

PRIVATE
AND
SPECIAL LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED
UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

VOLUME V.

FROM THE YEAR 1857 TO THE YEAR 1865, INCLUSIVE.

NEW HAVEN:
CHARLES C. CHATFIELD & CO., PRINTERS.

1871.
U.S.

[Vol. III, 576.]

Authorizing the New Haven Gas-light Company to Increase their Capital Stock ; and Restricting the Price of Gas.

Resolved by this Assembly, SEC. 1. That the New Haven Gas-light Company be and they hereby are authorized to increase their capital stock, to an amount not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. That from and after the first day of January, 1861, said company shall not charge or receive for gas a sum exceeding three dollars for each thousand cubic feet, except when payment therefor is delayed for ten days beyond the time when said payment is due, in which case said company shall be allowed to charge and receive at the rate of three dollars and twenty-five cents for each thousand cubic feet payment wherefor is so delayed.

Approved June 23, 1860.

Authorizing the Borough of Winsted to Construct Water-works, and to issue Scrip for a Water Fund.

Resolved by this Assembly, SEC. 1. That the warden, burgesses and freemen of the borough of Winsted are hereby authorized and empowered to take water from the Long Lake, so called, or the Little Pond, or both, the same being situate in the town of Winchester, lying partly within, and near, the western boundary of said borough, at any feasible point ; and are furthermore authorized and empowered to raise the water in said lake, or pond, or both, not exceeding four feet above the present high water mark at or near the respective outlets of the same, by means of suitable embankments, at or around the margin thereof respectively, where necessary ; and are furthermore authorized and empowered to divert, by the use of appropriate means, if necessary and feasible, other streams into said lake, or pond : *provided*, that the rights of other proprietors sustaining damage thereby, by flowage or other means, be paid for by said borough as hereinafter provided ; and such water to convey and distribute into and through said borough, by means of aqueducts, reservoirs and suitable works, in such quantities as the necessities and conveniences of said borough may require ; also, to take and hold any lands, or other estate, or any privileges, and to exercise any powers not inconsistent with the laws of this state, that may be necessary or convenient for carrying into full effect the provisions of this act ; *and provided, also*, that no water shall be taken under the provisions of this act, for the purposes aforesaid, except for the purpose of extinguishing fires, until the lake embankment shall be made sufficiently high to raise the water thereof at least three feet above the waste-weir near the outlet of said lake, on Lake street of said borough, nor until the water shall have risen in said lake two feet above said waste-weir : *provided*, that the person or persons controlling the head-gate through which the waters of said lake pass, shall not permit, directly or indirectly, the water thereof to be wasted thereafter in greater quantities than heretofore.

SEC. 2. Said borough shall immediately, upon its acceptance of the provisions of this act, proceed to elect three persons, who shall act as a board of water commissioners, with the powers conferred by this act, and shall hold office until the next annual meeting of said borough, and until others are chosen in their stead and sworn; and at each annual meeting thereafter there shall be chosen three water commissioners, to hold office for one year, and until their successors are chosen and sworn.

SEC. 3. Said commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to purchase and take conveyances, for and in the name of the borough, of all lands, or other estates, or privileges, necessary and convenient for accomplishing the purposes of this act; to make contracts for labor and materials for the general purposes contemplated by this act; to lay and construct all necessary pipes, aqueducts, or reservoirs, either within or without said borough; to make use of the ground or soil under and along any railroad, street, high or private way, for the purposes of laying said pipe or aqueducts, in such manner as least to obstruct or impede travel thereon, causing all damage done thereto to be repaired, and all damages sustained by any person or corporation, in consequence of the interruption of travel, to be paid to such person or corporation; to make and establish public reservoirs and hydrants, under the direction of the warden and burgesses; to regulate the distribution and use of said water, and establish the prices to be paid therefor: *provided*, that in the regulation of said water for all public uses, said board shall be under the direction of the warden and burgesses; to collect all water rents, and pay over the same to the borough treasurer; to audit, allow, and draw orders on the treasurer for the payment of all claims against said borough on account of said water-works; and, generally, to attend to the construction, supervision, care and management of said water-works, and to exercise any additional powers that may, from time to time, be conferred upon them by said borough; and they shall keep a record of their official proceedings, and render a report of their doings to said borough, including a general exhibit of the state of the works, an account of sums required to be expended therefor, and such other matters of information as may be called for by the warden and burgesses, at each annual meeting, and to the warden and burgesses whenever by them required; and said commissioners shall keep regular books of account.

SEC. 4. A majority of said commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any of the business of said board; and all vacancies which shall occur in said board, by death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled, as soon as may be, by the warden and burgesses.

SEC. 5. Whenever disagreement shall be had between said board and the owner or owners of any property or privileges which may be required for the purposes of this act, as to the amount of compensation or damages to be paid to such owner or owners for the same, or whenever such owner or owners shall by law be incapable of contracting, or be absent from this state, such compensation or damages may be assessed by three disinterested persons, under oath, appointed by either judge of the superior court, on application made to said judge by or on behalf of either party, after such notice shall be given of such applica-

tion as said judge shall see fit to prescribe ; which said appraisers shall report their doings, embracing the amount of their assessment, to the clerk of the superior court for Litchfield county, to be by him recorded ; and thereupon such assessment shall be taken and held to be a final adjustment of said compensation and damages between said parties, and upon payment thereof, or deposit of the same with the county treasurer to the use of such owner or owners, said commissioners may proceed with the construction of said works, without liability to any further claim to compensation or damages.

SEC. 6. For the purpose of defraying the cost of construction of said water-works, including the cost of purchase and other expenses incident thereto, and for no other purpose whatever, said borough is hereby authorized and empowered to issue notes, scrip, or certificates of debt, to be denominated on the face thereof, Water Fund of the Borough of Winsted, to an amount not exceeding in the whole the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, bearing interest at no greater rate than six per cent. per annum, the principal of which shall be payable at some certain time or times within twenty years from issuing of the same ; and the amount of said notes, scrip or certificates, which may at any time be issued, together with the times of payment of the principal and interest thereof, and the rate of interest, shall be prescribed by said borough, in legal borough meeting for that purpose specially called and held ; and said notes, scrip or certificates shall be signed by the warden, and countersigned by the treasurer of said borough, and shall, when issued, be obligatory upon said borough and the inhabitants thereof, according to the purport and tenor of the same.

SEC. 7. Said board of water commissioners shall be the trustees of the notes, scrip or certificates of debt, issued by said borough, shall superintend the issuing of the same, and regulate the particular form thereof ; and after the same, or any part thereof shall be issued, they may sell the same in such manner and on such terms as they may deem best, or they may pledge the same for moneys borrowed by said borough, to be used in or about the construction of said works. And said board shall keep a record of all such notes, scrip or certificates issued, disposed of, or pledged ; and all moneys received by said board shall be by them paid over to the borough treasurer.

SEC. 8. The avails of all water rents shall be first applied to defraying the ordinary and current expenses of said water-works, after which, to the payment of the interest on said notes, scrip or certificates ; and if there shall at any time still be an excess, the borough treasurer shall report the fact to the warden and burgesses, who may direct whether the same be applied to the extinguishment of the principal debt incurred by the issuing of said notes, scrip or certificates, or to any other purpose in connection with said works.

SEC. 9. In case the avails of water rents in any year shall be inadequate to meet the current expenses of said water-works, and the interest of said notes, scrip or certificates, the deficiency shall be supplied by the laying of a tax on the grand list of all persons liable to borough taxation, which said tax may be laid at any borough meeting legally called for that purpose ; and said borough may, at any borough meeting for that purpose specially called and held, lay taxes for the purpose of

paying the principal debt aforesaid, or any part thereof, by the establishment of a sinking fund, or in any other manner.

SEC. 10. Taxes laid for the purposes mentioned in the preceding section may be collected in the same manner as other borough taxes; and any claim of said borough for the use of water shall be a lien upon the house, tenement or lot, wherein or in connection with which, said water was used by the owner or occupier thereof; and said lien may be foreclosed before any court having jurisdiction, in the same manner as a mortgage is now foreclosed, according to the rules of equity.

SEC. 11. It shall be the duty of said commissioners to designate, in all orders by them drawn upon the treasurer, the class to which the same belongs, whether construction account or expense account, and the treasurer shall pay all such orders from the appropriate fund, as established in the foregoing sections of this act. And such commissioners and treasurer shall give bonds, with sufficient surety, for the faithful performance of their several trusts, in such sums, and shall receive for their services such compensation, as the warden and burgesses shall prescribe.

SEC. 12. If any person shall wilfully and maliciously corrupt the water in any reservoir, hydrant, aqueduct, pipe or other portion of said water-works, or destroy or injure any portion of such works, or any materials or property used or designed to be used in connection therewith, he shall forfeit and pay to said borough treble damages, in an action of trespass brought by said borough; and such person, on conviction thereof, before any court having jurisdiction of the offense, shall be punished by fine not exceeding three hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by such fine and imprisonment both.

SEC. 13. This act may be altered, amended or repealed by the general assembly; and the same shall not go into effect until it has been accepted by said borough, at a borough meeting legally warned for that purpose, in conformity with the provisions of the by-laws of said borough for the warning of special meetings thereof, on or before the first Monday of May, 1861; at which meeting the votes shall be taken by ballots, written "Yes," and "No"; and if a majority of the ballots so cast in said meeting shall have on the same the word "Yes," then this act shall be in full force, otherwise the same shall be null and void; the boxes to receive the ballots aforesaid shall be kept open on such day of voting, from ten o'clock A. M., until two o'clock P. M.; and the votes shall be counted and the result declared in the manner prescribed for the election of the annual officers of said borough; and if at said meeting this act shall be accepted by said borough, said borough may thereupon proceed, at the same meeting, to vote upon the matter of issuing said notes, scrip or certificates, and to elect said commissioners, and transact any other business contemplated in the provisions of this act: *provided*, notice thereof shall have been inserted in the call for said meeting.

SEC. 14. This act shall take effect from the day of its acceptance, in manner aforesaid, by the said borough of Winsted.

Approved June 23, 1860.