

enter upon and proceed with the work in question. Said commission shall thereupon advertise for at least two weeks in one or more newspapers published in said county, and for three consecutive issues in at least one daily newspaper published in Baltimore City, for sealed proposals for the construction or other improvements of said highway, accurately describing the same and stating the time and place for opening said proposals, and reserving the rights to reject any and all proposals; said proposals shall be publicly opened at the time specified in said advertisement, and the contract for such work or for the supplies and materials required for such construction or work or for the supplies and materials required for such construction or improvement shall be awarded by the commission to the lowest responsible bidder, unless, in the opinion of said commission, the interests of the county shall be better served by awarding the contract to some other bidder, when this may be done; but said commission shall not be required so to advertise for proposals or to award any contract for any work or for any materials or supplies for any amount less than two thousand and fifty dollars in the aggregate. The construction and improvement of all highways or parts thereof so undertaken to be constructed or improved as part of the system aforesaid shall be under the supervision and subject to the approval of the chief engineer of said commission, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by said chief engineer and approved by said commission. In all cases where the contract for work and materials shall be given out after competitive bidding, the successful bidder shall promptly execute a formal contract to be approved as to its form, terms and conditions by said commission, and shall also execute and deliver to said commission a good and sufficient bond to be approved by said commission to the State of Maryland in not less than the amount of the contract price. In no case shall any such bond be approved or accepted unless the obligors bind themselves therein to the payment of all just debts for labor and materials incurred by the bidder in the construction and improvement of the road contracted for. To all such bids there shall be attached the certified check of the bidder, and the bidder who has the contract awarded to him and who fails to promptly and properly execute the contract and bond shall forfeit the said check. The said check shall be taken and considered as liquidated damages, and not a penalty, for failure of said bidder to execute said contract and bond. Upon the execution of said contract and bond by a successful bidder his check shall be returned to him. The amount of said check shall