

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 72

House of Representatives, Jan. 31, 1919.

Referred to Committee on Towns and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Plummer of Benton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

AN ACT to incorporate the West Benton Village Corporation.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. The territory and people constituting what was
2 formerly known as School District number one, in the town
3 of Benton in the county of Kennebec and State of Maine, is
4 hereby created a body politic and corporate under the name
5 of the West Benton Village Corporation, with all the rights
6 and privileges provided by the general laws of the state
7 relating to similar corporations.

Sect. 2. Said corporation is hereby authorized and vested
2 with power, at any legal meeting called for the purposes, to
3 raise money to defray the expenses of a night watch, of a

4 police, and all other necessary measures for the better secur-
5 ity of life and property and for the promotion of good
6 order and the observance of the laws within its limits; for
7 the purchasing and maintaining engines and other
8 apparatus for the extinguishment of fires; for the construc-
9 tion and maintenance of reservoirs, aqueducts, and hydrants
10 to supply water; for the erection and maintenance of suitable
11 engine houses; for organizing and maintaining an efficient
12 fire department; for lighting the streets and public buildings
13 within its corporate limits; for constructing and maintaining
14 sidewalks and public drains or sewers within its corporate
15 limits; for the purchase of real estate for public use within
16 its corporate limits; for the purchase, construction, and
17 maintenance of buildings within its corporate limits for pub-
18 lic meetings or other purposes.

Sect. 3. The officers of said corporation shall be a clerk,
2 a treasurer, a collector of taxes, and three assessors, who
3 shall be chosen by ballot and sworn to the faithful perform-
4 ance of their duties in the same manner as town officers;
5 and they shall hold their respective offices for the term of one
6 year, and until others are chosen and qualified in their stead.

Sect. 4. The election of officers of said corporation shall
2 be at the meeting of the legal voters of the corporation called
3 to accept this charter, and the annual election of officers shall
4 be on the first Monday of April in every subsequent year.

Sect. 5. The clerk shall keep a record of all the doings and
2 proceedings at the meetings of the said corporation.

Sect. 6. The treasurer and collector shall each give bonds
2 to the said corporation in such sum and with such surety or
3 sureties as shall be approved by the assessors in writing.

Sect. 7. The assessors shall assess upon the polls and
2 estates of the resident inhabitants within the limits of said
3 corporation, and upon the estates of non-residents within
4 said limits, whatever sums said corporation may vote to
5 raise for the purposes aforesaid, and in making such assess-
6 ment, and in taking the inventory therefor, the said assessors
7 shall be governed by the same rules as are provided in simi-
8 lar cases for assessors of towns, and shall have similar
9 powers to abate any tax by them assessed. But instead of
10 making a new valuation, they may in any year adopt the
11 valuation made by the assessors of said town of Benton.
12 The tax on polls shall not exceed at any one assessment the
13 sum of fifty cents to any one person.

Sect. 8. The clerk, treasurer, and assessors of said cor-
2 poration are hereby constituted a board, a majority of whom
3 shall in writing under their hands approve of any sums of
4 money voted by said corporation to be raised before the same
5 shall be assessed and collected.

Sect. 9. The assessors of said corporation shall assess and
2 commit with a warrant all taxes by them authorized to be
3 assessed and collected to the collector of said corporation,
4 and the said assessors, collector, and treasurer shall have the

5 same power and authority in assessing and enforcing the
6 collection of taxes which assessor, collectors, and treasurers
7 of towns may have.

Sect. 10. The collector shall pay all moneys by him col-
2 lected to the treasurer on demand, and the treasurer shall
3 receive the same and pay it out to the order or direction of
4 the assessors, and keep a regular account of all moneys re-
5 ceived and paid out, and exhibit the same to the assessors
6 wherever requested.

Sect. 11. The assessors of said corporation shall have full
2 power to organize efficient companies for the fire depart-
3 ment by the appointment of engine-men, engineers, and fire
4 wards, which enginemen, engineers, and fire wards, when
5 organized, shall be entitled to all exemptions and subject to
6 all duties and responsibilities, and invested with similar
7 powers as if they had been appointed by the selectmen of
8 towns, or in the pursuance of the special and general pro-
9 visions of the statute laws of this state. Said enginemen,
10 engineers, and fire wards shall hold their office during the
11 pleasure of the assessors of said corporation.

Sect. 12. All meetings of said corporation after the first,
2 shall be notified by a warrant of the assessors, notices of
3 which shall be posted up in two public places within its lim-
4 its, seven days prior to the meeting, stating the time and pur-
5 poses of the meeting; and a meeting shall at any time be
6 called on the written application of seven voters to said

7 assessors, stating the time and purposes for which said meet-
8 ing is requested.

Sect. 13. All persons liable to be taxed for polls, residing
2 in the limits of said corporation, shall be legal voters at any
3 meeting of said corporation.

Sect. 14. The said corporation at any legal meeting may
2 choose a board of police officers and night watch, to consist
3 of such members as the corporation may decide, who shall
4 be duly sworn; which officers when sworn shall have power
5 to execute all warrants, and shall have the same power to
6 prevent public disturbances and preserve public peace within
7 said corporation, as is given by the statute laws of this state
8 to constables; also to restrain all infractions of and carry
9 into effect such by-laws as said corporation shall adopt in
10 pursuance of this act.

Sect. 15. The said corporation at any meeting called for
2 the purpose may adopt such by-laws and provisions, not in-
3 consistent with the constitution and public laws of this state,
4 as they may deem expedient and necessary for the better
5 government and regulation of the municipal affairs within
6 said corporation; in which case such by-laws and provisions
7 so adopted shall extend to said corporation as fully to all in-
8 tents and purposes as the other provisions of this act, sub-
9 ject only to alteration or addition by a two-thirds vote at a
10 legal meeting of the corporation called for the purpose.

Sect. 16. Harry A. Plummer and Ralph B. Pillsbury are
2 hereby authorized to call the first meeting of said corpora-

3 tion, and for that purpose to notify the legal voters thereof
4 to meet at some suitable time and place within the limits
5 aforesaid, the notice to be posted up in two public places in
6 said limits seven days prior to such meeting; and either of
7 said persons is authorized to preside at said meeting until
8 after its organization, and until the officers shall be chosen
9 and sworn; and afterwards at all regular meetings of the cor-
10 poration a moderator shall be chosen in the same manner
11 and with the same powers as in towns.

Sect. 17. At the first meeting, prescribed in the six-
2 tenth section of this act, the legal voters shall vote by ballot
3 on the question of accepting this charter, and if a majority
4 shall vote in favor of its acceptance then this act shall take
5 effect and the corporation shall then proceed to organize and
6 choose its officers.

Sect. 18. This act shall take effect from and after its ap-
2 proval by the governor, so far as to empower the first meet-
3 ing to be called, and if the inhabitants shall accept this act as
4 aforesaid, then the same shall take and have complete effect
5 in all its parts.