community board, and shall conduct and manage its affairs and have power, subject to change by any succeeding centre meeting, to alter or change the name of the community centre.

2. The term of each shall be three years, beginning with the annual community centre meeting, held on the second Monday in March, and each officer elected shall continue in office until his successor shall have been chosen; provided that at the first election the clerk shall be chosen for one year, the treasurer for two years, and the director for three years. Temporary officers may be chosen at the same election at which the question of establishing a community centre is submitted to hold until the regular annual election thereafter. In such case a separate ballot box shall be provided for the election of officers, and a plurality of the votes cast shall be sufficient to elect.

Section 937i. 1. The annual community centre meeting for the election of officers and the transaction of other business shall be held on the second Monday in March, unless that be a legal holiday, in which case it shall be held the next day, and in the community house, or in some other building determined upon by the board and specified in the notice.

2. The election of officers shall be by ballot conducted publicly by the officers. The polls shall be opened at one o'clock in the afternoon of the day fixed by law, and shall be closed at eight o'clock of the same day. Immediately after the polls are closed, the ballots shall be publicly counted and the result announced and recorded by the clerk. The annual community centre meeting provided by section 937n shall then be held.

Section 937j. It shall be the duty of the board to meet on the Saturday immediately preceding the annual meeting, carefully examine the accounts of the treasurer and make up a full and itemized report of all receipts and expenditures since the last annual meeting, of the amount in the hands of the treasurer or the amount of the deficit, if any, for which the centre is liable, of the amount necessary to be raised by taxes for the maintenance of the community house for the ensuing year, and of the amount required to pay the interest or principal of any debt due or to become due during the year; which report shall be submitted in writing at the annual meeting and recorded by the clerk at length with the action thereon in the proceedings of the meeting.

Section 937k. The clerk shall give at least six days' previous notice of the annual meeting by posting notices therefor in six or more public places in the district, one of which shall be

affixed to the outer door of the community house, and he shall give like notice for any adjourned meeting, if the adjournment be for more than one month.

Section 937l. Special meetings shall be called by the clerk or in his absence by the director or treasurer on the written request of one-fifth of the legal voters of the district, and notices thereof specifying particularly the business to be transacted shall be posted in the manner prescribed for calling the annual meeting; and the electors when lawfully assembled at a special meeting shall have power to transact the same sort of business as at the first or annual meeting except the election of officers. No tax or loan or debt shall be voted at a special meeting unless three-fourths of the legal voters shall have been notified either personally or by a written or printed notice left at their places of residence, stating the time, place, and objects of the meeting, and specifying the amount proposed to be voted at least six days before the time appointed therefor, exclusive of the day on which the meeting is to be held and then voted by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Section 937m. Every resident person qualified to vote at a school district meeting shall be entitled to vote at any annual or special meeting.

Section 937n. The persons qualified to vote at the community centre meeting when assembled at the first and each annual meeting or at any adjournment thereof, shall have power:

(1) To appoint a chairman and clerk pro tem to act in the absence of either;

(2) To adjourn from time to time as occasion may require;

(3) To vote such tax, not to exceed nine mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of all the taxable property within the district for the year in which such tax is levied, as the meeting shall deem sufficient to purchase or lease a suitable site for, to build, hire, or purchase a community house, and to keep in repair and furnish the same with necessary furniture and ventilating and heating apparatus, and to provide for its equipment and maintenance, and for such meetings and proceedings therein as to them seem for the best interests of the community;

(4) To impose such tax as may be necessary to discharge any debts or liabilities of the district lawfully incurred;

(5) To authorize the community centre board to borrow money for any of its lawful purposes.

Section 937o. The board may fill by appointment any vacancy that may occur in their number within ten days after such vacancy shall occur; and if such vacancy shall not be so filled

the town, village or city clerk of the town, village or city in which the community house is situated, shall fill such vacancy by appointment. Any person upon being notified of his appointment shall be deemed to have accepted the same, unless within five days thereafter he shall file with the clerk or director a written refusal to serve, and any person so appointed shall hold office until the next annual meeting, at which the electors shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired term.

Section 937p. If any community centre at its annual or any subsequent special meeting, prior to the third Monday of November following, shall not vote a tax sufficient to maintain a community house for the current year, the board, on or before the next Wednesday following said third Monday in November, shall determine the sum necessary to be raised to maintain such community house, and the clerk shall forthwith levy and certify to the town, village or city clerks, as the case may be, the amount so determined.

Section 937q. The incorporation of a part of the territory of a community house district organized under the provisions of sections 937f to 937s, inclusive, as a village or city, shall not affect the organization of such community centre.

Section 937r. All taxes provided for in sections 937f to 937s, inclusive, shall be certified, levied, collected and paid over as in the case of single or joint common school districts of the state.

Section 937s. Such community house shall be used for the following purposes: public gatherings for information, discussion, recreation, amusement; public banquets, suppers, and festivals; athletics, games; restrooms; rooms for community agricultural projects; and such other purposes as the electors may deem fit, and the board shall adopt rules and regulations governing its maintenance, operation and management.

Section 937t. 1. Any community centre organized hereunder may be dissolved by vote of the majority of the qualified voters of such centre, at any annual meeting cast at an election for such purpose, held more than four years after the date when such community centre was organized, provided notice of such election to dissolve was included in the notice of such election after petition therefor signed by at least two-fifths of the community centre electors, which election shall be by ballot cast during the hours when the polls are open.

2. After such vote of dissolution, the property of such dissolved district shall be disposed of by grant or otherwise, and the proceeds applied to the discharge of its debts, and the remainder, if any, paid over to the treasurers of the different

municipalities of which such district was composed, in proportion to the valuation of the property of such municipalities going to make up such district, as appears from the last tax rolls of such municipalities and the dissolution certified in the manner and to all public officials having record of the organization.

(Section 1038) (47) All real and personal property of any community house district organized under the provisions of sections 937f to 937s, inclusive.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved June 26, 1919.

No. 530, S.]

[Published June 30, 1919.

## CHAPTER 431.

AN ACT to amend subdivisions 6 and 8 of section 5.26 and section 6.24 of the statutes, relating to independent or non-partisan nominations and election of supervisors in counties having a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more.

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

SECTION 1. Subdivisions 6 and 8 of section 5.26 of the statutes are amended to read: (5.26) (6) Such nomination papers shall be filed as follows: For candidates to be voted for throughout the state or any division or district embracing more than one county, in the office of the secretary of state, not more than forty nor less than thirty days before the election for which the nominations are made; for candidates to be voted for wholly within one county, in the office of the county clerk, not more than forty nor less than twenty days before such election; except for candidates for the office of county or district superintendent of schools, which shall be filed not more than forty nor less than twenty days before such election; for candidates to be voted for wholly within one city in the office of the city clerk, not more than fifteen nor less than twelve days before such election. Provided that nomination papers proposing candidates for judicial offices, *members of the board of supervisors* or for school board directors in the cases provided for in subsection (8), shall be filed not more than forty nor less than twenty days before the primary therein provided for.

(5.26) (8) (a) Whenever such nomination papers propose three or more candidates *for members of the county board of supervisors in counties having a population of two hundred fifty*