

the duties of his office, shall take an oath before the Clerk of the Circuit Court for said County, in form similar to that taken by collectors of taxes, except as to the title of the office. The Commission is hereby empowered to pay the premiums on all bonds. All checks issued by said Commission shall be countersigned by the chairman. The said Commission shall annually have its accounts audited by a certified public accountant, to be selected by said Commission, and paid by said Commission, and publish a full, true and itemized account, under oath, of its receipts and disbursements in a newspaper published in said Howard County.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Commission shall cause surveys, plans, specifications and estimates to be made for water supply, sewerage and drainage systems in those portions of Howard County, *or any other project within or outside Howard County as referred to in Section 14 herein,* in which the Commission exercises authority, and shall divide each sub-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 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 hearing by advertisement published in one newspaper published within the County, and by personal notices addressed to any one or more persons whose names are signed to said petition. After due hearing as aforesaid, the Commission shall decide upon the reasonableness of the objections stated in the petition; and shall dispose of the same by written order concurred in by a majority of the Commissioners, which order shall be published in the same manner as notices are herein required to be published and a copy of which shall be mailed to any one or more of the petitioners. If the petitioners are not satisfied with the Commission's decision, they shall have the right to take and enter, within ten days after the last publication of said order as aforesaid, an appeal to the County Commissioners of Howard County, who shall review the Commission's decision and decide as to the necessity and propriety of the improvement contemplated and whether the district can stand the cost of the same; and the decision of the County Commissioners shall be final.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That for the purpose of retiring the bonds authorized to be issued by this Act and of paying the interest thereon, *and for the payment of salaries and other expenses of the Commission,* the Commission shall cause to be levied, against