

days after notice of their appointment, take an oath before a justice of the peace of Wicomico county that they will faithfully, fully and fairly, and without partiality or prejudice, value and assess the costs and damages to be suffered and incurred by any person in the said property, over, through and by which the said road, drain, waterway or landings is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved, and also to estimate the benefits that may accrue therefrom to any such property, over, through and by which the said road, drains, waterway or landings is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved, or any property adjacent thereto, or any other property injured or benefited by said road, drain, water-course or landing; they shall give at least fifteen days' notice in one or more newspapers published in Wicomico county of their purpose to lay out, open, extend, close up, widen, straighten, grade or improve the road drain, waterway or landing so directed to be laid out, opened, extended, closed up, widened, straightened, graded or improved, and of the day, hour and place of meeting for the said purpose; and shall meet at the time and place mentioned in the notice given by them, and proceed to exercise the powers and perform the duty assigned to and required of them, and to ascertain whether any and what amount in value of damages will be caused thereby, for which the owner or occupant of any rights or interest claimed in any ground or improvement ought to be compensated over and above the amount in value of benefits which will thereby accrue to said owner or occupant thereof and ascertain what amount in value of benefits will thereby accrue to any lot or parcel of ground by or through which the same may pass, or improvements made or any other property or to the owner or occupant thereof and which said lot or parcel of ground, or the owner or occupant thereof ought to pay. They shall locate boundaries and prepare an explanatory map, giving description of the road opened, closed, extended, widened, straightened or drain, water-course or landing, with each separate lot or parcel of ground, deemed to have sustained damages or received benefits, and they shall within twenty days return to the County Commissioners such map, together with the amount of damages awarded such owners or occupants and the amount of benefits assessed to any lot or parcel of ground or the owner thereof, together with a certificate of their qualification, which may be ratified or rejected or allowed, and amended in whole or in part by said County Commissioners; provided, that the County Commissioners shall give ten days' notice at least by publication in one newspaper published in Wicomico county, or by ten days' notice at least in writing, to each property owner so interested, of the time set for final

CHAP. 628.

Notice to be
given of
purpose to
lay out, open,
etc., the
road drain,
waterway,
etc.