

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 20.

Parishes and Religious Societies, Meeting-Houses. Ministerial and School Lands, and Funds Arising Therefrom.

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Parishes and Religious Societies.

Sec. 1. Mode of calling a meeting to form a parish. R. S. c. 17, § 1. Any persons of lawful age, desirous of becoming an incorporated parish or religious society, may apply to a justice of the peace, who shall issue his warrant to one of them, directing him to notify the other applicants to meet at some proper place expressed in such warrant; and he shall give notice of such meeting seven days at least before holding the same, by posting a notification thereof on the outer door of the meeting-house or place of public worship of such society, if any, otherwise at such place as the justice appoints.

66 Me. 107.

Sec. 2. Organization; name. R. S. c. 17, § 2. Such persons so assembled may choose a clerk and other needful parish officers, and shall thereupon be a corporation, bear the name which they assume, and have all the powers of parishes and religious societies.

19 Me. 21; 66 Me. 107.

Sec. 3. May hold property, and pass by-laws. R. S. c. 17, § 3. Every parish may take by gift or purchase any real or personal estate, until the clear annual income thereof amounts to three thousand dollars; convey the same, and establish by-laws not repugnant to law.

66 Me. 107.

Sec. 4. Meetings, how called. R. S. c. 17, § 4. The annual or other meetings of such parish may be called by its assessors, or clerk, to be held at the time when, and place in the town where, they are usually held. The members of such parish shall be notified of such meeting as prescribed in section one, or in the manner agreed on by its vote; and at such meeting, they may choose a clerk, who shall be sworn, two or more assessors, a collector, treasurer, standing committee, and all other needful officers. The assessors shall manage the prudential concerns of the parish, when no other persons are appointed for that purpose, and shall be sworn.

6 Me. 450; 66 Me. 107.

Sec. 5. Powers of moderator. R. S. c. 17, § 5. The moderator of any meeting shall preserve order, manage the business, and administer the oath to the clerk and assessors.

66 Me. 107.

Sec. 6. Meetings called on request of members. R. S. c. 17, § 6. When five members of any parish in writing request the assessors to call a meeting, or to insert any particular article in the warrant therefor, they shall do so.

Sec. 7. Meetings called, if assessors refuse. R. S. c. 17, § 7. If they unreasonably refuse, any justice of the peace on like application may issue his warrant to one of the applicants, who shall notify such meeting as prescribed in section one, or as agreed on by parish vote.

Sec. 8. When no meeting for three years. R. S. c. 17, § 8. When there has been no meeting of such parish or society for three years, a meeting may be called as provided in section forty-four.

Sec. 9. Authority to raise money. R. S. c. 17, § 9. Every parish, at a legal meeting, may raise money for the support of the public ministry of religion, for building, repairing, or removing houses of public worship, and for other necessary parish charges.

6 Me. 173.

Sec. 10. Assessment on pews. R. S. c. 17, § 10. When a house of public worship belongs to a parish, or it and the fee of the land on which it stands is vested in trustees for the use of a parish, such parish may assess any money raised as aforesaid, wholly or partly, on the pews or seats, whether owned by members of such parish or religious society or not; and the owners may be present and vote in raising such money.

5 Me. 220.

Sec. 11. Payment enforced by sale of pews. R. S. c. 17, § 11. When taxes on pews and seats remain unpaid for six months after their assessment, the treasurer shall sell them at auction, first posting notice thereof at the principal outer door of such house of worship, three weeks before the time of sale, stating the numbers, if any, of the pews or seats and the amount of tax on each; and shall execute and deliver a deed thereof to the purchaser, and pay to the owner the overplus, after deducting the amount of tax and incidental charges.

Sec. 12. Pew owner may give notice of his intention not to occupy; rights of pew owner thereafter. R. S. c. 17, § 12. Whenever a parish or church raises its current expenses by assessment on its pews, any pew owner therein who shall not occupy his pew, either by himself or family, or rent the same, may give a written notice to the clerk of the parish or church, or to the parish committee or assessors, of his intention not to occupy said pew for one year following the next annual meeting of said parish or church, in which case said pew owner shall not be liable for any tax assessed on said pew during said year, neither shall he act and vote at said annual meeting unless he retains a pew for the occupancy of himself and family, and the parish or church may let said pew during said year and appropriate the rent to the current expenses of the parish or church, and said parish or church shall not sell said pew for taxes assessed during that year.

Sec. 13. Parishes may procure insurance; in case of loss, how applied. R. S. c. 17, § 13. A parish in the actual occupancy of a church, meeting-house, or other building used for religious purposes may insure it against loss by fire. And in case of such loss, the company insuring it shall not deny the occupancy of the parish, its legal existence, or its right to maintain an action on the policy. The money so recovered shall be held by the parish in trust for repairing or restoring the building, and shall be so applied.

Sec. 14. Admission to a parish. R. S. c. 17, § 14. A person of either sex, of lawful age, may become a member of a parish or religious society by vote thereof at a legal meeting.

Sec. 15. Persons deemed members; dissolution of membership. R. S. c. 17, § 15. Any such person residing in a local parish holding funds derived from this state or Massachusetts shall be deemed a member of it until he dissolves the connection; such person having resided in such parish one year, after he has

arrived at majority, without either giving written notice to its clerk of his consent to be a member thereof, or paying a tax or subscription according to the mode that said parish has adopted to raise money, shall be deemed to have thereby dissolved his connection therewith; and said connection shall remain dissolved, and said person shall not be taxable until he renews the connection by giving written notice to its clerk of his consent to be a member of said parish; any person residing in a local parish may become a member of such parish not deriving funds from the state, by giving written notice to its clerk of his intention to do so within one year after he is of age or removes thereto.

*2 Me. 70; *7 Me. 416.

Sec. 16. No person compelled to belong to a parish; withdrawal. R. S. c. 17, § 16. No such person shall be a member of a parish or religious society without his consent; and any person may dissolve his connection therewith by leaving with its clerk a certificate of his intention to do so; and all his liability for future expenses shall thereby cease; but he may be taxed for money previously raised, except in case of removal from a local parish.

*6 Me. 266, 451.

Sec. 17. Qualification to vote at parish meetings. R. S. c. 17, § 17. No such person shall vote in meetings of any territorial parish who is not the owner or occupant of a pew in its house of worship, or a contributor to its support.

Sec. 18. Territorial parishes continued. R. S. c. 17, § 18. No territorial parish is hereby dissolved; and when one or more parishes are set off from a town, or incorporated therein, as aforesaid, the remainder is the first parish.

Sec. 19. Officers of churches are corporations for certain purposes; organization and powers. R. S. c. 17, § 19. The church wardens of Episcopal churches, the stewards or trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the deacons of all other Protestant churches are so far corporations as to take, in succession, all grants and gifts of real and personal estate made to their churches, or to them and their successors; and if the ministers, elders, or vestrymen are joined with them in such grants or gifts, the two classes of officers shall be corporations for that purpose. For the purpose of organizing any such corporation, one or more members of said corporation may call a meeting thereof by a notice posted upon the outer door of the meeting-house or place of public worship of their parish or society at least seven days before the time of holding such meeting; or, if there is no such meeting-house or place of public worship, by a notice posted in two public and conspicuous places in the town wherein said parish or society is located. At such meeting the corporation may organize, adopt a corporate name, and elect such officers as its by-laws shall prescribe. Said corporations shall have the powers granted to parishes by section three of this chapter, and may make such contracts in relation to such estate, its improvement or disposal, as they may be authorized under the rules of their church, or instructed by the church or society for which they hold such estate in trust, to make, which contracts may be enforced by or against them, as in other cases; provided, however, that no disposal of such estate shall be made, inconsistent with the terms of the grant by which it is held. Trustees of the local Methodist Episcopal churches are created a corporation with all the rights and privileges of corporations, subject to the restrictions contained in the book of discipline of the Methodist Episcopal church.

*1 Me. 216, 280; 3 Me. 249; *6 Me. 357; 15 Me. 416; 66 Me. 108; 71 Me. 474, 476.

Sec. 20. Ministers and officers of religious societies, their powers. R. S. c. 17, § 20. The ministers of a parish or religious society, and the deacons, elders, trustees, stewards, and other presiding officers of a religious society or church,

having by its usages no settled minister, may take, in succession, any estate granted to the minister and his successors, or for the use of the ministry, or poor of the church; and may prosecute and defend all suits respecting it; but they shall not so take, while the clear annual income of prior grants is three thousand dollars.

4 Me. 375; 5 Me. 221; 19 Me. 291; 26 Me. 512; 66 Me. 108.

Sec. 21. Power to convey lands, limited. R. S. c. 17, § 21. No conveyance of such estate by a minister shall be valid longer than he is in the ministry; or by such deacons or other officers, longer than they are in office, if made by them without consent of the church, or by church wardens without the consent of the vestry.

66 Me. 108.

Sec. 22. Parish records open to inspection. R. S. c. 17, § 22. The records of a parish shall be open to the inspection of its members and to clerks of other parishes; and each clerk shall furnish attested copies thereof, on request, for a reasonable compensation.

Sec. 23. Overseers of monthly quaker meetings to hold grants as a corporation. R. S. c. 17, § 23. The overseers of each monthly meeting of quakers may take and hold, in succession, all grants of real, personal, or mixed estate made to them, for the use of their monthly meetings, the preparative meetings constituting them, or the poor thereof; also all grants of real estate situated within the limits of their monthly meetings, and gifts of personal estate made by persons living within said limits, for the use of any of the quarterly meetings of said quakers, to said overseers for their use, or to the poor thereof; may convey and manage such estate according to the terms and conditions on which it was given; and may sue in their own names for any right that has vested in any of the said grantees or donees; provided, that the annual income thereof to one meeting for such uses does not exceed five thousand dollars. These powers may be enlarged, restrained, or repealed by the legislature.

Independent Local Churches.

Sec. 24. Churches may be incorporated. R. S. c. 17, § 24. Any independent local church now existing, or that may hereafter be organized in the state, may be incorporated according to the provisions of this and the seven following sections.

Sec. 25. Notice of the meeting. R. S. c. 17, § 25. When three or more members of such church who are voters according to section twenty-six shall apply in writing to any justice of the peace in the county for the purpose of incorporating said church, said justice shall issue his warrant addressed to one of said applicants, stating the time, place, and purposes of the meeting and directing him to notify the members of said church by posting a certified copy of said warrant in a conspicuous place near the main entrance to the usual place of meeting of such church and in one other public and conspicuous place in the same town, for seven days, at least, prior to said meeting.

Sec. 26. Qualification of voters; manner of organizing into a body corporate. R. S. c. 17, § 26. The resident members of such church twenty-one years of age and upward shall be voters at such meeting and in all meetings of the corporation. Such voters, assembled at the time and place notified, shall elect a moderator to preside over said meeting. They shall then, by ballot, proceed to vote upon the question whether the church will become incorporated hereunder. If two-thirds of the ballots cast shall be in favor of the church becoming incorporated, it shall thereupon become a body corporate with all the powers, rights,

and duties incident to corporations, with the right to take by gift, purchase, devise, or bequest such personal and real property as may be useful for carrying on its local work, and may dispose of the same at pleasure, have perpetual succession, a corporate seal, and change the same at pleasure.

Sec. 27. Election of officers. R. S. c. 17, § 27. They shall, by ballot, elect a clerk, treasurer, a business committee of not less than three, nor more than seven members who are voters, and such other officers as they may deem necessary.

Sec. 28. Certificate to be filed in office of secretary of state; change of name. R. S. c. 17, § 28. The clerk, treasurer, and a majority of the business committee of every independent local church incorporated under the foregoing provisions shall prepare a certificate in form approved by the attorney-general setting forth the name of such church, the town or city where located, and the number and names of its business committee, and shall sign and make oath to it and shall file the same in the office of the secretary of state; the secretary of state shall keep a list of the same in a book prepared for that purpose showing the name, location, and date of organization of such church corporation. The name of any incorporated church may be changed by vote in a legal meeting, and notice thereof shall be given to the secretary of state with the same effect as prescribed by statute for changing the names of corporations.

See c. 56, § 57.

Sec. 29. Duties of officers may be prescribed by by-laws; notice of meetings. R. S. c. 17, § 29. Such church by its by-laws may prescribe the duties of the several officers and the manner of executing the same. When no provision is made by any vote or by-law of the church for calling meetings, they shall be called by the business committee by posting notices of the time, place, and purposes of said meeting, in the same manner and for the same time as is prescribed in section twenty-five. And meetings shall also, in the same manner, be called by said committee, upon the written request of at least six members of the church qualified to vote.

Sec. 30. Persons contributing to support of church may participate in meetings. R. S. c. 17, § 30. Such church may by its by-laws extend to all persons not members of the church who are twenty-one years of age and upward and who regularly contribute toward the expenses of the church, the right to attend and participate in the annual and special meetings of the church when action is to be taken relative to the use and appropriation of funds toward which they have contributed or toward which they have pledged contributions, and meetings called for the purpose of obtaining or dismissing a pastor.

Sec. 31. Persons holding property in trust may convey same to church. R. S. c. 17, § 31. The deacons of such church or any other person or persons holding real or personal estate in trust for the use of such church may convey such property to such incorporated church, and said church shall hold the same subject to the uses and trusts under which it was held by such deacons and other person or persons.

Sec. 32. Parish authorized to convey property to church. R. S. c. 17, § 32. Any parish or religious society connected with the church, which becomes incorporated under the provisions hereof, may at a meeting, duly warned and called for such purpose by a two-thirds vote, authorize one or more persons in its name and behalf to convey to such church any real or personal estate which it may hold for the use of such church, and such church shall thereafter hold such property to the same uses and trusts as when held by such parish or society.

Protection of Property Dedicated to Pious Uses.

Sec. 33. Property dedicated to pious uses, having no legal custodians and becoming wasted, may be sold by order of court. R. S. c. 17, § 33. Where any property in the state, dedicated and ordained for pious uses, has no proper or legal custodian, so that it is becoming wasted and the utility thereof is lost, upon the application of any person or patriotic or religious society interested in having such property preserved and applied to the uses for which it was originally intended, or for some public or patriotic purpose, the attorney-general shall file a bill in equity, in the nature of an information, against such property and all persons interested therein, praying for the appointment of trustees to care for such property and for the proper application and disposal thereof, and the court may order such notice as seems proper, and may appoint receivers or trustees therefor, and upon final decree, may order the care, custody, sale, application, or disposal of such property as will best serve the purposes for which it was originally intended, or some public or patriotic purpose. The court may convey or transfer such property to any religious or patriotic body, to be held and applied for the purposes of such trust as the court may declare; and it shall have power to treat, care for, and dispose of the same in furtherance of such pious, public or patriotic uses as may seem best suited to the case and situation.

See P. & S. L. 1927, c. 31; P. & S. L. 1929, c. 57; 103 Me. 348; 106 Me. 133.

Sec. 34. Trust funds may be transferred. R. S. c. 17, § 34. Any corporation, trustees, unincorporated body, or association by whom funds or property are now held, or to whom they have been or shall hereafter be entrusted by will or otherwise for any religious, moral, educational, or benevolent purpose, may transfer and deliver to any other corporate body or trustees existing for the same or similar purposes, such funds or property as is now or shall hereafter come into their or its possession, or shall have been given to it or them, to be administered in the manner and for the purposes provided by the donor. Provided, however, that no transfer of such funds shall be made without the approval of a justice of the superior court or the judge of probate for the county in which the donor resides or resided at the time of his decease.

Meeting-Houses.

Sec. 35. Parish may become owner of pews; proceedings. R. S. c. 17, § 35. When it is deemed expedient by any organized parish or incorporated church to become the owner of the pews in any meeting-house used by it as a place of regular worship, a meeting of the owners and occupants thereof may be called, as provided in section six, and a majority of such pew owners and occupants may vote to convey the pews by them owned or occupied to such parish or incorporated church. If the owners or occupants of any of the pews in such meeting-house are unknown to the assessors they shall give notice, additional to that provided herein, by publishing the call for such meeting in some newspaper published in the county where such meeting-house is located at least seven days before the time appointed for said meeting.

Sec. 36. Owner of pew dissenting, proceedings. R. S. c. 17, § 36. Any owner or occupant of a pew in such meeting-house who expresses his dissent from such vote in writing to the clerk of the parish or incorporated church within one month from the time of holding such meeting shall have his pew appraised, as provided in section thirty-nine, and the appraised value shall be tendered to him in satisfaction of his claim for compensation and he shall then

deliver a deed of such pew to the parish or incorporated church. If such dissent is not so expressed such pew shall be forever forfeited to the parish or incorporated church.

Sec. 37. Persons may incorporate to hold a meeting-house. R. S. c. 17, § 37. Any persons, for the purpose of erecting a meeting-house, or the majority in interest of the owners of a meeting-house, not a parish, may incorporate themselves as parishes may; and choose all officers and do all other acts that a parish may lawfully do.

66 Me. 400.

Sec. 38. Owners may repair or dispose of meeting-houses; warrant for calling meeting. R. S. c. 17, § 38. A majority of the pew owners or proprietors of a meeting-house, present at a legal meeting called for that purpose, may repair, remodel, or sell and convey their house or the land used with it, or remove or rebuild it. Any meeting relating thereto may be called as provided in section forty-one, or by publishing the warrant in a newspaper printed in the county, at least fourteen days before the meeting.

Sec. 39. Appraisal; proceeds of sale, how disposed of; pews, how disposed of in case of repairing or rebuilding; taxes may be raised and agents appointed to make sale. R. S. c. 17, § 39. Before such alteration or sale is made, an appraisal of the relative value of the pews shall be made by three discreet persons, under oath, to be elected by ballot at a legal meeting of said owners or proprietors. If a sale of said house and land is made, it may be private or public, as such meeting determines, and the proceeds shall be applied to pay the expenses of said sale and the debts and just claims against the property; and the balance shall be paid to the pew owners or proprietors, in proportion to their interests by the appraisal. If the meeting-house is altered or rebuilt, the appraisers, after the work is completed, shall assign pews to the former pew holders, to conform as nearly as practicable to those previously held by them; and the other pews may be sold to defray the expenses of the repairs and alterations, or be otherwise disposed of as the proprietors or pew owners determine. They may choose officers, raise and assess taxes on the pews, collect them for making such repairs and alterations, do all things that a parish may do, and appoint some suitable agent or agents to make such sale and conveyance, or repairs and alterations, and a treasurer or trustees to receive and distribute the proceeds of sale in manner aforesaid.

Sec. 40. Proprietors dissenting, entitled to appraised value of their interest; limitation and forfeiture. R. S. c. 17, § 40. When it is decided to repair, remodel, or rebuild a meeting-house, any owner or proprietor dissenting from the action of the majority and declining to take an interest in the house as altered may demand and receive of such majority the appraised value of his interest after deducting his proportion of debts against the property, to be recovered in an action for money had and received; which shall not be commenced until thirty days after such demand, nor after the lapse of a year after notice is posted for three successive weeks on the meeting-house door and some other conspicuous place in its precinct, stating the persons to whom the money is to be paid, the amount payable to each, and the time limited for payment. If said sums are not demanded within said time, they are forfeited to the majority for parish uses. But this section does not apply to any case where the repairs decided upon are only such as are necessary to keep such meeting-house in a tenantable condition.

Sec. 41. Owners of meeting-houses and pews therein may incorporate. R. S. c. 17, § 41. The owners of a meeting-house or building for public worship, and the pew owners, may be incorporated, when any three or more of them apply

therefor to a justice of the peace, who shall issue his warrant to one of them, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, and directing him to notify said owners by posting a certified copy of it for fourteen days on the principal outer door of such building and in one or more other public places in the same town.

80 Me. 31.

Sec. 42. Proceedings. R. S. c. 17, § 42. When so assembled, they may choose a moderator and clerk, who shall perform the usual duties of such officers; and thereupon said owners shall be a corporation, and be known by such name as they adopt, and they may agree on the mode of calling future meetings.

80 Me. 31.

Sec. 43. Corporate rights and powers. R. S. c. 17, § 43. Such corporation, by a major vote of its members, may use and control the meeting-house or building for public worship partly or wholly owned by them, as they please; but nothing in this and the two preceding sections shall affect the rights of owners of houses of worship, built by different religious denominations.

59 Me. 252; 80 Me. 31.

Sec. 44. Meetings of owners of meeting-houses, how called. R. S. c. 17, § 44. When there has been no meeting of the incorporated pew owners, or proprietors or owners of a meeting-house, or building for public worship, for three years, a meeting may be called on application of three or more members thereof to a justice of the peace, who shall issue his warrant to one of them, stating the time, place, and purposes of the meeting, directing him to notify such meeting by posting a certified copy of said warrant, three weeks before the time of meeting, on the principal outer door of such building, and in one or more public places in the same town, and publishing it in a newspaper published in the county, if any, otherwise in an adjoining county or in the state paper.

Sec. 45. Division of time between different denominations. R. S. c. 17, § 45. When a house of public worship is owned by persons of different denominations, and when an organized society, or its members, own five pews therein, one or more of the minority owning not less than five pews may apply to a justice of the peace to obtain a division of the time of occupying the house; and he shall call a meeting of the owners by posting a notice in a public place in or about the house, thirty days at least before the meeting, stating the time, place, and object thereof.

59 Me. 252.

Sec. 46. Mode of proceeding. R. S. c. 17, § 46. At such meeting, the owners, who are not applicants, or if they refuse or neglect, the justice who called the meeting, may designate another justice, and the two may appoint a third disinterested person, not an inhabitant of the town in which the house is located, or belonging to the denomination of either party interested; and the three shall be a board, before which the owners may exhibit the amount that they own in the house; the minority, owning at least five pews, shall have their part allotted to them, as nearly as may be, in proportion to the amount that they own in the house; and the board shall designate which weeks in each year the minority, if they please, may occupy the house; if they do not, the majority may occupy it.

59 Me. 252.

Sec. 47. Proportion of minority to be appraised. R. S. c. 17, § 47. The board shall appraise the value of the minority's proportion of the house, make a record of their proceedings, and within ten days cause it to be transcribed into the records of such town.

59 Me. 252.

Sec. 48. Expenses, how paid. R. S. c. 17, § 48. All their reasonable expenses shall be paid by the persons who requested the division; but the above provisions shall not affect any agreement now in force as to the mode of occupying such house.

Sec. 49. Minority may occupy their proportion of time, unless majority will purchase. R. S. c. 17, § 49. The minority may occupy the house for their allotted time, unless the majority purchase their interest by paying the minority the sum at which it was appraised by the board; but if the minority decline so to sell, they shall not avail themselves of the four preceding sections.

Pews and rights in houses of public worship are real estate: deeds of same, where recorded, c. 87, § 38.

Ministerial and School Lands, and Funds Arising Therefrom.

Sec. 50. Fee in ministerial lands, how vested. R. S. c. 17, § 50. Where lands have been granted or reserved for the use of the ministry, or first settled minister, or for the use of schools, in any town, and the fee in these lands has not vested in some particular parish therein, or in some individual, it shall vest in the inhabitants of such town and not in any particular parish therein, for such uses.

See c. 11, §§ 18-30; 15 Me. 420; *97 Me. 337; 108 Me. 30.

Sec. 51. Selectmen, town clerk and treasurer, to be trustees. R. S. c. 17, § 51. The municipal officers, town clerk, and treasurer of each town where no other trustees are lawfully appointed for that purpose, shall be a corporation and trustees of such ministerial and school funds, with the usual powers granted to similar corporations.

75 Me. 86; 108 Me. 30.

Sec. 52. Trustees to choose officers annually. R. S. c. 17, § 52. They shall annually elect a president, clerk, and treasurer; the treasurer shall give bond with sureties sufficient in the opinion of the trustees, for the faithful discharge of his duty; and the clerk shall be sworn.

75 Me. 88; 108 Me. 30.

Sec. 53. Powers. R. S. c. 17, § 53. They may sell and convey all such ministerial and school lands belonging to and lying in their town; and the treasurer's deed thereof, executed by order of the trustees, shall pass the estate.

29 Me. 46; 75 Me. 88; 108 Me. 30.

Sec. 54. Investment of funds. R. S. c. 17, § 54. 1923, cc. 170, 222, § 1. 1929, c. 273. As soon as may be they shall invest the proceeds of sale in the manner provided in section ninety-three of chapter five.

108 Me. 30.

Sec. 55. Trustees may hold estate for use of the ministry and schools. R. S. c. 17, § 55. They may, by gift, grant, or otherwise, take and hold for the use of the ministry in their towns, real and personal estate, the annual income of which does not exceed one thousand dollars; and for the use of schools may take and hold estate, the annual income of which does not exceed the sum which their town is bound to raise for the same use.

108 Me. 30.

Sec. 56. Income of fund applied to support of schools. R. S. c. 17, § 56. The income of the fund, arising from the sale of lands under section fifty-three, and from the rents and profits of real and personal estate held under section fifty-five, shall be annually applied to the support of public schools in the town, and expended like other school moneys.

97 Me. 337; 108 Me. 30.

Sec. 57. Transfer of funds by trustees. R. S. c. 17, § 57. The trustees of any ministerial or school fund in this state, incorporated by the legislature of

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Massachusetts, may by the consent of the town for whose use the fund was established, transfer it to the municipal officers, clerk, and treasurer thereof, who are hereby made trustees of the same; and the income shall be annually applied and expended as provided in the preceding section.

Sec. 58. Trustees to account annually. R. S. c. 17, § 58. At each annual meeting of their town, the trustees shall exhibit an account of their proceedings, and a statement of the funds, receipts, and expenditures, and of the application thereof to said uses.

Sec. 59. If lands are vested in a parish, the assessors, clerk, and treasurer to be trustees. R. S. c. 17, § 59. When such lands are vested in a parish, the assessors, clerk, and treasurer, where no other trustees are appointed for that purpose, shall be a corporation and trustees of such ministerial fund with like powers and under like liabilities, as the municipal officers, town clerk, and treasurer; pay the annual income of such lands and of the proceeds of their sale according to the terms of the grants and reservations by which they were so vested; and at each annual meeting for choice of parish officers, exhibit an account of their proceedings, and a statement of funds, receipts, and expenditures.

Sec. 60. First meeting of trustees, how called. R. S. c. 17, § 60. The first meeting in any year of the trustees constituted by sections fifty-one and fifty-nine may be called by seven days' personal notice of the time and place thereof, given by one of them to all the others.

Sec. 61. Lots reserved for public uses, located by superior court. R. S. c. 17, § 61. When in the grant of any townships or parts of townships certain portions are reserved for public uses, and such portions have not been located in severalty prior to the incorporation of the same into a town, the superior court in the county where the land lies, on application of the assessors of the town, may appoint three disinterested persons of the county, and issue to them its warrant under seal of the court, requiring them, as soon as may be, to locate such reserved portion according to the terms of the grant, and if the use or purpose of the reservation is prescribed in the grant, they shall set off and locate the lots accordingly, designating the use or purpose for which each lot is so reserved and located. Said committee, before acting under such warrant, shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of the duty assigned them, and a certificate thereof shall be indorsed on the warrant.

Sec. 62. Notice of appointment and meeting. R. S. c. 17, § 62. They shall give notice of their appointment, and of the time and place of their meeting to execute the same, by publishing the same in some newspaper in the state to be designated by the court, and by posting written notifications in two or more public places in the same town, at least thirty days before making such location.

Sec. 63. Return of the doings of the committee. R. S. c. 17, § 63. They shall make return of said warrant and their doings thereon, to the next superior court in the county, after having completed the service; which, being accepted by the court and recorded in the registry of deeds in the county of registry district where the land is situated, within six months, shall be a legal assignment and location of such reserved proportions, for the uses designated; and thereafter the lands so set off and located shall be under the care and oversight of the trustees of the ministerial and school funds of the town, with all the powers and subject to the duties prescribed in this chapter, including the power to sell and convey the same.

See c. 8, § 25.