

SECTION

- 41. Vacancy in office to be supplied by selectmen.
- 42. Provision for assistant town clerk.
- 43. Powers and duties of assistant clerk.
- 44. Time of receiving deed, &c., to be certified thereon by town clerk.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF SELECTMEN.

- 45. Selectmen to have general supervision of town concerns.
- 46. To make out and deliver tax-bills.
- 47. Same subject.
- 48. To act as overseers of the poor in certain cases.
- 49. To appoint surveyors of lumber. — Their duties and fees.
- 50. Standard measurement of wood and bark.
- 51. Selectmen to draw orders on the treasurer.
- 52. To audit certain accounts.
- 53. To present general statement of concerns of the town.
- 54. Selectmen may prohibit coasting upon highways, by posting up notices, &c.
- 55. Penalty for violation of prohibition. — Selectmen not to interfere with the rules of incorporated villages, &c.
- 56. Selectmen may light covered bridges.
- 57. Selectmen may forbid the game of billiards.
- 58. To notify keepers of billiard-tables, and certify that fact.
- 59. Penalty for disobedience of such order of selectmen.
- 60. Certified copy of certificate may be used as evidence.
- 61. Justices of the peace may bind offenders under section fifty-nine over for trial.
- 62. Selectmen may appoint special constables in their discretion.
- 63. Powers of such constables.
- 64. Such constables to be sworn.
- 65. A record of the appointment, &c., of such constables to be made in the town clerk's office.

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY.

- 66. Selectmen and justices constitute the board of civil authority. — Their power in abating taxes.
- 67. Board to keep account of their abatements.
- 68. Meeting of board, how called. — Acts of majority when voted.

TOWN TREASURER.

- 69. General duties of treasurer.
- 70. To keep books of entry.
- 71. To pay orders. — Remedy of holders in case of refusal.
- 72. To make annual settlement with auditors; also in going out of office.

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- 73. To pay over town moneys to his successor.
- 74. Provision when balance is in favor of treasurer. — Duty when reelected.
- 75. Treasurer to deliver moneys, books, &c., to his successor.
- 76. Town may recover of delinquent treasurer, in action for money had and received.
- 77. Justice of peace to furnish a statement of name, &c., of respondent to town treasurers. — Treasurer to forward a copy to secretary of state.

CONSTABLES.

- 78. First constable to be collector of taxes.
- 79. Power and liabilities of constables.
- 80. Jurisdiction of constable of towns adjoining Lake Champlain.
- 81. Constables may serve any process within limits of this state, returnable before a justice, provided, &c.
- 82. Towns may agree with some person to fill office of constable.
- 83. First constable to collect taxes.

AUDITORS OF ACCOUNTS.

- 84. Auditors to adjust accounts of treasurer and all other town officers, and report to town at annual meeting, &c.
- 85. Only to allow claims where compensation is fixed by law, or vote of town.

TOWN GRAND JURORS.

- 86. Duties of town grand jurors.
- 87. Presentment to be made to justice.
- 88. Town grand juror may attend examination of person accused, and fees allowed him.

SELECTION OF GRAND AND PETIT JURORS TO ATTEND THE COUNTY COURT.

- 89. Jurors to be nominated by board of civil authority, and chosen by the town.
- 90. Names of jurors to be kept by the town clerk.

GENERAL REGULATIONS AND POWERS OF TOWNS.

- 91. Towns may contract for publishing their early history.
- 92. Acts of majority of boards of officers valid.
- 93. Duty of towns to erect and keep guide-boards.
- 94. Penalty for neglect.
- 95. Towns authorized to raise money for divers purposes.
- 96. Penalty for destroying notifications posted up by town officer.
- 97. Penalty for illegal voting at town meeting.
- 98. Real estate owned by town may be conveyed by agent.

TOWN MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. Every male person of the age of twenty-one years, whose list shall have been taken in any town the year preceding

Legal voters in town meeting. C. S., 15, § 1.

his voting, and all persons exempt from taxation in consequence of having arrived at the age of sixty years, shall, during their residence in such town, be legal voters in town meeting.

Annual town meetings to be held in March.
C. S., 15, § 2.

SECT. 2. A meeting of the inhabitants of every town, who are legal voters in town meetings, shall be held in each town in the month of March, annually, for the election of town officers, and the transaction of other proper business.

Warnings for town meetings to be set up.
C. S., 15, § 3.
15 Vt. 147.
22 Vt. 568.
33 Vt. 219.

SECT. 3. All town meetings shall be warned by the selectmen, who shall set up notifications at three public places in their respective towns, at least twelve days before the time appointed for such meeting, and therein they shall set forth the business to be done, and the subjects to be considered at such meeting.

Directions to selectmen in warning meetings.
C. S., 15, § 4, amended.

SECT. 4. It shall be the duty of the selectmen to warn all annual meetings, and all other meetings which they shall judge necessary, without application; and they shall call special meetings, on the application, in writing, of six legal voters.

If no selectmen, town clerk to warn meetings.
C. S., 15, § 5, amended.

SECT. 5. If the offices of a majority of the selectmen are vacant, the remainder in office shall have the power to call town meetings; and in case there are no selectmen in office, or of their absence or inability, the power given, to the selectmen of calling town meetings may be exercised by the town clerk.

Warnings to be recorded.
C. S., 15, § 6.
Meetings to be called to order by the town clerk.
C. S., 15, § 7.

SECT. 6. All warnings and notifications for town meetings shall be recorded at length in the town records.

Provisions for meetings in unorganized towns.
C. S., 15, § 8.

SECT. 7. All town meetings shall be called to order by the town clerk, or in his absence by one of the selectmen, who shall read the warning and call upon the inhabitants assembled to choose a moderator to govern the meeting, and shall preside until a moderator shall be elected.

Towns containing twenty families to organize. Penalty for neglect. Less than fifteen families cannot organize.
C. S., 15, § 9.
1860, No. 43: amended.

SECT. 8. When any four freeholders of an unorganized town shall make application to a justice to call a town meeting, such justice shall warn a meeting of the freemen of said town, in the manner specified in the third section of this chapter, and all the freemen resident in such town shall be legal voters; and the justice calling such meeting shall preside until a moderator shall be chosen.

SECT. 9. It shall be the duty of the inhabitants of every unorganized town in this state, containing twenty families or more, to become organized in the manner provided in the preceding section; and such inhabitants, or any of them, who may be prosecuted, shall, for each year's neglect so to organize, after there shall be twenty families in such town, forfeit and pay to the state the sum of two hundred dollars, to be recovered in the name of the state by action of debt on this statute, prosecuted by the state's attorney of the county in which such town is situated; and any organization attempted to be made where there shall be less than fifteen families residing therein who shall have so resided three months previous to such organization shall be void.

MODERATOR.

General powers and duties of moderator.
C. S., 15, § 10.

SECT. 10. The moderator shall preside in and regulate the business of the meeting for which he is chosen; he shall decide

SECT. 27. Any town, by vote in town meeting, may set one or more persons, residing in such town, to a school district in an adjoining town, if such district shall, by vote, consent to receive such persons; and any persons, so united to a school district in another town, shall have the same rights, and be subject to the same liabilities, as if they had resided in the same town.

Inhabitants of one town may be set to a district in another.
C. S., 20, § 21.
21 Vt. 402.

SECT. 28. Whenever a person residing in a school district in one town shall be set to a school district in an adjoining town, as provided in the preceding section of this chapter, his property and person shall be taxed, and the taxes thereon shall be collected within and for the use of the district to which he shall be set as aforesaid, in the same manner as said property and person would be taxable, and the taxes thereon collectible in the said district in the town wherein he resides, in case he had not been set to said other district in an adjoining town. Provided, that said property and person shall be taxable as aforesaid only in the district to which said person shall be set as aforesaid.

Where taxed in such case.
C. S., 20, § 22.

SECT. 29. When a school district shall be organized, it shall have all the powers of a corporation, for the purpose of maintaining a school in such district; and any man of the age of twenty-one years, who at the time shall reside and be liable to pay taxes in such district, shall be a legal voter in the same.

Districts to have powers of a corporation. Voters therein.
C. S., 20, § 23.

SECT. 30. The several school districts in this state shall have power at their annual meetings to designate the number of weeks during which the winter and summer schools shall be sustained in such districts, and appoint the time for the commencement of such schools. And in case the prudential committee of such districts shall refuse or neglect, for more than two weeks after the time thus appointed, to provide such schools, in compliance with such direction, such districts may, at any legal meeting warned for that purpose, declare the office of prudential committee in such district vacant; and thereupon such offices shall become legally vacant, and such districts may then proceed to fill such vacancy, by the election of a prudential committee, who shall thereafter be clothed with all the powers, and subject to all the duties and liabilities they would have been liable to if elected at the annual meeting of such districts.

Powers of school districts to provide schools in certain cases.
1860, No. 1, § 1.

SECT. 31. The several school districts shall be authorized to take and hold any estate, real or personal, conveyed to them for the purpose of supporting schools in such districts, and may take care of, dispose of, and appropriate the same for such purpose; and may commence and prosecute any action against any person for the non-performance of any contract made with them, or for any damage done to their property, and may be sued for the non-performance of any contract made by them.

May hold estate, prosecute suits, &c.
C. S., 20, § 24.

SECT. 32. The officers of each school district shall be: a moderator, to preside in the meetings, a clerk, a collector of taxes, a treasurer, and a prudential committee, consisting of one or three voters in such district; all of which officers shall be elected at the annual school meeting, which shall be held on the last Tuesday of March of each year, and their term of

Officers of district chosen annually.
Time of annual meeting.
Duty of treasurer.
C. S., 20, § 25.
1854, No. 42, § 1.
1861, No. 11.

