

## BOSTON TOWN RECORDS, 1778.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, duely qualified and legally warned, in public Town Meeting assembled at Faneuil Hall, on the 20 Day of January Anno Domini 1778

The Article in the Warrant, Viz: "To determine on the Request of the Fire Wards, That some effectual Measures may be taken to put the Enginemen upon such a Footing, as that the several Engines may be properly attended, & taken care of, as the preservation of the Town, in case of fire, greatly depends upon it" — was read, together with the Recommendation of the Fire Wards, relative to the Encouragement which it might be proper to afford the Engine-Men — and the same being considered —

Voted, that the Selectmen be a Committee to consider & report upon this Matter, & also what will be a sufficient Premium for such Companies, as bring their Engines to work *first* upon the Fire that may break out in any Building in this Town. —

[148.] Town met, according to Adjournment, January 21<sup>d</sup>. 10 O'Clock Ante Meridiem. —

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Article in the Warrant, relative to the Engine Companies — also the Recommendation of the Fire Wards, with respect to said Companies — was read — Whereupon

Voted, that the farther Consideration of this Report be referred over to the Adjournment of this Meeting. —

January the 23<sup>d</sup>. 10 'Clock, met according to the Adjournment. —

The Report of the Committee chosen to consider the Article in the Warrant, relative to Engine Men, & also the Proposal of the Fire Wards, respecting the Engine Companies — was again read — and also the Amendment proposed — After considerable Debate thereon, it was moved, & the Question accordingly put, That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next, being the 26<sup>th</sup> Instant, 10 O'Clock Before Noon, which passed in the Affirmative, and the Meeting was accordingly adjourned

Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Day of January, 10 'Clock A M. met according to Adjournment. —

The Committee appointed & report on the Article of the Warrant, relative to the Engine Companies, & the Recommendation of the Fire Wards, again Report with the Amendment Viz'. — That they have conferred with the Captains of the several Engine Companies, & find, That nothing short of a total Exemption from all

Military Duty will be sufficient to satisfy & encourage the Men belonging to those Companies — They would therefore propose, that Application be made to the General Court; that, in Consideration of the great Quantity of Stores belonging to the State & Continent, stored in this Town, together with the valuable Buildings, the Property of the State, the Enginemen, necessary for the Town under these Circumstances, may be deducted from the Number of the Inhabitants, & not subject to raise their Proportion of any Draughts of Men, or do any Military Duty, excepting in Cases of Alarm, when they are ready to appear & do their Duty, as the Law directs. — And as a farther Encouragement, the Committee propose, that the Premium [150.] For the Engine Company, who first bring their Engine to work first upon any Fire which shall break out in any Building in this Town, shall be advanced to Three Pounds Lawful Money. —