

quired by law, and the contract duly awarded. Also it appears that the laws relating to the status of surety companies and the workmen's compensation have been complied with.

Finding said contract and bond in proper legal form, I have this day noted my approval thereon, and return the same herewith to you, together with all other data submitted in this connection.

Respectfully,
GILBERT BETTMAN,
Attorney General.

4012.

APPROVAL, BONDS OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO—\$6,000.00.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, January 30, 1932.

Retirement Board, State Teachers Retirement System, Columbus, Ohio.

4013.

APPROVAL, NOTES OF WADSWORTH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO—\$16,000.00.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, February 1, 1932.

Retirement Board, State Teachers Retirement System, Columbus, Ohio.

4014.

TOWN HALL—MAY BE USED BY FARMERS' INSTITUTE FOR MEETING.

SYLLABUS:

1. *A town hall may be used for the purposes mentioned in section 7622-1, General Code, so long as such use does not seriously infringe upon the original and necessary uses of such property.*

2. *The uses authorized by said section are broad enough to include the use of such property by a farmers' institute society.*

COLUMBUS, OHIO, February 1, 1932.

HON. C. G. L. YEARICK, *Prosecuting Attorney, Newark, Ohio.*

DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your recent letter containing the following inquiry:

“The question as to whether a township house may be used as a community center for holding public meetings has been brought to our attention, particularly with reference to its use for Farmers Institute, and your opinion requested.”

Section 3597, General Code, provides as follows:

"After such affirmative vote, the trustees may make all needful contracts for the purchase of a site, and the erection, or the improvement or enlargement of a town hall. They shall have control of any town hall belonging to the township, and from time to time, may lease so much thereof as may not be needed for township purposes, by the year or for shorter periods, to private persons, or for lectures or exhibitions, in all cases having the rent paid in advance or fully secured. The rents received may be used for the repair or improvement of the hall so far as needed, and the balance for general township purposes."

Sections 7622-1 and 7622-2, General Code, read as follows:

Section 7622-1.

"That upon application of any responsible organization, or of a group of at least seven citizens, all school grounds and school houses, as well as all other buildings under the supervision and control of the state, or buildings maintained by taxation under the laws of Ohio, shall be available for use as social centers for the entertainment and education of the people, including the adult and youthful population, and for the discussion of all topics tending to the development of personal character and of civic welfare. Such occupation, however, should not seriously infringe upon the original and necessary uses of such properties. The public officials in charge of such buildings shall prescribe such rules and regulations for their occupancy and use as herein provided as will secure a fair, reasonable and impartial use of the same."

Section 7622-2.

"The organization or group of citizens applying for the use of properties as specified in section 7622-1 of the General Code shall be responsible for any damage done them over and above the ordinary wear, and shall, if required, pay the actual expense incurred for janitor service, light and heat."

While the last two sections quoted above are a part of the chapter on school houses and libraries, the language used, "all school grounds and school houses, as well as all other buildings under the supervision and control of the state, or buildings maintained by taxation under the laws of Ohio," clearly shows that they are not to be limited to school houses and libraries. Moreover, these sections, as originally enacted in 103 O. L. 830, had been a part of the chapter on county commissioners.

It is my opinion, therefore, that section 7622-1 includes a town hall, such building being maintained by taxation under the laws of Ohio, and that a town hall may be used for the purposes mentioned in said section, so long as such use does not seriously infringe upon the original and necessary uses of such property.

I am also of the opinion that, as farmers' institute societies are organized under the provisions of section 9916, General Code, for the purposes of teaching better methods of farming, stock raising, fruit culture, and business connected with agriculture, the use of a town hall by a farmers' institute society comes within the uses authorized by section 7622-1, General Code.

Respectfully,

GILBERT BETTMAN,

Attorney General.