

required, the board may cause such improvements to be made, with the assent and approval of the County Commissioners first had; provided, that the estimated cost of all permanent improvements made under this Act in any one year shall not be more than one-half of road tax in such district for the last preceding year; said petitions shall be presented at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, and thereupon such board shall direct such investigation as may be necessary to inform them as to the utility and probable cost of the proposed improvement, and may for that purpose order a preliminary survey, and shall determine what highways or parts of highways designated in such petition shall be so improved, and shall estimate the probable amount of money that will be required to complete such improvement, and how much can be reasonably provided therefor. It shall be necessary for the board in such case to declare by resolution their intention to cause such improvement to be made, and they shall cause all necessary surveys of such road or section to be made, and specifications for a macadam, telford or other equally good permanent road, as determined to be improved to be prepared, and shall then proceed in the same manner as provided and required in section 203 f.

Amount of
fund avail-
able.

203 b. At their regular November and April sessions in each year the County Board of Road Commissioners shall ascertain what amount of said fund is or shall be available for expenditure during the ensuing season in permanent improvements ordered in their respective districts, and shall apportion such available fund, as nearly as may be, to the several highways upon which improvements have been ordered; but no part thereof shall be set apart for the benefit of any highway on which the work of permanent improvement has not been commenced until sufficient provision shall have been made for the completion of the work upon highways already begun. The said Board of County Commissioners may provide for the payment of the cost of such permanent improvement by apportioning the cost thereof among the several districts in proportion as in their judgment and discretion the one or more districts are benefited by such permanent improvements.

Employ an
engineer or
surveyor.

203 c. The County Board of Road Commissioners may employ a competent engineer or surveyor, at the same compensation allowed the county surveyor, to survey the county roads, or any part thereof, when such work is necessary; and to prepare specifications for culverts or other improvements intended to be made in pursuance of this Act, and to supervise the work and materials used.