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CHAPTER 544.

[2420]

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT IN THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN.

§ 53.  
Approved  
June 13, 1923.

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:*

SECTION 1. All that portion of the town of South Kingstown which is bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the northerly corner of said district at a point on the center line of the North road, so-called, two hundred forty rods northerly along said center line from the intersection thereof with the center line of the State road passing through the village of Kingston; thence southwesterly to the point of intersection of the center line of said State road with the unnamed brook westerly of Kingston hill between said village and the Chipuxet river; thence southeasterly to a point on the center line of the Old South road, so-called, one hundred sixty rods southerly along said center line from the point of intersection thereof with the center line of said State road; thence northeasterly to the point of intersection of the center line of the road running easterly from said village to Rose hill, so-called, with Mitchels brook, so-called; thence northwesterly to the point of beginning, is hereby incorporated into a fire district to be called the "Kingston Fire District." Said district may have a common seal, sue and be sued and enjoy the other powers generally incident to corporations.

Kingston Fire  
District,  
boundaries of.

SEC. 2. The electors of said district qualified to vote in town affairs on propositions to impose taxes or for the expenditure of moneys shall be entitled to vote and act in all meetings of the corporation.

Powers of.

Who eligible to  
vote in  
meetings of.

SEC. 3. The annual meeting of said corporation shall be holden on the first Monday in May in each

Annual  
meeting of.

year. The first meeting shall be holden in the former Washington county court house building in South Kingstown on the thirtieth day after the approval of this act by the governor or, if said day shall fall on a Sunday or a holiday, then on the following day.

Officers.

SEC. 4. Said electors at each annual meeting, and at any other meeting when vacancies occur, may elect officers to serve for one year or until the next annual meeting, and until others be elected in their stead, which officers shall consist of a moderator, clerk, treasurer, three assessors and a collector of taxes, whose duties and powers within said district shall be such as like officers of towns in this state have within their respective towns. They may also elect fire-wardens, a president of fire wardens and such other officers and committees as they may deem necessary.

Of the assess-  
ing and  
collecting of  
taxes.

SEC. 5. Said electors at any of their legal meetings shall have power to order such taxes, and provide for assessing and collecting the same, on the taxable inhabitants and property in said district as they shall deem necessary for purchasing and procuring real estate, buildings and implements, apparatus, other equipment and a supply of water for the extinguishment of fire, for constructing cisterns and reservoirs, laying waterpipes and purchasing rights to lay the same, for the purpose of lighting the streets in said district with electricity or otherwise, for the payment of the current expenses of said district, the payment of such police force as they may deem necessary for the protection of the inhabitants of said district from fires and for the preservation of the public peace therein and also for the payment of any indebtedness that has been or may be incurred by said district. Such taxes so ordered shall be assessed by the assessors of said district on the taxable inhabitants and property therein according to the last valuation made by

the assessors of the town next previous to said assessment, adding, however, any taxable property which may have been omitted by said town assessors or which may have been since acquired; and in all cases where the town assessors have included property within said district and property without said district in one valuation, the assessors of said district shall make an equitable valuation of that portion of the same lying within said district; and in the assessing and collecting of said taxes such proceedings shall be had by the officers of said district, as near as may be, as are required to be had by the corresponding officers of towns in this state in assessing and collecting town taxes; and the collector of taxes for said district shall for the purpose of collecting taxes assessed for said district have the same powers and authorities as are now by law conferred upon collectors of taxes for towns in this state. Said district may provide for such deduction from the tax assessed against any person if paid by an appointed time, or for such penalty by way of percentage on the tax if not paid at an appointed time, not exceeding twelve per cent. per annum, as they shall deem necessary to insure punctual payment.

Same subject.

SEC. 6. Said electors at any of their legal meetings may authorize and empower the treasurer of said district to borrow money for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects for which said district is incorporated, to give the note or notes of said district for the money so borrowed and to give renewals thereof; *provided, however*, that at no time shall the note or notes and renewals of notes outstanding in pursuance of such authority exceed in the aggregate the sum of five thousand dollars.

Of the issuing of notes.

SEC. 7. Said electors shall have power to enact by-laws prescribing the duties of fire wardens and

By-laws, how enacted, etc.

the several officers and committees of said district, and of the inhabitants of said district in time of conflagration, and to enforce obedience to the commands of the fire wardens for suppressing disorder and tumult, guarding or removing property or rendering other services in time of fire, and also for the protection of the water pipes, hose, hydrants or other apparatus or property of said district and for the preservation of order and the public peace in said district; and said electors may provide for the breach of any such by-law a penalty consisting of a fine not exceeding twenty dollars, to be recovered for the use of said district, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty days, or both, which penalty may be enforced by prosecution on complaint and warrant in the district court of the second judicial district.

Powers of fire wardens.

Owner of building destroyed by order of fire wardens to be reimbursed, when and how.

SEC. 8. The fire wardens elected by said district may order, in time of fire, such buildings to be torn down or blown up as they shall judge necessary to stop the progress of the fire; and if it shall happen that the pulling down or blowing up of any such building by direction as aforesaid shall be the occasion of stopping the progress of such fire, or if the fire stop before it comes to the same, the owners shall be reasonably paid therefor by a tax upon said district, the amount of which tax shall be adjudged by the superior court for the county of Washington, which court is hereby authorized and empowered, on application to it made in behalf of such owners, to ascertain and adjudge the amount necessary and cause the same to be certified to said district, and such tax shall be assessed and collected as other taxes are herein required to be assessed and collected in said district; but no building in which any fire shall first break out or begin shall be paid for under this provision.

SEC. 9. The fire wardens elected by said district shall publicly, within four days next preceding the day of holding any regular meeting of said fire district, make a corrected list of the names of all persons entitled to vote in such meeting, and certify and deliver the same to the moderator before the time shall arrive for the calling of the meeting to order.

Fire wardens  
to make cor-  
rected list of  
voters, etc.

In making such list the fire wardens shall take from the last corrected voting list of the town of South Kingstown the names of all persons residing within the limits of said district who continue qualified to vote on a proposition to impose a tax, or for the expenditure of money in said town, and place said names upon the list to be made up by them, and shall add thereto the names of all persons residing within said district who shall be so qualified and whose names shall not be upon said voting list and shall cause printed notices of the time and place named by them to make such list to be posted in five public places within said district, not more than ten nor less than five days before the time appointed for such district meeting, and the list so made and certified shall be used in determining any question before such meeting when demanded by ten of the voters present; and thereupon the moderator shall receive the votes of all persons whose names are upon such list, and shall reject the votes of all persons claiming to vote whose names are not thereon.

SEC. 10. Said electors at any of their legal meetings shall have power to choose and appoint so many men as they may think needful to be formed into a fire company or companies, and also a hook and ladder company, and to make all such laws and regulations for organizing and establishing the same as they shall see fit, and the members of such companies shall be entitled to the exemptions, privileges

Fire companies  
and hook  
and ladder  
company.

and remedies provided by the general laws of the state for members of the fire departments of cities and towns.

Special meet-  
ings of  
electors.

SEC. 11. Said electors may hold special meetings which, as well as the annual meetings, shall be notified in such manner as they shall prescribe; and it shall be the duty of the clerk to call a special meeting upon written application signed by twelve or more of such electors, and whenever the subject of ordering a tax or borrowing money is to be acted on, the same shall be mentioned in the notice unless it be an annual meeting.

By-laws, how  
enacted, etc.

SEC. 12. Said electors may enact all by-laws by them judged necessary and expedient for carrying the provisions of this act into effect: *Provided*, that no greater penalty be inflicted thereby than is prescribed in the seventh section hereof, and provided the same be not in violation of or repugnant to the laws of this state.

SEC. 13. This act shall take effect upon its passage, and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

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