

CHAPTER XLIX.

AN ACT to authorize the forming of a Fire Engine Company in the Town of Bethania, Stokes county.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the free white males of the Town of Bethania are hereby authorized to form and enrol themselves into a Fire Engine Company, provided that the number of members shall not exceed forty.

II. *Be it further enacted,* That the persons who are now and those who shall hereafter be enrolled as members of the Bethania Fire Engine Company, shall serve for the term of five years from the time of their enrolment, except in cases of removal out of Town.

III. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Captain of said Company to cause to be taken care of and preserved, in the house prepared for that purpose, the engines, ladders and apparatus thereunto belonging; and when any repairs thereof be deemed necessary by a majority of the Officers of said Company, the Captain shall cause the same to be done—the expenses for which repairs shall be paid by the Town Treasurer, or for want thereof, by the Commissioners of said Town, on the draft of the Captain of said Company, which draft, when paid, shall be considered a good and sufficient voucher in the settlement of the Town taxes.

IV. *Be it further enacted,* That for raising a fund for the purpose aforesaid, as well as for the purchase of a Fire Engine, hose and ladders, the Commissioners of said Town are hereby authorized, and shall lay an annual tax, not exceeding one dollar on every white taxable poll, nor more than fifty cents on every hundred dollars value of real estate in said Town, which taxes, when laid, shall be collected and accounted for as the other taxes of said Town.

V. *Be it further enacted,* That in case of fire in said Town, it shall and may be lawful for one or more of the fire wardens of the said Town, and two or more officers of said Engine Company, when they shall deem it expedient for stopping the further progress of the fire, to order any house or houses to be pulled down, blown up, or other-

wise destroyed, for which, they or any person acting under them shall not be responsible in any manner whatever, and any person or persons sued for the same may plead this act in bar thereof.

VI. *Be it further enacted*, That a majority of the members of said Company shall have power and authority to make such laws, rules and regulations, and pass such bye-laws for their government as to them may seem best, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States or of this State, and that all fines and penalties incurred by virtue of this Act, or by any of said bye-laws, shall be recoverable before any Justice of the Peace for said County of Stokes: *Provided nevertheless*, that the right of appeal shall be preserved to either party, as is now by law established in trials before a Justice.

VII. *Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That this Act shall be in force from and after the ratification thereof, provided the inhabitants of said Town shall approve of the same in full Town meeting.

[Ratified 3d January, 1839.]

CHAPTER L.

AN ACT to exempt Lock Keepers on the Dismal Swamp Canal from working on Roads and from Militia service.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the Lock Keepers on the Dismal Swamp Canal shall be, and they are hereby exempted from working on all Public Roads, and from Militia duty, except in time of insurrection or invasion; any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Ratified 8th January, 1839.]