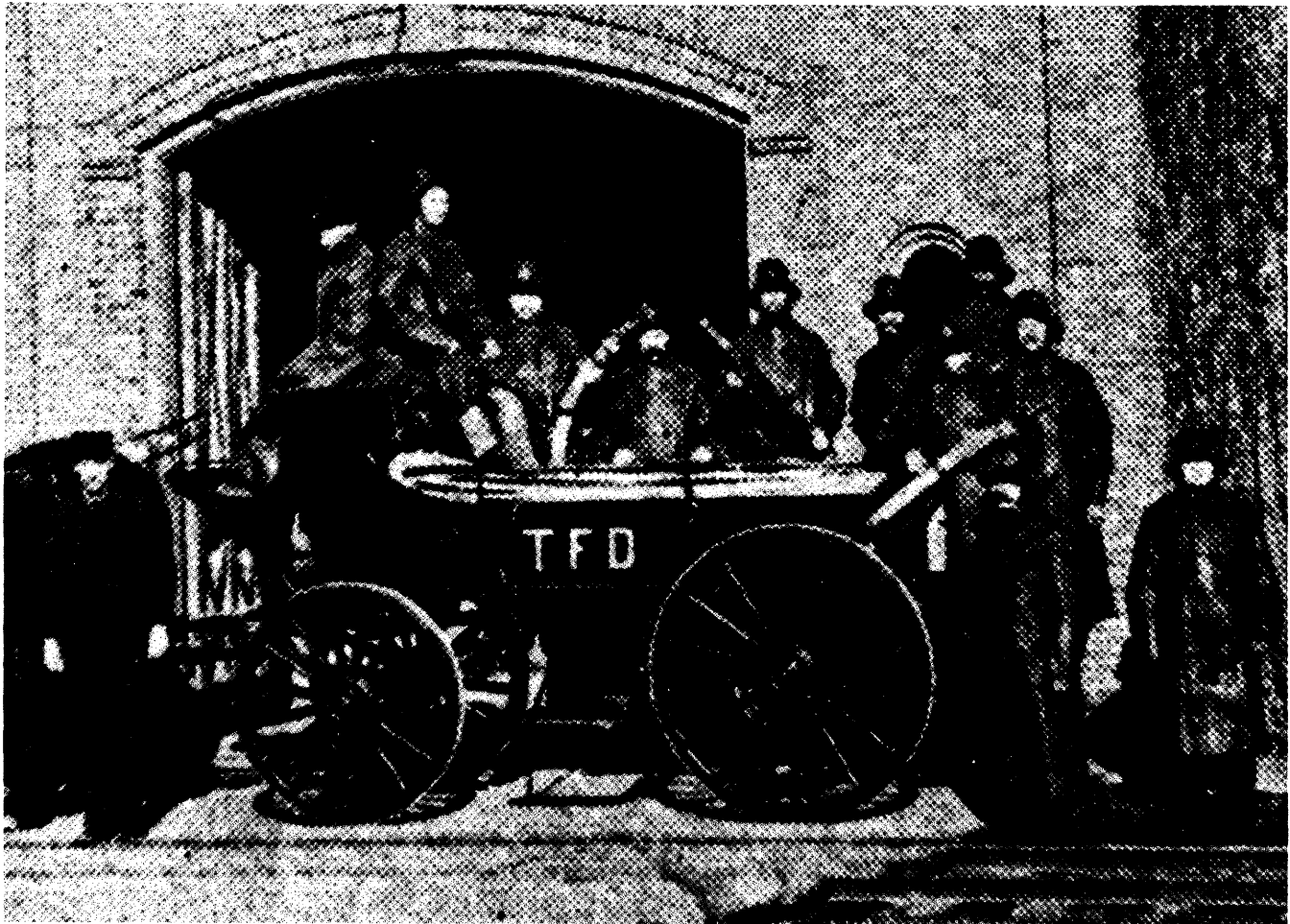


Tecumseh Fire Department

A History
1837 to 1900



Phil Hendershot
2001

This is story of the origins of the Tecumseh Fire Department. It covers the years from 1837 to 1900. This History is dedicated to the brave Volunteer Firemen then and now who have served their community so well.

The story of the Tecumseh Fire Department starts in 1837 when the newly created Village Council appointed the first Fire Marshal to enforce the village's new fire codes. It would be another ten years before the first organized Fire Department was established.

Note that in the early years there were periods when the village council took no actions with regard to fire fighting or prevention. I have simply skipped those years in this report.

I hope you enjoy your brief trip back in Time.

Phil Hendershot
2001

1837

A third meeting of the council took place on the 1st of November and took up the ever present problem of Fire Prevention. They appointed S M Goheen as our first Fire Marshal and passed an ordinance requiring all homes and businesses to have a fire ladder with iron hooks on the premises. Failure to comply would cost the property owner \$1.00. They also established fire codes concerning unprotected candles, lamps in barns, piles of wood shavings and other such common fire hazards to be found in every frontier town.

1839

The final new duties for the Marshal were in his dual capacity as Fire Marshal. The council passed the following ordinances for him to enforce:

1. All stoves and Franklins must be piped through brick or stone chimneys unless given a variance by the Marshal. A \$5 fine.
2. No combustibles are to be stored within 50 ft of a fire or live ashes unless in a secure building. A \$1 fine.
3. No candles, lamps, etc in stables, barns or any other building with stores of straw and similar combustibles. A \$1 fine. A stove would cost you \$50.
4. A permit was required for the open burning of trash, brush and the like. A \$5 fine.
5. A permit was also required for fireworks and "Fire Balls". A \$20 fine.

1841

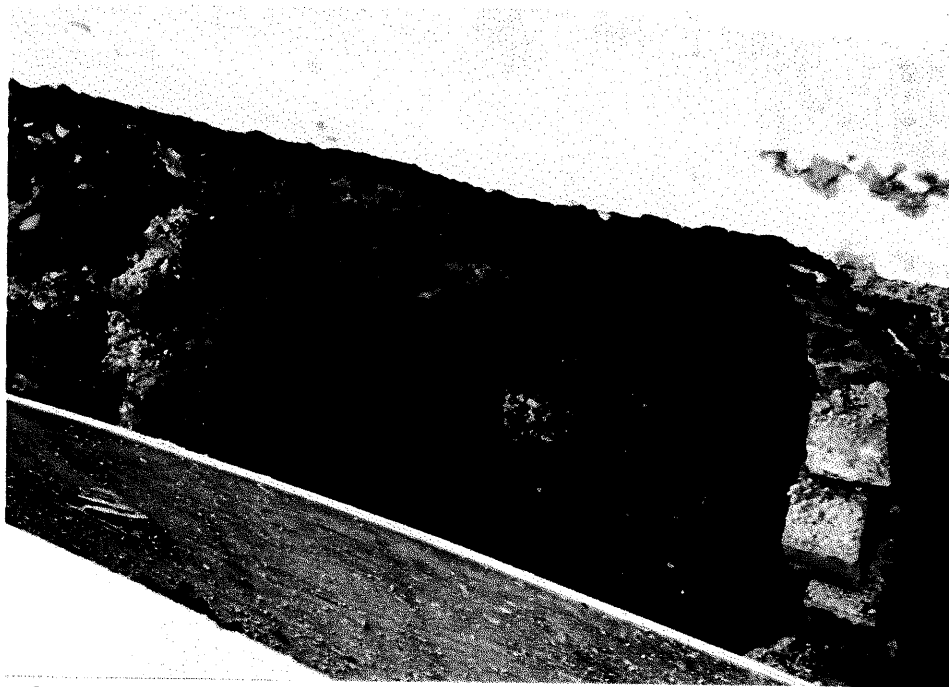
A Note of interest this year was the purchase of a "Fire Engine" by the council from a gentleman named Edward R Campbell. The selling price of this engine was \$450 but Mr Campbell agreed to sell it to us for \$400. \$50 was quickly raised in subscriptions to be used in lieu of next years taxes by the subscribers. The deal was finally finalized on the 19th of October with a William Barrett representing Mr Campbell. Delivery was made in Buffalo, New York and its arrival in our village was a much celebrated event.

1843

This is not a good year for the new council. They kept taxes at \$250 only to find out that the fence around the burying ground, the village pump near the Snell Hotel and the Globe Mill Bridge all need repairs. And to add to their frustration they are having problems with our new fire engine. Lucius Shales is presently corresponding with E R Campbell about paying for repairs.

1845

A main theme this year was fire protection. The council authorized funds to buy hose for the fire engine and to construct a brick reservoir in the middle of town.



During the renovation of Tecumseh's downtown a brick reservoir was uncovered under Chicago Blvd, very possibly this very one. Bricks from this reservoir can be seen in the Tecumseh Area Historic Society Museum.

In addition the council instituted some new directives. All stoves must be set on metal plates or bricks. To insure all fire codes are being met the Marshal was directed to inspect all fireplaces and stoves in the village every November, infractions to be fined \$5. The volunteer firemen were to practice with the fire engine every Spring and Fall. And finally the custodians of the local schools and churches were encouraged to ring their bells by offering a prize of a dollar to the first and fifty cents to the second to respond to a fire.

1846

The new fire engine seems to have spurred a greater interest in establishing a permanent fire brigade. The brigade was to be made up of 35 men and \$100 for needed equipment was appropriated. A hook and ladder wagon was mentioned as a desirable possibility with \$80 being mentioned for its construction. The council did authorize new hose to be purchased for the fire engine from Amos Stocking for 50 cents a foot.

Marshal Clark was given charge of the fire engine with instructions to find a garage for it in the downtown area. This was deemed important enough to authorize up to \$16 to rent a room at the Mansion House Hotel if necessary. He was also authorized up to \$2 for its repair. If it cost more than that he was to report back to the council.

1847

The board approved the formation of Tecumseh's first Fire Brigade on February 13th. Following is a list of the brave men who have volunteered for this dangerous task.

Fire Chief: Jerimiah Flaherty	Foreman: Daniel Latimer
Clerk: Moses Wright	Ass Foreman: H P Sanger
Fire Warden: ? Bacon	Fire Warden: Alonzo Murray

Charles Hewitt	Asahel Taylor	A B Palmer
John B Cook	Enoch Tindall	H P Sanger
E A Tribou	John Treanor	A B Ward
Beny F Sammons	B L Baxter	Daniel Williams
A D Stocking	S H Wheeler	A G Cushing
John McConnell	Earl W Gridley	Philman Rankin
Nathaniel Brackett	Morris Hyde	Leno Kelley
Erskine King	A D Munger	Francis Cole

The fire brigade was broken down into three categories. There were Fire Enginemen, Hosemen and Hook & Laddermen. The hook and ladder carriage having been approved, Mr Thomas Baylis was checking into Adrian's carriage for ideas. Thomas Cummins Carriage Factory was contracted to build the carriage at a cost of \$64 and a completion date of no more than 60 days.

The Council also authorized Mssrs Stacey and Baylis to purchase the "Ironing" for the hooks and ladders. They signed a contract for 10 cents per pound, a total of \$15.38.

1848

The fire department still took priority this year. \$50 was approved as payment on the fire engine while Perley Bills and C A Stacey were asked to check into the legalities regarding the repair costs for said fire engine. It seems that these repairs were not deemed normal wear and tear and the village wanted the seller to cover the costs incurred in conveying the engine to Toledo for repair and the parts and labor involved. Needing the engine in working order the board authorized \$100 for Chief Flaherty to take it to Toledo.

\$50 was approved for the construction of an engine house. Mssrs Walker & Burlingame were hired to build it on Mssrs Spafford & Smith's warehouse lot. The cost to the village was a new office for Spafford & Smith in exchange for the temporary use of their convenient plot of land. All in all an expensive answer to the problem. It is interesting that the board met that year at the store of Fire Chief Flaherty as well as President Ketcham's store.

1849

This was not a good year for the village as the lawsuit brought against Mr Campbell for repair costs on the fire engine was lost. And to add insult to injury Perley Bills charged the village \$17 for his legal fees.

It is not clear whether the village held back payments to Mr Campbell or not but his Counter Suit was upheld and the village was ordered to pay a judgement of \$275 this year and another \$200 next. As the original purchase price was only \$400 the village came out on the short end of this deal.

Chief Flaherty was requested to get the fire equipment in shape and moved into the new engine house ASAP. He was also to check the stoves in the Gerard Block for safety violations.

This is one of the wooden blocks that is fated to burn three years hence.

1850

With the first brick block on Tecumseh's main street having been built only two years ago and only four brick stores on main street today, the rest are aging wooden structures. So the threat of fire was still on every council member's mind. And towards this end they appointed three Fire Wardens, each responsible for the safety of Tecumseh's residents. The appointees were Fire Chief Flaherty, Moses Wright and a newcomer named E Lindale. They also appropriated \$25 for a "good substantial" pump to be installed in the well on the corner of Evans and Chicago for the use of the fire department.

For whatever reason two of the appointees resigned and were replaced during the year. D B Greene resigned as clerk and was replaced by Benjamin Baxter. And Chief Flaherty turned over his duties as fire warden to Zeno Kelly and assigned him the job of installing the new pump.

1853

On a cold March day our village calm was shattered by a deadly fire. Starting in one of the wooden buildings on the NE block of main street it quickly spread out of control. Only providence and the bravery of many of our citizens kept this from spreading to the other blocks. And to prevent the disaster from spreading after the fire had finally been suppressed the council hired James Wheeler, John Mc Kinney and Mack Osborne to patrol the burned area until it finally cooled. They were paid a dollar each for their services. See the Herald notes below for the scathing account of this disaster.

March 24th

The Late Fire

The recent fire in our village presents a suitable opportunity for calling attention to the necessity existing for a little more efficiency in our fire department. There once may have been a corps of firemen of some force, but from the demonstration last week of anything but systemized effort, we are obliged to conclude that we have no reliable provision for any sudden and trying emergency like this with which we have recently been so sorely afflicted. The crowd of men on the ground and the multitude continually congregating to witness the ruthless waste of thousands attested to the (*The following line is unfortunately unreadable*) had a suitable organization been had, while also the multitude of mere gazers and numerous others, anxious, but hardly knowing what to do, testified to the easy destruction that our village and property might undergo in such an emergency. Crockery and looking glasses were thrown from upper story windows while feather beds were carried down and safely deposited on side walks for fear of breaking them. A few cool heads saved much valuable property while it may be said that three times the number thus engaged could have saved about all the goods destroyed, save in the store in which the flames first broke out. Those who did put forth efficient effort had to labor under the disadvantage of want of system and another third of the town could easily have been a sacrifice to this want but for the very fortunate movement of tearing down the buildings in the ? of the west end of the block that were quite near the ware house while Dem and a few others were struggling so hard on the top of that building and for a time hopelessly. Mellville and Southworth, our printers, and a few others whom we saw but cannot name, fought in the midst of heat that charred them out of the Herald Office and saved it. They are entitled to special thanks. Kneeland carried out cook stoves by the dozen alone when so many were unoccupied that could have helped. Those who saved Esq. Boughton's Docket and other valuables relating to public interest did good service as also the few who rescued P Goetchius' entire stock, in his absence. We regret that there was not more coolness to have saved the stock of C & J S Strong, which, it seems, should have been done, also that among the multitude there were rascally thieves, adding to the ravages of the fire their own foul depredations. While commending the losers to future liberal sympathy and to their own restorative energies, we bespeak for these others the safe keeping of a state provision for that purpose.

The Herald of March 24th ran in addition to the above scathing account of the fire the following list of property and businesses affected by the fire and their estimated losses.

Property Owners Affected:	Estimated Loss	Insured For
William Richard	\$ 950.00	\$ 0.00
B J Bidwell	\$1,000.00	\$ 600.00
William McCowen	\$ 800.00	\$ 250.00 ?
S Van Nest	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Perley Bills	\$ 800.00	\$ 0.00

Nazro & Warren	\$1,000.00	\$ 800.00
A Stocking	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00
? Stiles	\$ 450.00	\$ 0.00
D Penfield	\$ 800.00	\$ 0.00
Bradley B Vernon	\$1,000.00	\$ 600.00

Business Owners Affected	Businesses	Estimated Loss	Insured For
B J Bidwell	Boots & Shoes	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00
Enoch Ward	Groceries	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00
John H Wishart	Dry Goods/Grocery	\$5,500.00	\$5,000.00
J E Hall	Books & Jewelry	\$1,100.00	\$ 600.00
Van Nest, Ketcham & Nichols	Hardware	\$11,000.00	\$5,000.00
S Pitts	Boots & Shoes	\$ 950.00	\$ 800.00
C & J S Strong	Hardware	\$ 5,100.00	\$2,500.00
P Goetchius	Tailor (loss slight)	\$?.00	\$?.00
Hand & McKeown	Cabinet ware	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00
Selleck Boughton	Justice Office (loss slight)		
William Richard	Cabinet ware & Herald	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00

This brought the monetary totals to \$8,800 in destroyed buildings plus another \$24,650 in destroyed stock. As can be seen from the above list not all our businessmen were prepared for this disaster. Of those businesses listed above the following were already advertising their new or temporary quarters in this same issue.

S Van Nest & Co relocated into P R Adams Ware House.

C & J S Strong moved in with L G Sholes in the Union Blk.

B J Bidwell moved his boot and shoe store across the street over the Post Office.

J E Hall also moved across the street into A Anderson's store.

S Pitts moved to the Usborne Block, listing themselves as in its West end.

P Goetchius moved to the building West of the Usborne Block. By June he has moved into the Usborne block two doors above Usborne's store. He and Mr Usborne however still call the building the Latimer block.

J H Wishart moved across the street to Moses Wright's store in the Patterson Block.

1855

B J Bidwell and one hundred and fourteen others signed a petition to reorganize our inadequate fire department. And as part of that reorganization they suggested that the village should procure another fire engine, construct more reservoirs and repair the existing equipment such as the hooks and ladders. It's two years since the great fire and they still didn't have an adequate fire department.

1856

This year brought back memories of 1853. First the destruction of the Tecumseh Furnace Foundry reinforced the need to upgrade the fire department. Unfortunately there wasn't time before the next major fire struck mainstreet. From the August 7th Tecumseh Herald:

Loss by Fire

We stop our paper to announce another severe conflagration in our village.

About half past one o'clock this morning it was discovered that the first large warehouse on the Rail Road belonging to P R Adams and occupied by Messrs Bills & Brown as a Broom Manufactory was in flames. The two Messrs Brown's who occupied a room on the second floor had barely time to escape with their lives by leaping from the window, without saying anything. The fire next communicated to the ware-house and store of A James & Co and was not arrested until it cleared every wooden building from the block. This is the same block which was burned out at the great fire of 1853.

The loss as near as we can ascertain is Bills & Brown, Brooms & C, \$3000, no insurance; Cummings & Smith, Carriages in store, \$1200, no insurance; P R Adams, Warehouse, \$2500, insured; Strong & Drew, Hardware, \$1500, insured; A James & Co, Groceries, \$1500, partly insured; Wm McCowing, Hard-ware Building, \$500, insured; T Baylis, Flour & C, a small amount. Other goods in the ware-house, belonging to different individuals and not insured, about \$500.

The village lost their Hook & Ladder House-the contents saved. With a good Engine, all except the first ware-house might have been saved. We hope our Village Board will now conclude to procure one. It was only by the most severe and persistent efforts that the wooden block on the West side of the street was saved and if the fire had once crossed the street no one can tell where it would have stopped. And as this is a second time that our village has been placed in immediate danger by the burning of that central block, we hope the Board will, by an ordinance, forbid the erection of any more wooden buildings upon it.

The Council quickly ordered \$17.60 worth of new ladder hardware from Detroit. John McConnell charged the village \$15.84 for new rope. And most importantly the council ordered a new hook and ladder cart from Cummins & Smith Tecumseh Carriage Factory. It's about time.

1857

A temporary shelter was built near the Cummins Carriage shop on Evans to house the fire equipment. The original engine house having been destroyed in last year's fire. And there was still that law suit being payed off to consider. In an attempt to salvage something from the debacle of that old fire engine the council put it up for sale. I wonder if anyone was dumb enough to pay good money for that thing?

1858

Another major fire struck Tecumseh this year. Slowly but surely a majority of the old wooden buildings on main street were being destroyed by fire. The Tecumseh Herald Article read as follows:

FIRE

Tecumseh was visited with another severe fire on the evening of Nov 2nd, commencing with A Randall & Co's Shoe Store on Chicago Street and destroyed also George Curtis Drug Store and Jas Gilmans Harness Shop, Brown's Barber Shop, with a large share of their contents. The loss as near as can be ascertained is as follows:

H Randall & Co, entire stock, \$1500, insured \$200; J S Gilman \$200, insured; H A Adams, building \$1000, not insured; Jos Church \$300, not insured; T Brown \$50, not insured; M P Henry \$300, insured; Henry Taylor \$250, insured. Total loss probably \$4000.

As there was no fire in the Shoe Store during the day and as no traces of about \$180 in gold belonging to Mr Church, and kept in the store, can be found, it is generally believed that the money was stolen and the store then set on fire to conceal the theft. It was only by the most persevering and unremitting efforts that the dwelling house of M P Henry on the one side and Union Hall and Bidwell's block on the other were preserved.

1859

The Fire Department was renting property from B J Bidwell to house the hooks, ladders and carriage. Mr Bidwell was receiving \$2.50 a year rent. A new building was erected this year in which to store this precious equipment.

1862

The Fire Departments hook & Ladder House got three new padlocks worth \$0.60 and new door hinges from a Mr Steans for another \$0.50.

1866

The village fire limits were set as Logan on the North, Ottawa on the East, Pottawatamie on the South and Pearl on the West.

1869

The council moves the village's fire limit Eastward to Oneida st.

1870

A second commission was formed to find and procure a site for a new Council Building. They had decided on a 20' x 40 x 20' brick building.

Land owners that offered their lots for the new building.

J P Slayton offered a 30' x 60' plot on the NW corner of his warehouse lot for \$500.
S H Niblack offered a 20' x 60' plot in the NE corner of his lot for \$400.
Horace Brewer offered a 20' x 100' plot in the NW corner of his lot for \$300.
B J Bidwell offered a 20' x 60' plot on the South side of his store for \$450.

Our local tax payers let it be known that they were not happy with the expense of the proposed building. The council was forced to temporarily postpone the project. In October they ordered the commission to select a site and finalize their plans. The commission reduced the choices to the lots offered by Mssrs Bidwell and Brewer. They reported to the council that the project should cost around \$2,000.

A public meeting was held on the 26th of September. They were informed that the department had purchased 100 new fire buckets. They purchased 25 buckets with iron handles for \$24 a dozen and 75 buckets with rubber handles for \$27 a dozen. They paid the Boston Rubber Co a total of \$219. Thomas Cummins paid \$10 to have these buckets lettered. Each carried a number and Tecumseh printed in red paint.

1871

The new council building was to be designed by Salmon Crane and built by the firm of Crane & McNair. The walls of the building were to be 12 inches thick.

It was decided to add a cellar to the new building which was added to the original contract. Crane & McNair were paid an extra \$155 for this work.

In June the council decided to add a cupola to their new building. It was estimated that this would add another \$100 to the cost.

Crane & McNair were paid in full for their labors in October. They received \$210 for the building and \$121 for the cupola. Cost overruns are nothing new.

The cellar was immediately leased out. A Mr Patrick Lavelle paid \$5 a month to store barrels of apples. And S H Niblack also rented a portion of the cellar. Like the cemetery the village was off-setting their costs by renting out village property.

This Fall was very dry forcing the council into special session. The threat of fire was so great that a "Night Watch" was organized in October to patrol the village looking for fire. These patrols were from 10 PM till 6 AM until it rains. The Watch consisted of:

S H Niblack the Chief of Police
Fred P Denel patrolling the 1st district.
Jason W Cole patrolling the 2nd district.
Ezekiel Wilson patrolling the 3rd district.
James Conorton patrolling the 4th district.
Jacob Lotten patrolling Brownsville.

The members of the watch were paid \$2.50 a night.

In November the Chief added two more watchmen of his own.

The watch must have worked because no record of fire damage was recorded.

1872

Fire and Fire Limits (a new committee this year)

The new committee came on the heels of the fire scare last Fall. They immediately ordered six fire extinguishers from the E T Barnum Company of Detroit. These Babcock Fire Extinguishers were purchased on the 26th of August for \$385. The extinguishers were placed:

The paper mill
Union School
W & H E Anderson's store

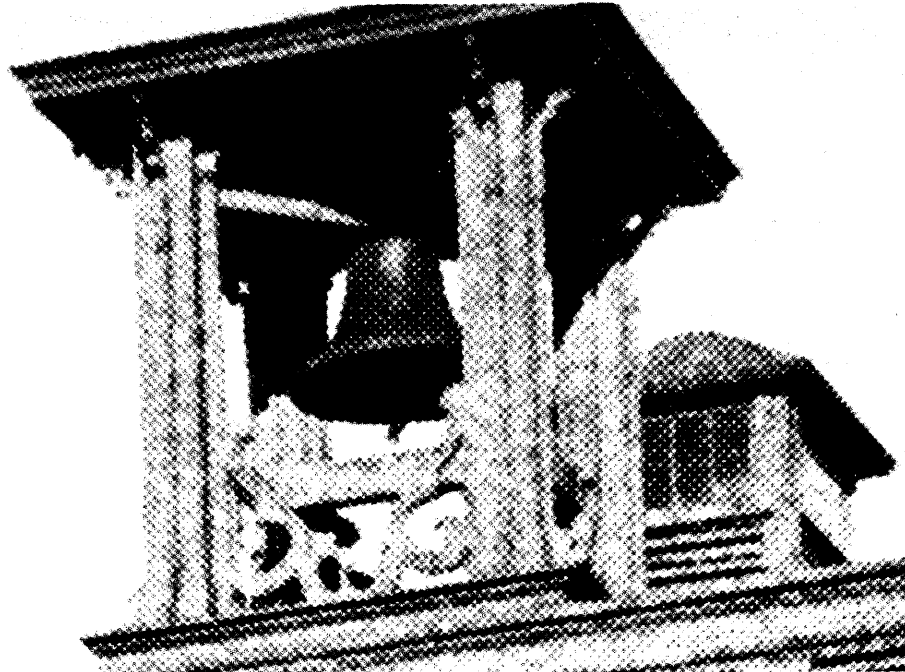
Thomas Cummins' carriage factory
McConnell, Raymond & Co office
Slayton & Sons warehouse.

1873



The council's new chambers were finally furnished and ready for use on the 18th of Aug. The building was secured with iron rods and padlocks. Crime is not a new idea.

1874



A bell was finally purchased for the council building. It was purchased from the Blymer Manufacturing Co of Cincinnati, Ohio for \$140.

1875

The new council building was having water problems in the basement. It was decided to shore up the foundation with gravel.

1876

A petition was received by the council on the 27th of March from a group of prominent citizens requesting a "Fire Prevention" Committee be formed.

The committee was formed and visited Monroe on the 17th of August. Upon their return they offered the following recommendations:

1. Eight cisterns be constructed in the fire district. Two or three of these are to be principal or main water supplies.
 - a. A regular cistern will hold from 300 to 400 barrels of water.
 - b. A principal cistern will hold from 600 to 1,000 barrels of water.
2. A steam fire engine be purchased to fill the cisterns at an estimated cost of \$8,000.
 - a. two hose carts and 1,000 ft of hose to be included.

The marshal was ordered to pass these recommendations to the general public to get their response. The final vote was 95 yea and 52 nay.

It seems that B J Bidwell and approximately 30 others "remonstrated" against purchasing the fire engine.

The fire watch established in 1871 was now the "Night Watch Society". They were given \$200 by the council for their services.

1877

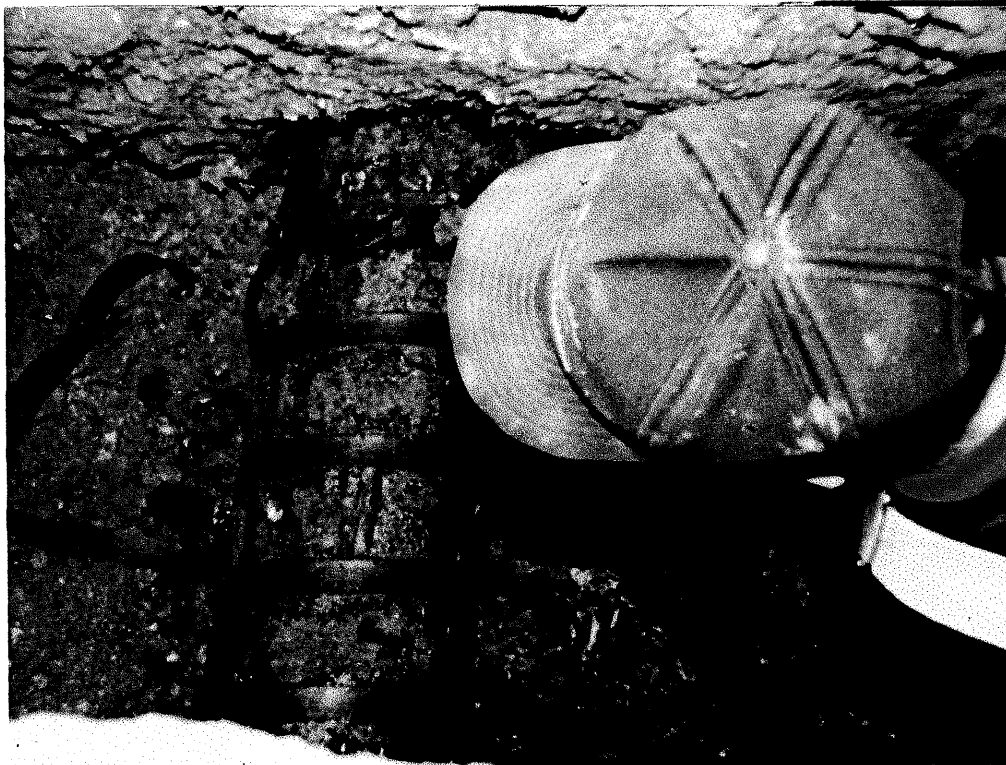
The first public water works was begun this year. A 2,100 barrel tank was built at the NW corner of Kilbuck and VanBuren streets, this being the highest point in the village. The village purchased this lot for \$150.

The tank was constructed some 17 ft above ground level to increase the water pressure. The tank was filled by means of its own windmill driven pump and well.

The plan called for a 6 inch wood pipe main from the tank South to Chicago and then East to Evans street. The main would then reduce to 4 inch pipe to Oneida street. The entire line was to be buried 4 feet below ground level.

The pipe and connections were purchased from the Ayrault, Smith & Co. for \$1,411.50. The fire hydrants, eight large and one small, cost an additional \$269.50.

The estimated total cost for this project was \$3,500.



The original wood main was uncovered during the renovation of mainstreet in the early 1990's. A piece of this pipe may be seen in the Historic Museum.

A sixteen foot windmill for the water tank was ordered from the Peskins Wind Mill & Axe Company at a cost of \$336.38. It was installed that Fall. A Mr Eugene A Hodges was hired to oil and maintain the windmill at a wage of \$12 a year. He was to oil the equipment at least twice a week.

The final two payments for the new tank, amounting to \$588.83 was paid to Mr E L Coriell.

Unfortunately the new tank did not weather the Winter very well, requiring repairs to seal the leaks. Brewer & Co. charged the village \$62.04 for the repairs. Ideas for preventing this from happening again were sought but to no avail. This would be a recurring problem until it was replaced by a stand pipe in 1893.

It was decided by council to allow the local residents along the path of the pipe line to tap in for a fee as a way to help pay for the project. This was truly the first village water system.

In June the council narrowed its choice of a new fire engine to:

1. the Silsby Manufacturing Co of Seneca Falls, N Y.
2. the Clapp S Jones Co of Hudson, N Y.
3. the LaFrance Manufacturing Co of Elmira, N Y.

Representatives of all three companies presented their cases before the Council. A Mr Asa La France brought models of his companies new design. The council decided on the LaFrance #4 Rotary Steam Fire Engine. They requested an engine be sent to be tested first hand.

On the first of July the village's first "Tecumseh Fire Company" consisted of:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. W L Fitzsimmons | - Chief Engineer |
| 2. S W Bordine | - First Assistant Engineer |
| 3. B P Anderson | - Second Assistant Engineer (Foreman) |
| 4. to be appointed | - Engineer of Steamer |
| 5. to be appointed | - Assistant Engineer of Steamer |
| 6. Alf W James | 7. J J Freeman |
| 8. J H Tribou | 9. E H Merritt |
| 10. C A Slayton | 11. W W Frazer |
| 12. G W Burroughs | 13. Ed McKinney |
| 14. Robert Stretch | 15. H E Stout |
| 16. T McKinney | 17. T C Cummins |
| 18. Jason McKinney | 19. E H Hyde |
| 20. S Erskine | 21. R B House |
| 22. William Jordan | 23. J C Murray |
| 24. S W Anderson | 25. C A Wright |
| 26. G T Ketchum | 27. D L Whitenack |
| 28. J L Anderson | 29. E S Satterthwaite |
| 30. W H Tehr (?) | 31. Fred Rosacrans |
| 32. J W Cole | 33. C J Brewer |

- 34. John Orr Jr
- 36. T J Landgraf
- 38. E Hause

- 35. J Davidson
- 37. S P Hosmer
- 39. Ervin Raymond

The following names were added in August:

- 40. Albert Hayden
- 42. Jason Elliott
- 44. William DeMott.
- 41. George P Wright
- 43. Henry L Crane

The Fire Department was officially organized on the 22nd of July as follows:

- 1. One Engine Company composed of no more than 80 men.
- 2. One Hook & Ladder Company composed of no more than 25 men.
- 3. Two Hose Companies composed of no more than 15 men each.

Each of these companies was to train once a month except in the Winter.

The Chief Engineer was in command of the department with his two assistants next in the chain of command.

The Engineer of Steamer was responsible for the fire engine and its care. His assistant was next in command. They were each paid \$120 year for their services.

The Fire Department was governed by its officers plus an elected Board of Officers. These officers would be elected the first Tuesday in July each year. The board consisted of:

- 1. The Chief Engineer
- 2. The First Assistant Engineer
- 3. The Second Assistant Engineer
- 4. The Department Secretary (elected)
- 4. The Department Treasurer (elected)
- 5. Two members from each company (elected)

Meetings of this board were held in the East room on the second floor of the new village council chambers the 1st Tuesday of each month. These meetings would be at 7:30 in the Winter and 8:00 in the Summer. Fifteen members constituted a quorum.

The company's by laws included:

- 1. Members must be at least 18 years of age.
- 2. Applications for new members from members only. 2/3 vote required.
- 3. Members must respond to all fires.
- 4. Must return all fire equipment after fire.
- 5. Theft would be punishable by termination.
- 6. Dereliction of duty punishable by termination.
- 7. Maximum of three months absence without proper excuse.
- 8. Quarreling on duty punishable by fine or termination.
- 9. Members must be notified of charges before dismissal.
- 10. Termination by 2/3 vote of members.
- 11. Reinstatement by 2/3 vote of members.
- 12. Only members may wear fire equipment. 25 cent fine if allowed.
- 13. Damage of fire equipment is a \$1 fine.
- 14. Disruption at a fire is a \$2 fine.
- 15. No civilians to be allowed in engine room.
- 16. All members must sign these articles.

The first meeting of this council was held on the 2nd of July. It was comprised of:

E Hause	Chairman
R B Hense	Secretary
W C Fitzsimmons	Chief
W Bordine	1 st Assistant
B P Anderson	2 nd Assistant
Robert Stretch	Engineer of Steamer
H E Stout	Assistant Engineer of Steamer

Hose Company #1

Fred Rosacrans	John Freeman
John S Anderson	S W Anderson
E Satterthwaite	D S Whitenack
F Dell Kinney	

Hose Company #2

E H Merritt	Jehiel Davidson
A Cummins	George Ketcham
J W Cole	W W Frazer
S W Burroughs	

The officers elected at this meeting were:

S P Hosmer	President
George Ketcham	Vice President
S W Anderson	Recording Secretary
J Calleway	Financial Secretary
Fred Rosacrans	Treasurer

The new fire engine arrived and a public demonstration was held at the Globe Mill Pond on the 4th of July. The engine was accepted and the village purchased one thousand feet of "White Anchor" hose and two plain "Hand" hose reels for a total price of \$3,600. The council ordered 300 extra ft of hose for \$264. This was to be paid off:

1. 1st payment of \$ 600 due on October 1, 1878.
2. 2nd payment of \$1,500 due on October 1, 1879.
3. 3rd payment of \$1,500 due on October 1, 1880.

The Herald reported this event as follows:

Our New Fire Engine

"We stated in last weeks Herald that the new La France Engine had arrived and that a trial would be made soon. On Wednesday evening, the fire company was formally organized and officers chosen and the company was then ready for business.

On the morning of the Fourth it was rainy, but towards noon the clouds disappeared and the Fire Department concluded to celebrate the National holiday by testing the new fire engine.

At one o'clock P M the fire bell called the Department to duty and the whole village turned out to see the fun. As there was no danger of pumping the Globe mill pond dry, they proceeded with the steamer to the west bank of the pond and at once commenced business.

The Engine took suction from the Globe pond and in a few minutes was forcing water through one hundred feet of hose and using 1 1/8 nozzle, threw a distance of 260 feet, the test being perfectly satisfactory to the committee. They then directed two leads of hose of three hundred and fifty feet each to be laid from the Engine and using 7/8 nozzles both streams were thrown with ease at a considerable height over the cupola of the Globe mill; this throw being horizontally one hundred and ninety-five feet. The third test was with hose laid up an incline of about thirty feet to the length of one thousand feet and with 1 1/8 nozzle she threw a distance of one hundred and seventy-three feet.

This test, considering length of hose, elevation and size of nozzle, is said to be one of the best, if not the best, on record, for the 4th class steamer.

The 4th test was two streams thro' five hundred feet of hose up same incline using 1/8 nozzles, when she threw one hundred and ninety-five feet each.

Several other tests were made thro' the thousand feet of hose, all of which were equally satisfactory. The engine was then taken to the street fire plugs and suction was taken there from and two lines of hose laid, three hundred feet each and with 1/8 nozzles two beautiful streams were thrown over the steeple of the M E church. One line of hose was then disconnected and the remaining line was moved to the Presbyterian church and a single stream was then thrown to some distance above the top of the spire, the spire being one hundred and fifty feet high and against quite a breeze, which was very evident at that height.

This completed the tests for this day and the engine was housed for the night. Everybody was pleased and many who opposed the purchase of a steamer were loud in her praise and favor and in expressions of willingness to 'pay their little tax' for her purchase.

On the morning of the 5th, the little beauty was again brought out and in order to please some of the doubting Thomas's, the engineer was requested to fill the elevated tank holding two thousand five hundred barrels of the new town water works, which he proceeded to do in the following manner, as directed by the committee. First the engine was placed on the bank of the creek two thousand feet distant from the tank, the tank being at an elevation of forty-five feet from where suction was taken at the creek; then a line of hose was laid and attached to the street main (being '1?' inch pipe) distant eight hundred feet from the tank, water was forced through the line of hose into the main and through the eight hundred feet of underground pipe and the tank filled, the water being forced through at the bottom against the pressure of water as it rose higher and higher in the tank, filling the tank at the rate of four hundred barrels an hour.

After this work had been easily and satisfactorily accomplished the gentlemen in charge of the steamer volunteered to give the committee and citizens who desired to see it, a display of fancy playing and to do which two lines of fifty feet of hose were laid and two "Siamese" attached and four lines of fifty feet each were then strung out and four beautiful

streams of water thrown with apparent ease to a distance of one hundred and nineteen feet each, which convinced all who saw it that she was a little giant and equal to any emergency, even with her four streams for any fire purpose.

The builders of this engine (La France Manufacturing Co at Elmira, New York) have claimed and proven to our fullest satisfaction that engines of their build are the simplest and most powerful Fire Engines made in this country or any other. They are of the rotary style, embodying improvements over the old Rotary or Silsby build of engines and which improvements have been endorsed by the highest authorities in these matters in this country and is the same make of engine that was retained by and is still in use at the "Permanent Exhibition" grounds at Philadelphia. Indeed the recommendation which was given the engine by the consulting engineer and superintendent of machinery department of the Centennial Exhibition had much influence in determining the decision of our fire committee in their choice of engines. That our citizens may appreciate the means and pains that was taken to guard their interests we give space to copy these reports in full, which were backed up by a large amount of collateral evidence and then the trial tests which we have given, we do think the committee have acted wisely and well and we feel to say thanks gentlemen, thanks.

We would here mention that the engine while on trial was operated the greater portion of the time by Mr Robert Stretch as engineer and by Mr H E Stout as assistant, who have been chosen by the Department for this purpose and neither of whom had ever before run a Fire Steamer. This also speaks volumes for the simplicity of her construction".

The first fire call for the newly reorganized fire department came on Tuesday the 3rd of September around 9 pm. Quoting the Herald article:

The First Fire

"Last Tuesday evening about 9 o'clock, the cry of fire ran through the town and the fire bell immediately took up and gave the alarm to the people and for the first time rang forth business in earnest for the firemen. No sooner had the bell sounded a few strokes than the running of the hose and engine boys toward the engine house could be heard.

They came in on a dead run and jumped to their places along with a number of volunteers. The hose carts were out in a twinkling and after them the engine, the smoke pouring forth. Away they sped to the fire, which was in the "old tannery" of Mr Bidwells. But alas, their expectations were blighted, their haste was in vain, their anticipations of an opportunity to show their skill were not realized. They breathless, strained their eyes to discover the fire but not a spark flew out to greet them. The fire had been extinguished and back the boys came from their first fire".

The article goes on to speculate that the dilapidated old tannery had been set afire by some youngsters as a prank. They found a bottle filled with kerosene at the scene. The article concludes:

"The boys deserved the praise and congratulations of all the citizens for their quick time; the bell had not stopped ringing before they started and they did not cease their running until they had pulled the engine and carts through the heavy streets to the tannery bridge.

Hose Company No 1 was the first to arrive and the first back. It is to be lamented that the Engineer and assistants were not in town to participate in the first trial. They are all in Chicago this week attending the fireman's tournament".

The council held meetings that Fall to make out a list of needed supplies, set up codes for fire signals and the need for new uniforms.

In December Chief Fitzsimmons resigned to run for village council. He was replaced by his first assistant S W Bordine. B P Anderson became 1st assistant and Jehiel Davidson became 2nd assistant. Charles Cummins replaced J Calleway as financial secretary.

Room was made on the first floor for the new fire engine while the hook & ladder wagons were stored in a barn owned by the Chief. The East door of the chambers had to be enlarged to accept the new fire engine.

An extension of the new fire main was laid South to the council building to provide a hydrant behind the building. This was an afterthought and cost the village extra.

The council ordered one carload of coal and one half barrel of Winter Strained Lard Oil for their new fire brigade. The lard oil to be used as a lubricant for the new fire engine and the new wind mill.

1879

The election was held on the 1st of July this year. Prior to the election George Ketcham resigned from the department as he was moving his family West in the near future. He was replaced as the VP for the interim by Herbert E Stint. The new council consisted of:

Elmer Hause	President
Charles T Cummins	Vice President
S W Anderson	Recording Secretary
Jehiel Davidson	Financial Secretary
Fred Rosacrans	Treasurer
S W Bordine	Chief Engineer
B P Anderson	1 st Assistant Engineer
Jehiel Davidson	2 nd Assistant Engineer
R Stretch	Engineer of Steamer
H E Stout	Assistant Engineer of Steamer

The council formed last year issued their official fire signals for the village. They decided to split the village into four fire districts using Chicago St and the Railroad tracks as the dividing lines.

District # 1 was the SE block where the council chambers were located.

District # 2 was the SW block across Evans from the chambers.

District # 3 was the NW block.

District # 4 was the NE block to Adamson's corner.

The signals were combinations of strokes of the fire bell. The alarm was to be rung for at least five minutes to alert as many as possible.

District # 1's code was single strokes with one second pause between.

District # 2's code was two strokes with one second pause between.

District # 3's code was three strokes with two second pause between.

District # 4's code was four strokes with two second pause between.

The brigade's only expenditures this year were minor repairs on one of the hose carts and \$50 for a special heater to keep the new fire engine's tank from freezing during the winter months.

The council however still had bills coming in. The bill for the installation of the new windmill came to \$325. And the roof of the council building was replaced. No reason is given for the need to replace it after only eight years. Sutton & Swan charged the village \$88.27 for the work.

The village also purchased a "Blvd. Lamp" to be placed in front of the council chambers from the Bartlet Lamp Mfg. Co..

It seems there was a fire at the Brewer foundry recently which the new fire brigade extinguished. To show his gratitude Mr Brewer donated \$50 to the fire department.

1880

Chief Bordine made some requests to the council this year. His first request was for a one hundred gallon tank to be installed at the fire station. It would be filled from the new hydrant behind the building and would give the department a back up supply of water in case of emergency. The council authorized this expenditure.

The second request was for uniforms for the officers and board members. His reasoning was that this would avoid confusion at a fire as to who was in charge. The council authorized the purchase of shirts, hats and bells for the board members.

The final request was for the village to buy its own team of horses to pull the fire engine. The council considered this a luxury it could not afford at this time.

The new fire engine required repairs by the La France Company. It is not known if this was scheduled preventive maintenance or there was an unexpected problem. Whatever the case, it cost the village \$30.65.

The Babcock fire extinguishers were checked out. It is not clear if this was the first time they had been checked since their purchase eight years ago.

The public use of the village's water system had become so popular the council was forced to issue rationing orders during the Summer to keep the main tank filled to at least eight feet. The new windmill couldn't keep up with the demand.

The council was forced to establish rules for public use of the water system.

1. All connections to the system will be done at the users expense.
2. All connections must be inspected by a member of the fire committee before use.

3. All customers will use a pipe no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter unless given special permission by the council. A diameter of two inches will be the maximum permitted.
4. The actual connection to the village water pipe will be made with lead or composite fasteners of the same diameter as the connecting pipe.
5. The yearly rates will depend on the usage. The rates ranged from \$1 a year for homes up to \$8 a year for businesses requiring large quantities of water.
6. The village retains the right to deny usage of the water system to private citizens when the supply tank level drops dangerously low.

1881

The Board of Officers elected this year were:

Elmer Hause	President
Charles T Cummins	Vice President
S W Anderson	Recording Secretary
Jehiel Davidson	Financial Secretary
Fred Rosacrans	Treasurer
S W Biraine ?	Chief Engineer
B P Anderson	1 st Assistant Engineer
S P Hosmer	2 nd Assistant Engineer
H E Stout	Engineer of Steamer
R Stretch	Assistant Engineer of Steamer

The Chief informed the council that the brigade had spent a total of \$255 last year. He then received permission to have the floor of the council chambers reinforced to better support the weight of the fire engine. It was also agreed that a hatchway would be cut in the floor to allow easier access to the fire engine's boiler flues for cleaning. He also reported that some of the new fire hydrants were leaking and received permission to have them repaired.

The council established a committee to look in to the purchase and maintenance of a village team of horses for the fire engine. They came up with the following:

1. Suitable team of horses from	\$ 350 to \$ 400
2. Heavy duty harness from	\$ 40 to \$ 45
3. Feed for rest of this year	\$ 150 to \$ 175
4. Heavy duty wagon	\$ 60 to \$ 65
5. Man hours	\$ 350 to \$ 400
6. Land for barn	\$ 350
7. Erection of brick barn	<u>\$ 500</u> to <u>\$ 600</u>
	\$1,800 to \$2,035

The council decided that they could not afford the village barn at this time but approved the rest. They appropriated \$500 for this purpose. The committee purchased:

1. One team of six year old bays	\$ 500
2. One set of extra heavy duty harness	\$ 50
3. One Jackson heavy duty wagon	\$ 62
4. Board for rest of year	<u>\$ 45</u>
	\$ 657

The committee authorized the extra \$157.

1882

Elmer Hause	President
Charles T Cummins	Vice President
S W Anderson	Recording Secretary
Jehiel Davidson	Financial Secretary
Fred Rosacrans	Treasurer
S W Bordine	Chief Engineer
B P Anderson	1 st Assistant Engineer
S P Hosmer	2 nd Assistant Engineer
H E Stout	Engineer of Steamer
F Dell Kinney	Assistant Engineer of Steamer
C T Cummins	Assistant Engineer of Steamer

The fire department report to the council indicated that they fought only five fires last year with losses totaling \$3,000. One of these fires was at William Hayden's "stair" factory for which he sent the department a thank you.

The fire engine was not available for a fire in July because of the lack of a driver. No mention of any repercussions from this incident. The Officers Board added two new rules to the code.

1. Anyone absent from practice twice in a row will be fined.
2. Anyone absent from practice three times in a row will be terminated.

Their expenditures this year included:

1. Repairs on the new windmill and pump on VanBuren	\$ 3
2. Painting of windmill and tank on Van Buren	\$ 14
3. New grates for fire engine	\$ 14
4. Five hundred feet of American Jacket fire hose	\$468.63
a. American Fire Hose Company	
5. Three new ladders	\$??
6. Printing of 500 certificates of membership	\$??
7. Installation of a fire hydrant and cistern at RR station	\$???

In an effort to help pay for their new equipment they put on a public demonstration with eighteen men from each company participating. It was described as "dramatic entertainment" in the council minutes.

1883

There are no new members to the board this year.

This would prove to be the quietest year since the new fire department had been formed. No new expenditures are noted and the only reference to the department is a citation sent to Slayton & Son for improper storage of Kerosene. Mr Slayton's excuse was that he had notified his neighbors and received their permission.

In an attempt to solve the freezing problem with the village water tank the village pays a Mr James Mitchel \$14.52 to build a furnace for the water tank. Unfortunately no specifics about this furnace are given.

The village water system was looked at to see if it's worth continuing to pour money into. No new expenditures were authorized until they receive a report. No mention as to who was doing this report.

1884

The board was reelected again. However Mr Hause was forced to resign as he was to be away for at least six months. His vice president T C Cummins was immediately elected President and George Kies was elected Vice President.

The only expenditure listed this year was five hundred more feet of fire hose.

A new member to the fire brigade was William Hayden.

The village hired John Messler as the village teamster at a salary of \$400 a year.

And the brigade joined the Michigan State Fire Association.

The water works were still causing problems. The leaking mains were finally fixed but other major repairs would still be needed. The council formed a special committee to look into the problem. They were to compare our system with other systems such as the one made by the Holly Water Works Company.

1885

Charles T Cummins	President
George A Kies	Vice President
S W Anderson	Recording Secretary
Fred Rosacrans	Treasurer
S W Bordine	Chief Engineer
B P Anderson	1 st Assistant Engineer
S P Hosmer	2 nd Assistant Engineer
H E Stout	Engineer of Steamer
F Dell Kinney	Assistant Engineer of Steamer
John Messler	Teamster

The only thing of note this year was a request for a "heater" for the engine house was made to the council.

The village teamster John Messler was injured seriously enough to be replaced by George Suell.

1886

George A Kies	President
John Orr	Vice President
Daniel J Hall	Recording Secretary
George Wilson	Financial Secretaru
Fred Rosacrans	Treasurer
S W Bordine	Chief Engineer
B P Anderson	1 st Assistant Engineer
S P Hosmer	2 nd Assistant Engineer
H E Stout	Engineer of Steamer
T C Cummins	Assistant Engineer of Steamer
William A Chiveral	Fireman
James Owen	Assistant Fireman

Hose Company #1

Fred Rosacrans	John Freeman
John S Anderson	S W Anderson
E Satterthwaite	Jehiel Davidson
James Elliott	John J Orr
H E Kennedy	H W Stevens
Daniel T Hall	M P Brown
R B House	E A Hodges
Thomas Elliott	Chester Haines
Thomas Kyle	Ed McKinney
Albert Hude	James McKinney

Engine Company

William DeMott	William C Jordan
William Hayden	

Expenditures this year were meager. The purchase of a "heater" for the engine house from the Silsby Manufacturing Company for \$165.06 was the big purchase. Undoubtedly a welcome addition. Three more new ladders cost \$62.50. It seems wooden ladders don't last long when fighting fires.

The board contracted with the local phone company to install an electric alarm bell in the Chief's house. They were charged \$15 for this installation.

There was a fire in the tower of the engine house on the 3rd of November causing \$160 in damages. The village took out an insurance policy on the council building for \$3,000 with the Commercial Fire Insurance Co. This policy had a premium of \$22.50 a year. It is not clear whether the policy was in force when the fire occurred or was taken out as a response to it.

And in December there was a large fire at the Clinton Woolen Mill to which Tecumseh sent its engine, one horse cart and sixteen men to help fight it.

1887

William Hayden	President
Thomas Elliott	Vice President
Daniel J Hall	Recording Secretary
George Wilson	Financial Secretaru
Fred Rosacrans	Treasurer
S W Bordine	Chief Engineer
B P Anderson	1 st Assistant Engineer
S P Hosmer	2 nd Assistant Engineer
H E Stout	Engineer of Steamer
T C Cummins	Assistant Engineer of Steamer
William A Chiveral	Fireman
James Owen	Assistant Fireman

New members include:

George Tansley	R A Heesen
Joe H Smith	James Aten

The big news this year is the resignation of Chief Bordine. No reason is given or who replaced him. Most likely everybody moved up one position and the second assistant position was filled at the next meeting. This means B P Anderson would have become Chief.

On a smaller and happier note John Messler had recovered from his injuries and returned to his duties as teamster.

The new alarm bell to the Chief's house had to be rebuilt at a cost of \$14.80. This could have been due to the change in Chief's and therefore the location of the repeater bell.

The department sent a delegation to the State Fireman's convention. They were H W Stevens, B P Anderson and George Kies.

The insurance policy on the council building was renewed with an extra thousand dollars added for its contents. This brought the yearly premium up to \$30.

The council also approved a sum of \$3,000 for the purchase of the lots North and East of the council building. This would give them room to expand the council building Northward and build the badly needed barn and storage buildings behind.

The new lot extended some 32 feet along Evans and approximately 178 feet along the alleyway behind the stores on East Chicago. The original council building was located in the South West corner of the lot.

The council allotted \$30 for furnishing the two new rooms assigned to the hose companies. They also paid Henry Mensing \$150 to build the new storage sheds.

It was also decided to add a one thousand barrel cistern with a force pump in the basement of the council building.

The special committee on the public water system hired an engineer named Baird to look into the problem. He was paid \$50 for his services. The only system mentioned in the minutes that he looked into was the one in Plainwell, Michigan. It utilized a 35 to 40 horsepower turbine water wheel powering a Walker pump producing some 180 pounds of pressure.

While all this was going on the old system was costing more and more. The windmill required further repair, the Brewer Company charging \$42.73 for said repairs. The system was also being extended eastward two blocks to Division Street or Globe Mill Hill as it was referred to. Iron pipe had been considered for this extension but it was decided to stay with four inch wooden pipe. They purchased this pipe from a Mechanical Pipe Company of Bay City, Michigan at a cost of \$469.58.

The water works committee convinced the council that a new water tank and windmill were absolutely necessary by describing the old one as "Rotten & Dilapidated". The council spent \$1.10 on ads in the Detroit Evening News seeking bids for the new system. Of those that responded the council chose the bid tendered by the U S Wind Engine & Pump Company of Batavia, Illinois.

New tank and piping	\$2,500.00
New lot	\$ 300.00
Unforseen extras	\$ 29.93

The council got a guarantee in writing on the new 30 by 16 foot wooden water tank before the contract was signed.

The new lot chosen was across from the original tank lot in Block 13 of Lot #5 of Hoeg's addition. The council also obtained a right of way to VanBuren Street.

As a part of the new tank project the council decided to extend the system along Pearl street adding four more hydrants

1888

Thankfully this was a quiet year for the fire department. In fact no mention is made in the council minutes about the department.

The old water system, however, continued to fall apart. A large leak in the water pipe from the old water tank was keeping the level in the tank at or below one foot. The windmill was no capable of overcoming the leak. And to add insult to injury the hydrant at Evans and Chicago sprung its own small leak.

On a happier note the new tank was under construction and the new line along Pearl was laid in April or May. Help was just around the corner.

1889

It was decided that the council building should have its own well and pump. They retained Mr E Pritchard to complete the work. He billed the village \$25 for his efforts but was only paid \$20 in lieu of an unpaid bill for a cemetery lot.

The department sent three representatives to the State Fireman's Convention this year. They are authorized \$10 each for the trip.

And guess what? The brand spanking new water tank had sprung a leak already. And to add insult to injury again someone had misplaced the village's copy of the written guarantee. It took several weeks to track it down but they finally got the installers to come back and fix the problem.

1890

The fire department had another slow year this year. They sent only two representatives to the State Fireman's Convention in Cadillac on May 1st at a cost of \$20 each. Prices were going up. The new water system was settling down finally and was reported in "fair" shape. Because the Globe Mill's "flume?" was down for repairs the hydrants on main street were used to sprinkle main street

William Hayden offered to let the village hook his pump at the Globe Mill into its system as an emergency backup. Unfortunately the wooden pipe being used was only rated up to 80 pounds per square inch. It wouldn't work.

And finally, Mr W E Gray was hired to take care of the Council Building, the wind mill and the new electric street lamps. His salary was \$200 a year.

1891

This year's expenditures included new lanterns, five hundred more feet of fire hose and \$48 worth of new harness for the village team. They also hired Fred Gessman as the new village teamster at a yearly salary of \$381.

The fire engine's gauges were acting up. No specifics are given or what was done to cure the problem.

A Mr Conely of the Muskegon Chemical Fire Engine Company made a presentation to the council for his chemical fire engine. The matter was given to a committee which took no action on the matter.

A Mr George Zimmerman was listed as an Assistant Engineer.

With the kinks barely worked out of the new water tank and windmill there was already a movement afoot to replace the whole system with a modern one. They pointed to the fact even the new tank and windmill were only listed in fair condition after another cold winter.

One suggestion was for a steam powered pump to be used with the existing tanks. But a large delegation of some 92 citizens had another idea. Lead by A L Brewer, H E Stout and H Heezen, they petition the council to look into a permanent water system like those already being enjoyed by other small Michigan towns. The council formed a committee to look into the situation.

D Shull – Chairman
Charles Bidwell

O P Bills
A L Brewer

The committee looked into systems at Hudson and Sturgis for ideas. Each town used a Holly system with Gordon pumps capable of one million gallons an hour. Such a system would cost approximately \$30,000 to install. The council retained the law firm of Watts, Bean & Smith to look into financing this project.

1892

The only mentions of the fire department this year was that “only \$35 was appropriated for the fireman’s convention and that Ed Gray had added caring for the Fire Engine to his list of duties.

The main theme this year was the new water works project. The loan issue was placed on the ballot in the regular March election, asking the voters to allow the village to sell \$35,000 in municipal bonds to fund the project. The Herald ran a long article in favor of the proposal, probably helping it to pass. The vote was 295 in favor with 181 against.

A Village Water Board was created on the 18th of April composed of:

Hudson Conkling as Chairman
George Heesen
E A Satterthwaite

The new board’s first act was to hire an engineer named W S Parker to look into the project and offer suggestions and estimated costs. His fee was \$500. The board also hired a C S Carpenter to dig a test well. No location was given for this well but in 4 ½ days of work he sunk his well some 150 ft without hitting water.

George Heesen left the board in May and was replaced by S P Hosmer.

The drama of the test well continued:

June 6 th	281 ft
June 20 th	Mr Carpenter’s contract was changed to \$1 per ft.
July 11 th	396 ft

This site was abandoned at this point. Mention was made of purchasing Lot 67 of Block Y for \$10. Permission to erect a stand pipe in Union Square was given on the 19th of September.

The council ran an ad in the Engineering News for bids on the water works project to be opened on the 4th of August. The ad cost them \$11.20.

The firm of Spitzer & Co of Toledo was hired on September 12th to handle the sale of the bonds. The bonds were guaranteed through the Chase National Bank of N Y. The initial \$5,000 in bonds was sent to Spitzer & Co on September 19th with the rest sent on the 28th.

These bonds paid 5% interest on each \$1,000 investment. The original payback plan was on a five year schedule:

\$4,000 to be paid by 1 Jan 1898
\$4,000 to be paid by 1 Jan 1903
\$4,000 to be paid by 1 Jan 1908
\$5,000 to be paid by 1 Jan 1913
\$6,000 to be paid by 1 Jan 1916
\$6,000 to be paid by 1 Jan 1922

This plan was changed to:

\$1,000 per year from 1896 to 1914
\$2,000 per year from 1915 until the debt is paid off

The C J & M RR Depot grounds were leased for the waterworks on October 3rd for \$5 a year.

1893

The Fire Department consisted of:

S N Bordine – chief	William H Hayden - President
P Anderson - 1 st Assistant	B J Garlinghouse – Vice President
S P Hosmer – 2 nd Assistant	D T Hall – Secretary
B A Garlinghouse	Fred Rosacrans – Treasurer
R A Heesen	C E Williamson – Financial Secretary
James McKinney	George H Tansley
J H Smith	J L Anderson
James H Aten	C A Slayton
J A Boyd	E Neubold Satterthwaite
H T Richter	George E Wilson
M A Zimmerman	Charles A Wright
W J C Hastings	P V Woodward
Frank Purdy	James Elliott
Michael Eckert	Thomas Elliott
J J Orr	Joe Crosby

The only two things of note this year was another \$30 allotment for the State Fireman's convention and the village was advertising the old steam fire engine was for sale. It seems fifteen years is a long time for a steam fire engine. It is strange that no mention of the purchase of a new engine is to found.

The new water system was progressing right along this year. The village council notes don't give progress reports, as such, but they do keep track of the bills as they came in:

George T Blake Mfg Company	\$1,385.00
Lake Shore Foundry	\$3,000.00
Lansing Iron & Engine Wrks – C F Patterson agent	
Snyder & Williams	\$ 535.00
Pittmans & Dean Co	\$ 68.75
Michigan Supply Co	\$ 229.33
Thompson Meter Co	\$ 32.50

It was reported that the village owed \$1,876.40 on the project in May of this year.

We know the storage tank was in place by August as the council passed an ordinance prohibiting the unauthorized climbing of it. Kids will be kids.

The council purchased a 6'x12' lot just North of the new well from a David Dryefuss for \$250. They must have needed it very badly to pay that much for it.

The village paid \$875 in interest for the last six months.

A note of interest in that the "Knights of the Maccabees?" donated \$48 towards the placing of a drinking fountain downtown. The fountain was in place on the corner of Ottawa and Chicago by the first part of September. It was immediately dubbed the "Maccabee Fountain".

1894

Chief Bordine's fire department was having another quiet year. The council approved the making of two new keys for the engine house. One was to be hung on the North side of the door with the other to be kept at Harris & Hiteshu's across the street. It also ordered the construction of a new two-horse hose carriage. Using specs from a carriage used by the Hillsdale F D, Thomas Elliott & W H Smith built the new carriage for \$260. This may very well be the wagon in the 1894 photo of the fire department on the cover.

The council was still trying to sell the old fire engine. In May it took out a one week ad in the Detroit Engineering News looking for a buyer.

The new water system seems to be up and running as the old system was being sold piece by piece. The windmills from the old system were for sale, one being purchased by a Mr Joseph Russell. The purchase was on the condition that he remove the windmill and fill in the well. The water tanks were sold to the Cincinnati-Jackson & Mackinaw Railroad for \$1,700. They paid \$500 down and the remainder within sixty days. And finally the old fire hydrants were removed in the Fall at a cost of 50 cents each.

And of course the bills keep coming in. A surveyor named A Richard was paid \$2 for a half days work and an engineer named C A Hooten was being paid \$40 a month for his work on the system. No specifics about either task is given. The Michigan Supply Co was paid \$19.80 for pipe and supplies. \$9.87 worth of oil was purchased from the Monitor Oil Co. And finally, the Tecumseh Fence Co was commissioned to erect a fence around the new pumping station. They charged \$10.35 for this work.

1895

The council instituted new fire codes within the village limits. These limits were Logan St on the North, Pottawatamie St on the South, Oneida St on the East and Pearl St on the West. These codes specified that:

1. No new wooden structures to be built without brick, stone or cement siding and slate, tile, metal, asbestos or gravel roofs.
2. No existing wooden structure to be moved into the district without written permission of the council.
3. Council permission was also needed for:
 - A. Adding to an existing building.
 - B. Operating a steam boiler.
 - C. Operating a steam engine.

These codes took effect on the 20th of June with \$10 fines and/or 10 to 60 days in the county jail for each infraction. The only exception to these rules was for buildings less than 8 x 8 x 8.

The Chief asked for and was given permission to purchase a "swinging" harness. The collar was purchased from Gleason & Bailey Manufacturing Company for \$24. The rest of the harness was produced locally for \$56. No description of this special harness is given.

The new water system was now working well, a break in the new main having been quickly repaired. There were 129 taps on the system as of January with revenues of \$1,041.87. Unfortunately the due bills amounted to \$1,264.84. By March the water board was over \$1,800 to the good.

Of course the bills kept coming in.

Illinois Malleable Iron Company	\$ 14.95
H Mueller Company	\$ 53.46
Thompson Meter Company	\$ 16.90
Crane Company – well supplies	\$130.33
Detroit Lead Pipe Works	\$ 37.22
Lake Shore Foundry – water pipe	\$ 71.35
Ohio Central Fuel Company – coal	\$?? .??
The Cook Well Company – strainers	\$149.25

The systems well was insufficient for the demand so two new eight inch wells were completed in September.

1896

Things are still slow for the fire department. The main concern seems to have been storing the old fire engine. They were paying a Mr E W Cairnes \$8.25 a year for the use of his building. The council finally decided to build its own storage shed behind the council chambers in which to store the engine.

The fireman's convention was in Ithica this year. Only one delegate from Tecumseh went at a cost of \$18.50.

Little mention is made of the new water works this year. The water board was requiring plumbers working on the system be bonded. D L Whitenack & Co was bonded for \$500.

1897

The fire departments big splash for this year was the purchase of 500 feet of Eurika double jacket cotton fire hose from H D Edwards Co of Detroit for 50 cents a foot.

The water works now had 177 clients, each paying what is termed water rental fees. They also payed a tap fee when they were hooked up to the system. And of course the plumbers license fees were added in to help pay the interest on those municipal bonds.

1898

The fire department officers this year were:

B J Garlinghouse - President	C E Williamson – Chief
Thomas Elliott – Vice President	Joseph Crosby – 1 st Assistant
G H Tansley - Secretary	George A Tansley – 2 nd Assistant
Fred Rosacrans – Treasurer	

The Chief requested rubber clothing for his men and an automatic fire alarm for the fire house.

And for the first time in quite a while no mention was made of the water works.

1899

The Chief finally got permission to purchase the rubber coats and boots he requested last year. A spending limit of \$2.50 per pair of boots was set by the council.

A new team of 4 year olds was purchased for \$362.80. A new stable was erected behind the council bldg to house them. It must have been getting crowded back there with all the out buildings.

The fire convention was held in Grand Rapids this year. Two delegates were sent at a cost of \$40.

1900

The new century began quietly for the Tecumseh Fire Department. The only mention in the Council minutes was the death and subsequent burial of a team of horses. The bill came to \$2.

AMENDED CHARTER

OF THE

VILLAGE OF TECUMSEH.

The first Charter of the Village of Tecumseh, being Act No. 45, of the Session Laws of 1837, was entirely superseded by Act No. 84, of 1859, as follows:

BOUNDARIES.

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "an act to incorporate the Village of Tecumseh."

SECTION 1. *The People of the State of Michigan enact*, That the act entitled "an act to incorporate the Village of Tecumseh," be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

(1.) SECTION 1. *The People of the State of Michigan enact*, That all that tract of country situate within the township of Boundaries, Tecumseh, in the county of Lenawee, described as follows, to wit: The northeast quarter of section thirty-three, the southeast quarter of section twenty-eight, and the south half of the northeast quarter of said section twenty-eight, the southwest quarter and the south half of the northwest quarter, the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, and the west half of the southeast quarter of section twenty-seven, and the northwest quarter, and the west half of the northeast quarter of section

the village, and make regulations concerning the same; to employ all persons confined for the non-payment of any fine, penalty, forfeiture or costs, or for any offense under this act, or any ordinance of the common council, in any jail, work-house, or prison, at work or labor either within or without the same, or upon any street or public work under the control of the common council; to allow any person thus confined for the non-payment of any fine, penalty, forfeiture of costs, to pay and discharge the same by such work and labor, and to fix the value and price of such work and labor. The said common council shall have power to make all such other by-laws, ordinances or regulations as they may deem necessary for the good government of said village.

Fines.

By-Laws.
Act 13, 43.

(46.) Art. 5. The common council shall have power to make

Fire Protec-

tion.
Act 59, 217.

Fire buckets.

Fire engines.

Fire compan-

ies.
Act 217.

all such by-laws and ordinances as they shall deem necessary and proper to secure said village and the inhabitants thereof against injuries by fire; to compel the owners or occupiers of buildings to procure and keep in readiness such number of fire-buckets as they may direct; to establish, maintain and regulate all such fire-engine, hook and ladder, and hose and bucket companies as they may deem expedient; to construct reservoirs, and provide such companies with necessary and proper buildings, engines and other implements to prevent and extinguish fires; to appoint from among the inhabitants of said village such number of persons, not exceeding eighty to one company, as are willing to accept, or as may be deemed proper to be employed as firemen; and every such company shall have power to appoint its own officers, and to pass by-laws for its organization and government, subject to the approval of the common council, and to impose and collect such fines for the non-attendance or neglect of duty of its members as may be deemed necessary and proper; and every person belonging to such company shall annually obtain from the recorder a certificate, which shall be *prima facie* evidence of his membership for one year from the date thereof. Every member of such company during his membership, shall be exempt from service on juries, from military or naval duties, duty in time of peace, and from payment of a poll tax.

Members ex-
empt from
certain duties.

(47.) Art. 6. The common council shall have power, and it shall be their duty to adopt measures for the preservation of the public health of said village; to restrain or prohibit the exercise of any unwholesome or dangerous avocation within the limits of the village; to establish a board of health and to invest it with

Public health.
Act 200, 236.

Board of
health.
Act 200.

if present at such fire. Said second assistant engineer shall be foreman of said engine company.

(230.) 3. The said first and second assistant engineers shall take and have (under said chief,) general charge of all the fire apparatus at fires, and shall cause all orders of their said chief to be executed with all consistent speed.

(231.) 4. It shall also be their duty to see that the fire engine and all other fire apparatus of said fire department and the buildings in which the same are kept, and all things appertaining thereto are kept clean and neat and ready for instant use.

(232.) 5. It shall be the duty of the engineer of steamer to have charge of and run the engine (under said chief,) and perform such other duties as shall be required of him by the by-laws, rules and regulations of said department and of said engine company, and in the absence of the assistant engineer shall select a fireman.

(233.) 6. It shall be the duty of the assistant engineer of steamer to assist the said engineer in his duties as to said engine, and shall perform said engineer's duties in case of his absence, and shall also perform the duties of fireman of said steamer engine. In the absence of the engineer of steamer, said assistant engineer shall select a fireman.

(234.) 7. And the said president, vice president, secretary, financial secretary, and treasurer, shall perform the duties prescribed and by them to be respectively performed in the constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations of said fire department, and of the aforesaid companies of which they be members respectively.

(235.) SEC. 5. 1. There is hereby constituted a board of officers consisting of the chief, the first and second assistant engineers, the treasurer and secretary of said department, and two members of each of said companies to be thereto appointed by said companies respectively.

(236.) 2. The chief engineer shall be presiding officer. He shall have power to call meetings of said board as he shall deem proper. He shall also call a meeting of said board when thereto requested in writing by any two members thereof. The secretary of said department shall be clerk of such board.

(237.) 3. Said board shall have power to make rules and regulations for governing themselves, and may submit rules and regulations for the adoption of said department or any company

thereof, not inconsistent with section one of this ordinance, and shall hear and determine all charges against members of said department or any company thereof, for a breach of said by-laws, rules and regulations of said department, or of any company thereof.

(238.) SEC. 6. 1. The said fire department shall on the first Tuesday in July in each year, between the hours of six and ten o'clock P.M., select by ballot suitable persons from the members of said department to the respective offices constituted and enumerated in section two of this ordinance and forthwith submit the result of such election to the common council for approval, and should said council withhold its approval of any such selection so made and submitted by said department, or should a vacancy occur from any cause in said enumerated offices, said fire department shall within two weeks after said council shall so withhold its approval, or said vacancy occur, as the case may be, proceed as aforesaid to select other members of said department to fill such offices, and forthwith and in like manner as before submit the results to said council for approval, and shall so proceed in manner aforesaid until officers suitable to said council are selected, and provided said department shall neglect or fail to select and submit the results to said council as aforesaid, said council at its option shall appoint any suitable person to fill such offices until the next annual election of officers prescribed in this section of this ordinance.

(239.) SEC. 7. Upon the breaking out of any fire in said village, the marshal and his deputies shall immediately repair to the place of such fire and shall aid and assist in the extinguishment thereof. It shall be their especial duty to exert their authority and vigilance to preserve the public peace, to prevent any goods from being stolen, also to remove and secure the same, also to remove from the vicinity of such all idle, disorderly or suspected persons.

(240.) SEC. 8. The hook and ladder company under the direction of the chief engineer or other officer then having command of any such fire, may with the consent of a majority of the common council of said village, being together present at such fire, to give consent and then and there giving such consent, cut down and remove any building for the purpose of checking the progress of the fire.

(241.) SEC. 9. It shall be the duty of the respective

Annual election, time of.

Result submitted to council for approval.

Approval withheld.

Council to appoint officers, when.

Duty of marshal and his deputies shall at fires.

Preserve peace.

Secure goods.

Suspicious persons.

Hook and ladder company to remove buildings, when.

companies of said fire department whenever any fire breaks out on breaking in said village and upon command of said chief engineer or out of fire person acting as such, or upon the ringing of the fire bell of Duty of said village to repair immediately to their respective fire apparatus, companies, and convey the same to or near the place where such fire shall happen, or place where said chief or person in command shall direct, and shall then and there under the direction of said chief or person in command work and manage such engine, hose, hooks and ladders and other apparatus with all their skill and ability, and to the end that such fire be speedily extinguished; and shall not remove such apparatus therefrom but by the direction of said chief or person acting in his stead, and when so directed by said chief or commanding officer at such fire shall return such apparatus to the respective places of deposit, and as extinguished, speedily as possible thereafter have such apparatus clean and ready for instant use.

(242.) 2. And for the more effectual perfecting the said members of said fire department in their duties, and for the purpose of working and examining said engine and other apparatus and implements with a view of their perfect order and repair, it shall be the duty of each of said companies of said department to assemble once in each month when the season of the year will permit, and also as often as may be directed by the common council of said village of Tecumseh, for the purpose of working said apparatus and exercising their men under the command of said chief, or in his absence such officer whose duty it shall be to command, and at such time in each month and place in said village as said chief shall designate. But when directed by the common council as in this section of this ordinance aforesaid, the common council shall designate the time and place.

(243.) 3. Any member of said fire department who shall willfully neglect his duty at a fire in said village or shall refuse to obey the lawful order of the chief or officer in command at such fire or shall be drunk at such fire, shall be expelled after conviction before the board of officers, from said fire department.

(244.) Sec. 10. 1. It shall be lawful when necessary for any member of the common council or chief engineer of said fire department or person acting in his stead to require the aid of any inhabitant of said village to assist in drawing any engine or

In extinguish- apparatus to or from any fire in said village, also to assist in the ment of fire. extinguishment of such fire.

(245.) 2. It shall be lawful when necessary at a fire in said village, for any member of the common council, and also for the marshal of said village, to require the aid of any inhabitant of said village in removing and guarding property thereat, and any person other than a member of said council who shall refuse to obey such order of said chief or other person in command or of any member of the common council or of said marshal, shall in the absence of a good and sufficient excuse be liable to pay, and shall pay on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace of the township of Tecumseh, a fine not exceeding ten dollars and cost of prosecution.

In removing and guarding property. Sec. 11. 1. The engine house or place of deposit of the said fire apparatus of said village shall be the first floor of the council building, (so called,) until said council determines otherwise, which floor must be so used and occupied by said fire department, as not to interfere or impede the marshal of said village, nor his deputies in the access and use of said engine room or floor for the purpose of securing therein, as hitherto, the persons who from time to time may be in custody or under arrest.

Penalty for refusing aid. (246.) Sec. 12. Whenever at any fire in said village any of the fire apparatus of said village shall need repair, it shall be the duty of said chief or the person in command if he deem it necessary to order such repairs made at once; and at any time when said apparatus shall need ordinary repairs not exceeding an expense of five dollars it shall be his duty to cause the same to be made at once in a proper manner, and when in his judgment a greater expenditure for repairs shall be necessary, he shall report the same to the common council.

Where apparatus to be kept. (247.) 2. The said fire department and said companies shall hold their meetings respectively in the east room of the second story of said council building, which said east room is hereby appropriated for the uses and purposes of a firemen's hall, but for no other use or purpose without the consent of said council first obtained.

Fireman's hall. (248.) Sec. 13. The fire apparatus of said village shall not be removed without the request of the authorities of a neighboring city or village, in which event said apparatus may be so removed when.

Repair of apparatus. Apparatus not removed without the request of the authorities of a neighboring city or village, in which event said apparatus may be so removed when.

Apparatus not removed without the request of the authorities of a neighboring city or village, in which event said apparatus may be so removed when.

Apparatus not removed without the request of the authorities of a neighboring city or village, in which event said apparatus may be so removed when.

with the consent of the majority of the members of the common council and said chief engineer; and excepting also in the case of a fire in the near vicinity of said corporate limits, when said apparatus may be so removed to such fire with the consent of the committee on fire and fire limits or a majority of such committee and also of said chief engineer. No persons other than members of the common council or said fire department shall be in the engine room, except as stated in section eleven of this ordinance unless authorized by said council or said chief, or in the presence of a member of said council or one of the officers of said department enumerated in section two of this ordinance.

(250.) Sec. 14. No fire company, person or persons shall run their engine, hose cart, or hook and ladder trucks along or upon any of the sidewalks of said village when going to or returning from a fire, or at any other time, unless ordered so to do by the said chief or person in command. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section of this ordinance shall on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace of the township of Tecumseh pay a fine of not exceeding ten dollars and costs of suit or be imprisoned in the jail of Lenawee county not exceeding ten days.

(251.) Sec. 15. No person shall ride or get upon any steam engine, hose carts or hook and ladder trucks of said department riding on apparatus, going to, or returning from any fire or an alarm of fire, nor upon any other occasion without permission of said chief. Any person offending against these provisions of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding five dollars and costs of suit, or by imprisonment in the aforesaid jail not exceeding five days for each offense.

(252.) Sec. 16. Any person who shall willfully drive on or across any hose of said village with wagon, buggy or other vehicle, or willfully injure any hose or hose cart, hook, ladder, truck or trucks, engine, or other fire apparatus of said village, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars and costs of suit, or imprisonment in the Lenawee county jail not exceeding sixty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF SHADE AND ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS. Passed May 19, 1879. (253.) SEC. 1. Be it ordained by the Common Council of the

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