

possession of the property so condemned, upon first paying to the Clerk of the Court the amount of said reward and all costs taxed to that date, notwithstanding any appeal or further proceedings upon the part of the defendant. At the time of said payment, however, the Commission shall give its corporate undertaking to abide by and fulfill any judgment in such appeal or further proceedings.

177. Whenever twenty-five property owners, residing in any locality in St. Mary's County, shall in writing petition the Commission to have said locality, (the boundaries whereof shall be definitely stated in said petition) constituted as a new sanitary district, then if the Commission in its discretion shall deem it expedient to constitute said locality as a sanitary district in accordance with the prayer of said petition, and if the County Commissioners consent thereto, the Commission shall cause plats of such locality to be made under the supervision of its chief engineer, showing the proposed water, sewerage or drainage systems, one copy of which plat shall be filed in the office of the Commission, one in the office of the County Commissioners and one in a plat book indexed "St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission", in the office where the land records of St. Mary's County are kept; and upon the filing of said plat and the approval of said locality by the County Commissioners of said County and the Commission, such sanitary district shown on said plat shall be, and the same is hereby designated and constituted for the purpose of this sub-title to be a separate sanitary district, and shall be given by the Commission a distinctive name and shall be subject to all the provisions of this sub-title, and the filing of said plat shall constitute legal notice to the public of such action of the Commission. That for the purpose of providing for the organization and preliminary expenses of any newly constituted sanitary district, the County Commissioners shall furnish the Commission with a sum not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), which shall be repaid out of the first bond issue of the particular district.

178. The Commission shall cause surveys, plans, specifications and estimates to be made for water supply, sewerage and drainage systems in those portions of St. Mary's County in which the Commission exercises authority, and shall divide each sanitary district into water, sewerage and drainage districts in such way as shall, in its judgment, best serve the needs of the various communities, and shall promote convenience and economy of installation and operation. Whenever, and as, such plans are completed, the Commission shall give notice by publication in one newspaper published within the County, for three weeks, and by handbills posted and circulated in the localities where said improvements are contemplated, and shall state in said notice the probable cost of the contemplated improvements, and shall further state therein that plans of the improvements may be inspected at the Commission's office and that any person interested in said improvements will be heard by the Commission at a time to be specified in the notice, but not less than ten days after first publication thereof. If ten residents and landowners in the sanitary district wherein the improvements are contemplated shall thereupon, and within ten days after the last of said publications of said notice, file a petition with the Commission protesting against the proposed improvement, the Commission shall grant them a hearing within ten days after such petition is filed in the office of the Commission and after not less than five days notice of the time and place of said