

1888, ch. 210.

**173.** The commissioners may pass such ordinances, not contrary to law, as they may deem beneficial to the town; establish, open and close streets, lanes and alleys, straighten, widen and improve the same, grade and pave the same, restrain all disorders and disturbances, apprehend and fine all vagabonds, and may impose fines, penalties and forfeitures for the violation of their ordinances.

Ibid.

**174.** All benefits and damages done, suffered or incurred by the opening, closing, widening, extension or improving of said streets, lanes and alleys, shall be determined and assessed by three disinterested persons, residents of said town, to be appointed by said commissioners, and who shall, within twenty days after ratification of their appointments, take an oath before a justice of the peace of Wicomico county, that they will faithfully, fairly, and without partiality or prejudice, value and assess the loss and damage to be suffered and incurred by any person interested in the property over and through which the said street, lane or alley is to be opened, closed, extended, widened or improved, and also to estimate the benefits that may accrue therefrom to any property affected thereby, and that they shall, within ten days after such valuation or assessment, return the same, in writing, under their hands and seals, with a certificate of their qualification before a justice of the peace, as hereinbefore provided, to the commissioners of said town, which said valuation and assessment shall be ratified or rejected by the said commissioners, within twenty days after return of same, as in their judgment may seem proper; and before actually opening, widening or altering any street, lane or alley, the said commissioners shall pay or tender to the person, his agent, guardian or representative, the amount of damage so awarded; and if any person shall feel aggrieved by the determination of the said commissioners in ratifying or rejecting said return, either as to damages or benefits, or in any matter relating to the same, he may appeal within thirty days from said ratification or rejection to the circuit court for Wicomico county, and said court, or a jury, may increase or decrease the amount of damages or benefits so awarded, and may award costs in its discretion, and said judgments shall be final; and it shall