

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 or persons 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, she or they 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 be the duty of the said commissioners to cause the papers connected therewith to be delivered to the clerk of said county, on petition in writing, of any party feeling aggrieved; and the persons appointed to assess the damages as aforesaid shall receive such compensation as the commissioners shall determine.

SEC. 18. *And be it enacted*, That the said commissioners have power to pass all laws and ordinances necessary for grading, regulating, paving and repairing the footways and sidewalks of the

Benefits.

May appea..

Paving foot-
ways.