

curred by the laying out, opening and making of new streets or alleys, or by altering, straightening, widening, grading, improving or closing up, in whole or in part, any existing street or alley, or laying out public squares, drains and water-courses, shall be determined and assessed by five disinterested persons, residents of said town, appointed by the mayor and approved by the council, who shall, within ten days after notification of their appointment, take an oath, before a justice of the peace of Wicomico county, that they will faithfully and fairly, and without partiality or prejudice, value and assess the loss and damages to be suffered and incurred by any person interested in the said property, over, through and by which the said street or alley, square, drain or water-way 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 street or alley, square, drain or water-way is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved, or any property adjacent thereto, or any other property injured or benefited by said street, alley, square, drain or waterway; they shall give at least ten days' notice in one or more newspapers published in said town, of their purpose to lay out, open, extend, close up, widen, straighten, grade or improve the street or alley, square, drain or water-way, 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 they 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 right or interest, claimed in any ground or improvement, ought to be compensated, over and above the amount in value of benefit which will thereby accrue to such owner or occupant thereof, and ascertain what amount in value of benefit 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 the 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 street or alley opened,