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Ordinance No. 119

For the Government of the Fire Department

Be it ordained by the Board of Trustees of the incorporated town of Las Animas.

Article 1

Section 1.

This department is created by the Board of Trustees of the town of Las Animas for the purpose of preventing and extinguishing fires, and the rules and regulations for its government, may be, and can only be altered and amended from time to time by that body as they shall deem expedient, upon proper application by the fire marshal, or his representative in charge of the department.

Section 2.

The officers of this department shall consist of one fire marshal and one assistant fire marshal, who shall be elected by the Board of Trustees at the first regular meeting of that body in the month of April of each year; and also one foreman and one assistant foreman for each organized company in the department as may be determined upon, who shall be elected as the members of said company see fit.

Article 2

Section 1

It shall be the duty of the fire marshal to take immediate direction and control of the fire department, subject to the rules and regulations provided by the Board of Trustees; to make a semi-annual report to the said Board of Trustees at the first regular meetings of that body in the months of April and September of each year, of the State and efficiency of the fire department

and apparatus including in said report a schedule of all property belonging to said fire department; also, to give, as near as possible, the number of fire alarms, damages caused by fires, and the immediate cause of any fire, and shall accompany such report with such recommendations as he may deem proper, and of interest to the department, he shall also inspect publically on the first Thursday in May and November of each year, the fire organization of the town, and perform such other duties pertaining to the welfare of the department and the public G* as the Board of Trustees may direct.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of the assistant fire marshal to aid the fire Marshal in the discharge of the obligations of his office and in his absence to be clothed with the same powers as the fire marshal and perform all the duties of his office.

Section 3

In the absence of the fire marshal and his assistant, the foreman of the oldest organized company present shall take the command and possess the same powers as the fire marshal.

Section 4

It shall be the duty of Foreman of companies to keep strict watch over all apparatus under their control, and have the same in good working order and in readiness for immediate use. They shall also see that the building or room provided for the use of the company is kept in a clean condition, reporting to the fire marshal all necessary alterations or repairs, and to have the room and apparatus at all times in readiness for the inspection of the fire marshal, his assistant, or the members of the Board of Trustees.

Section 5

It shall be the duty of the assistant foreman to assist the foreman in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence, they shall, according to their respective rank, be clothed with the same power and perform the duties appertaining to his office.

Section 6

It shall be the duty of each individual member of the department to hold himself at all times in readiness for immediate action in case of fire or fire alarm, inless prevented by sickness or absence from the town; to treat with respect and cheerfully obey the orders of his superior officers at all times, and to maintain and support to the best of his ability, the rules and regulations of the department and the constitution and by laws of the company to which he belongs.

Article 3

Section 1.

Each and every officer or member of a company in command of the same, shall be held responsible for his actions while occupying such position or for any wilful neglect of duty or violation of any order from the fire marshal or the assistant fire marshal and any officer or member of the department or other person who, during the time of any fire shall neglect or refuse to obey the order or orders of his superior officers, shall be liable for each offense to the infliction of such penalty as is hereinafter provided.

Section 2.

No Company officer or other person in command of a company will be allowed to move his company from the scene of any conflagration whether the fire shall have been extinguished or not, until he shall have first obtained the consent of the fire marshal or his representative in charge and no individual member of the department will be allowed to do so unless he shall first obtain the consent of the officer in command of the company to which he belongs.

Section 3

Company officers are required to prevent any racing by their companies, or any other conduct that may be likely to cause a breach of the peace or reflect discredit upon the department.

Section 4

Any company finding in its possession any hose, ladder, axe, or any other tool, implement, or apparatus belonging to any other company, shall at

once return the same to the Company to which it belongs.

Article 4

In all cases of fire, the hose Company or any number there of who shall first reach the public hydrant with the necessary hose to attach to the same shall be entitled to the use of the hydrant and any person who shall attempt to hold possession of any hydrant without the hose at hand for the immediate use or who shall refuse to let the water be turned on, or who, having a key in his possession, shall refuse to use it to turn on or shut off the watershall, on conviction, be liable to such penalty as is hereinafter provided.

Section 2.

When a fire is in progress, the fire marshal, or his representative in command may with the advice of such members of the Board of Trustees as may be present, or in case there are more present and in his Judgment he may deem it necessary order such building or buildings as are in close proximity thereto to be pulled down, blown up, or otherwise destroyed for the purpose of checking the progress of the conflagration; but any act on the part of the fire marshal or any officer or member of the department, be using any resemblance to the wanted destruction of property will meet with the severest punishment.

Section 3.

Any member of the department who shall willfully turn a stream of water, or cause the same to be done, on any person or persons, on any goods or other property susceptible of damage by water, except in case of imminent necessity, shall be subject to such punishment as hereinafter provided; nor will any person whether a member of the department or not, be allowed needlessly to handle the hose, stream of water, hydrant or other apparatus.

Article 5.

Section 1.

Any officer or member of the fire department or other person who shall give or cause to be given in any manner whatever, a public alarm of fire, unless he can show that he had the best of reasons for beleiveing that there was, at the time of giving such alarm, a fire in progress that was in imminent danger of destroying property, to the detorment of property owners in the town, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction, shall be fined in a sum not less than twenty five nor more than one hundred dollars.

Article 6.

Section 1.

In case of a fire, or alarm of fire in the town wherether services of the department are called into requisition, and any loaded wagon, cast, carriage, or shreet car, or other railcar, or any other vehicle, be driven over the hose belonging to this department, the driver or owner or owners of such vehicle, shall upon conviction be fined in such sum as hereinafter provided and any officer or member of the department who shall willfully drive or run a hose cart hook or hook and ladder truck, or other vehicle over the hose, or cause the same to be done, unless the same can not be avoided shall be subject to such punishment as is hereinafter avoided.

Section 2.

The fire marshall shall be distinguished while on duty by a silver or white metal speaking trumpet, bearing one black band and the wards "#Fire Marshal" and in addition to this it shall be proper for him to wear a white band on the hat bearing the wards "Fire Marshal" together with an appropriate badge on the left breast. The badge or insignia worn or carried by the assistant marshal white on duty shall differ from those of the fire marshal only, in that the speaking trumpet shall have two black bands and the words "Assistant Marshal" upon it. The band upon the hat shall be

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193

Fire Hose
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blue with the words "Assistant Marshal" and a badge worn upon the left breast.

These officers shall always be required to keep one of the above named badges conspicuous while on duty, and unless they do no order given by them to any person not a member of the department shall be considered binding.

Section 3

No officer or member of the department shall be allowed under any circumstances to lend, sell or give any person or persons not belonging to be department, any portion of his uniform or any badge or insignia which usually designate the wearer thereof as a member of the fire department.

Section 4.

No fire apparatus shall be let out for hire or loaned in any case without the consent of the fire marshal, more will his consent be sufficient to allow any portion of the apparatus of any company of the department to go outside of the town limits unless authorized so to do by the Mayor or a majority of the Board of Trustees. *out of town*

Section 5

No officer or member shall be allowed to contract any debt in the name of the department, except on the written order of the Fire Marshal or his representative in charge.

Section 6

Any person or persons who shall hitch a horse or horses on other animals to, or pile goods around, or in any manner obstruct the use of the public hydrants situated within the incorporated limits of the town of Las Animas, shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars for each offense.

Article 7

Section 1

Any officer or member of the fire department found intoxicated while on duty, either at a fire or on a public parade, or at any ball given under the auspices of the fire department or any organization of said department shall be liable to suspension, expulsion or public reprimand in the discretion of the fire marshal or his assistant in charge, after due conviction by the court of inquiry to be composed of the assistant fire marshal and two members selected by the fire marshal from each company, a majority of said board being sufficient to convict, and it shall be the duty of the foreman of each company to report within ten days any case of intoxication coming to his notice to the superior officer in charge of the department.

Section 2

Any person or persons not members of the fire department who shall interfere with the officer in charge of the department, or in any way obstruct such officer or members of the department in the discharge of their duty at any time shall upon conviction, be fined in a sum not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars for each officer.

Section 3

Any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall upon conviction be fined in any sum not less than twenty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars besides the cost of the prosecution.

Section 4

A Copy of this ordinance shall be furnished the foreman of each organization and shall be by him posted in some conspicuous place in the building or room provided for his company.

Section 5

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 6

This ordinance shall take effect five days after its publication in the Bent County Democrat, the official paper of the town of Las Animas.

*Ord
119
Pg 4*

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119
Pg 3-1*

NOTE:

Passed at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the incorporated town of Las Animas, a majority of the whole member of the members elected to said board concurring by the following vote, yeas: W.H.Stone, G.E.McCauley, T.H.Marshal, W.B.Peart, Nays: none.

April 1, 1896
Attest:
H.J.Jacquart
Clerk & Recorder

Approved
W.H.Stone
Mayor Pres Tem

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QUILL