

curred, including a reasonable compensation for counsel fee, not exceeding twenty dollars, to be fixed by the Court or by agreement of the clerk and the person interested therein.

27. When any real estate shall be sold for the payment of taxes in arrear, it shall be the duty of the clerk to report the said sale under oath, together with all the proceedings had in relation thereto to the Circuit Court for Dorchester County. The Court shall examine the said proceedings, and if the same appear to be regular and provisions of the law in relation thereto have been substantially complied with, it shall order notice to be given by advertisement, published in such newspaper or newspapers as the court shall direct, warning all persons interested in the property sold to be and appear by a certain day, in the said notice to be named, to show cause, if any they have, why said sale shall not be ratified and confirmed; and if no cause or an insufficient cause be shown against said ratification, the said sale shall, by order of said court, be ratified and confirmed and the purchaser shall, on payment of the purchase money, have a good title to the property sold; but if good cause, in the judgment of said Court, be shown in the premises, the said sale shall be set aside, in which case the said clerk shall proceed to a new sale of the property, and shall bring the proceeds into court, out of which the purchaser shall be repaid the purchase money by him to the said clerk paid on said rejected sale, and all taxes assessed on said real estate and paid by the purchaser after said sale and all costs and expenses properly incurred under said sale and in said court, with interest on all such sums from the time of payment; and if the purchaser has not paid the purchase money or costs or any subsequent taxes, said proceeds shall be applied to the payment of taxes for which said property may have been sold, and all subsequent taxes due thereon and in arrear, with interest on the same according to law, and also the costs of the proceedings; but said sale shall not be set aside if the provisions of the law shall appear to have been substantially complied with, and the burden of the proof shall be on the exceptant to show the same to be invalid; and when any sale shall have been finally ratified by the court, as herein provided, the order of ratification shall be conclusive as to the regularity of the clerk's proceedings therein of said sale, and shall not be open to inquiry except in case of fraud or collusion in said proceedings and sale on the part of or between the clerk and the purchaser.

28. That the said Mayor and Council of Hurlock shall annually appoint a bailiff and may also appoint under bailiffs, as from time to time may be necessary to preserve the good order of the town. The said bailiff shall execute all orders of