

awarding contracts for labor or materials, or other matters in which powers of discretion are vested in it under the provisions of this sub-title.

362. The Highways Commission shall have the power to issue subpoenas for witnesses, and the president thereof shall have power to administer the oath to any witness who may be examined before the Commission, said oath to have all the qualities of an oath taken before any other judicial tribunal or officers, and violations thereof to be punishable as other perjuries are punishable, and the Commission shall have full power to give judgment in any hearing before it as to costs, which judgments shall be enforceable in the same manner as other judgments for costs rendered by competent tribunals.

363. Said Commission shall have the power to require all notices provided by this sub-title to be given, or which it may be necessary to give in the course of any of its proceedings, to be served by any of the constables of Baltimore county, and to allow the sum of forty cents and no more for the service of every such notice; and any constable failing to serve any such notice or making any false return as to such service shall be punishable as for other similar violations of duties required by law to be performed by him.

364. No franchise or right in relation to any highway, avenue, street, lane or alley, either on, above or below the surface of the same, shall be granted by the Highways Commission of Baltimore county, until the following provisions shall have been complied with: (1) The application for such franchise or right shall be published by the applicant once a week for three successive weeks in two newspapers published in Baltimore county and having general circulation, setting forth the location, character and extent of the franchise sought; (2) upon the first publication of said notice it shall be the duty of the said Highways Commission to make diligent inquiry as to the money value of the franchise or right asked to be granted, and the adequacy of the compensation proposed to be paid therefor; (3) if any objection is made to the granting of the franchise asked by any person or persons interested therein, either as taxpayers or having property rights involved, and filed in writing with the secretary to the board, before the expiration of said notice, opportunity shall be granted and a time set for the hearing of such objections.

365. If no valid objection is made to the granting of such franchise and it appear to the said board that the granting of the same is expedient and proper, the said board shall have authority to grant such franchise for such money compensation as it shall upon inquiry determine proper and as may be