

location of said road and the reason he or they have for opening, altering or closing the same; and counter petitions may be presented to the Road Directors at any time within fifteen days after the expiration of the twenty days' notice above provided for; and when any petitions are so presented, the said Road Directors shall appoint a day when the petitioners and counter petitioners shall be heard, and shall consider the same and such testimony as may be adduced before them, and shall determine the case in such manner as in their opinion shall be right and proper. Whenever the Road Directors decide it is expedient that a road be opened under the provisions of this section, they may contract with the owner or owners of the land through which the road is intended to be run for the right of way necessary for such roads, if he, she or they be competent, and in case the said Road Directors shall so contract, they shall cause a plat of said road to be made by the Roads Engineer and filed and recorded in the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, which said plat shall be referred to and shall be part of the Land Records of said county, and the lands so contracted for shall be conveyed to said Road Directors and shall become henceforth the property of the county, in the same manner and to the same extent as other county roads and no further; and whenever the Road Directors shall deem it expedient that examiners should be appointed to view grounds for the purpose of opening, altering or closing a road, they shall appoint three persons as examiners, who shall be freeholders in the county and not interested in or holding land through which the road is proposed to be opened, altered or closed, but the appointment of the examiners shall not prevent the Road Directors from contracting with the owner or owners as above provided; or said Road Directors may proceed to condemn the lands that may be necessary for the laying out of new public roads or for altering of existing public roads under the provisions of Sections 248 to 253, both inclusive, of Article 23 of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Corporations," and any and all amendments thereto.

To contract
with owner
or owners.

Appointment
of Road Ex-
aminers.

Oath
prescribed.

216L. The examiners appointed under the preceding section, before they proceed to act as such, shall take an oath to execute the trust reposed in them faithfully and without favor, affection, or partiality, which oath shall be endorsed on the order of appointment; said examiners or a majority of them shall give notice of the time and place of meeting by publishing the same once a week for two successive weeks in some newspaper or newspapers published in Allegany County and by causing a copy of the same to be delivered to the owner or