

roads and change the same as they may see fit. It shall be the duty of the County Commissioners to foster public interest in the public roads, and, to this end encourage the formation of road improvement associations and to hold not less than four public meetings in each year in different parts of the County for the discussion of road matters; reasonable notice of the said meetings to be given by advertisement and such meetings to be attended by the Road Engineer, and at least one member of the Board of County Commissioners. The said County Commissioners shall have the power to let out the repair or maintenance of any road or portion of road by contract, when, in the judgment of the said Road Engineer, such course is deemed advisable, in which case preference shall be given, where practicable, to the owners of the land directly interested in the proper care of such road or roads, and such work shall be done under the supervision of the said Road Engineer. All contracts made by the County Commissioners for the repair or construction of roads or bridges shall be reduced to writing and all payments thereunder shall be subject to the approval by the Road Engineer of the work done under the contract. Whenever work on any road or bridge involves an outlay of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.) or more, plans and specifications therefor may be prepared by the Road Engineer and bids for the work invited by reasonable publication in such paper or papers as the County Commissioners may designate; but it shall not be obligatory upon the said County Commissioners to have any work done by contract if it be found that the same can be done at less expense by direct employment of the required labor. The County Commissioners of Washington County shall have the power to make all such rules and regulations with reference to the use of the roads, streets, avenues, lanes, alleys and bridges of the County by telephone and telegraph companies, steam railroads and street railways companies, gas, water and electric light companies, and similar uses thereof, and by individuals and the traveling public, as the County Commissioners may consider necessary for the proper protection of the said roads, streets, avenues, lanes, alleys and bridges of the County and the rights of the public therein, and to impose reasonable penalties for the violation of such rules and regulations and may make other necessary provisions for the enforcement thereof, and shall have the right from time to time to change or alter the same: and all such rules and regulations, when adopted and recorded in a book or books kept for the purpose, shall have the force and