

87. The County Commissioners of the several Counties, the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City, the latter acting through its Comptroller, may bid at any sale of real estate for State and county taxes due thereon, and may purchase any of such real estate offered at such sale; and in case any of such real estate shall be purchased by them at said sale, on the final ratification thereof of the deed for the property so purchased shall be made to said County Commissioners, the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore by the Collector and the property be held for the use of the county or city, as the case may be.

88. At any time after any county, the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown, or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have acquired property by conveyance from the Collector, the County Commissioners, the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the latter acting through its Comptroller with the consent of the Board of Finance Commissioners of Baltimore City, may in their discretion either sell the said real estate at a private sale to the next preceding former owner or other person having previously had an interest in the property either by way of absolute conveyance or mortgage including former reversioners at and for the sales price equal to the amount paid by said County Commissioners, the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for said property, together with all subsequent taxes or public liens charged against said property and interest on said total sum at the rate of six per cent per annum accounting from the date on which the purchase money was paid by said County Commissioners, the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to said Collector, or in the alternative to such a private sale to the former owner or other parties in interest as above defined, shall after giving public notice by advertisement inserted once for three successive weeks in some newspaper published in the County, City of Hagerstown and in Baltimore City for three successive weeks in two newspapers published in said City, offer the said real estate for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, provided no public sale shall be for a less sum than the amount of the taxes, together with all costs, charges and interest due and chargeable thereon; and if for any real estate offered at public sale there shall be no bid which seems adequate to the County Commissioners, the Mayor and Council of Hagerstown or the Comptroller of Baltimore City, the same shall be withdrawn from sale and thereafter, at any time without any further notice, the County Commissioners, the Mayor and Council of