

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 4, 1943

To David H. Stevens, State Assessor.
Re: Town Hall in a Deorganized Town

I have your memorandum asking about your authority to transfer title to a village improvement association until such time as the town reorganizes, when the title to the town hall will automatically pass to the municipality.

Under the statutes as we have heretofore interpreted them for you, the State Tax Assessor is the administrative officer in connection with properties of deorganized towns which the State is holding in trust for the people of the community. The town hall concerning which you speak has apparently been dedicated definitely to a public use, and it is much better to assume that the town itself would have no authority to sell the building, nor can you as successor to the powers and duties of the town sell the building without specific legislative authority. However, the transfer of title to a village improvement association, with the limitation which you have suggested, would not be such a sale as would be beyond your powers. The hall would still be kept for the public use of the people of the community just as it was before, and such a provision would of necessity be in the deed.

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

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