

covered in an action of tort; and upon conviction of any of the above wilful or wanton acts shall be punished by a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Question of acceptance to be submitted to voters.

SECTION 9. This act shall be submitted to the voters of the said town at a special town meeting to be called for the purpose by the selectmen of the town, of which the voters shall be notified by the posting of written or printed notice thereof in not less than ten conspicuous places in the said town, not less than three days before the said meeting. If at such meeting this act shall be accepted by a majority of the voters voting thereon the voters shall then proceed to elect a board of three water commissioners who, subject to the direction of the town, shall carry out the provisions of this act, and shall have charge of the construction, maintenance and operation of the said water works. Of the said commissioners one shall be elected to serve for three years, one for two years and one for one year from the annual town meeting succeeding the meeting at which they are elected; and at every annual town meeting thereafter a commissioner, or commissioners, shall be elected to fill any vacancies then existing, and the commissioners so elected shall serve for the term of three years and until their successors are elected.

Water commissioners, election, terms, etc.

When to take effect.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon its passage, so far as it respects its submission as aforesaid, and it shall take full effect upon its acceptance by a majority of the voters of the town as aforesaid.

Approved June 1, 1903.

Chap. 405 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF READING TO ELECT A BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS TO HAVE CONTROL OF ITS WATER WORKS, PUBLIC LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Town of Reading may elect a board of public works, etc.

SECTION 1. The town of Reading may at a regular town meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose elect a board of public works, to consist of three members, who shall hold office, one for one year, one for two years and one for three years, respectively, from the date of the meeting at which they are elected, if the same is an annual town meeting; and if they are elected at a special meeting they shall hold office until one, two

and three years, respectively, from the annual meeting next following their election, and in either case until their successors are elected; and at every annual town meeting thereafter when the term of any member of said board expires the town shall elect one member of said board to serve three years or until his successor is elected. If a vacancy occurs in the said board the town may at any meeting called for the purpose elect a person to fill the vacancy.

SECTION 2. The said board of public works shall have all the rights, powers and authority vested in the water commissioners of Reading, all the powers over public lighting now vested in the municipal light board of said town, and also all the rights, powers and authority over the public highways now vested in the selectmen; and upon the election of said board of public works the offices of water commissioners and municipal light board of said town shall be abolished.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its acceptance by the voters of the town of Reading within three years after the passage of this act, at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for the purpose.

Approved June 1, 1903.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ANNUAL RETURNS BY COMPANIES ENGAGED IN THE SALE OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY. Chap. 406

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section thirty-one of chapter one hundred and twenty-one of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word "June", in the fifth line, the word: — preceding, — by striking out the words "first day of January", in the seventh and eighth lines, and inserting in place thereof the words: — said thirtieth day of June, — and by striking out the word "the", in the eleventh line, and inserting in place thereof the word: — said, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 31.* Corporations and companies engaged in the manufacture and sale of gas or electricity for light or heat shall annually, on or before the second Wednesday of September, make to said board, in a form prescribed by it, a return for the year ending on the thirtieth day of June preceding, signed and sworn to by its president and treasurer and a majority of the directors, of the amount of its authorized capital,

Vacancy.

Rights, powers, etc.

When to take effect.

R. L. 121, § 31, amended.

Annual returns of companies engaged in the manufacture, etc., of gas and electricity.