

missioners who shall be elected by the inhabitants of said town qualified and registered to vote for delegates to the General Assembly. The said Commissioners shall be persons eligible to vote at said election, at least twenty-five years of age and payers of taxes in said town on assessed valuation of at least One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of property, including property held as tenants by the entireties. This Act shall not shorten the terms of present Commissioners but the term of A. Russum Orme is hereby extended until June 30, 1951, as a holdover. Each Commissioner during the whole term for which he is elected shall be possessed of all qualifications rendering him eligible to be elected, and if any Commissioner, during the time for which he was elected, shall fail to retain all the qualifications necessary to render him eligible to election or shall neglect or refuse to attend meetings of the Commissioners for the space of three months, he shall forfeit such office, and such forfeiture shall be declared by a majority of the remaining Commissioners, and the vacancy caused thereby shall be immediately filled as other vacancies; and if said Commissioners shall neglect or refuse to declare such vacancy and to fill the same, then any taxpaying inhabitant of said municipality being a legal voter therein, may file a petition in the Circuit Court for Caroline County against such officer, and the Court, or the judge thereof if in vacation, shall pass an order requiring such officer to show cause why his office should not be vacated and the vacancy filled as provided, and such order shall be made returnable on the first Monday of the month next succeeding its passage, and a copy thereof shall be served on such officer; and if he shall fail to answer the same the said Court or the judge thereof if in vacation, shall hear and determine such matter *ex parte*; and if such officer shall answer the same, then the said Court, or the judge thereof if in vacation, shall hear at once and determine the issue raised by such petition and answer and shall declare the office of the said respondent vacant and order the filling of the vacancy or shall dismiss the petition, as the proof may justify, and may award costs as may appear equitable and right.

(b) An election shall be held on the fourth Monday of May, 1951, and of each year thereafter, between the hours of 12 o'clock noon and 6 o'clock P.M., at such place, in said Town, as shall be designated by the Commissioners, at which one Commissioner shall be elected for a term of five years from the 1st day of July next after election and until his successor is elected and qualified, one Commissioner shall be elected for a term of four years and one Commissioner shall be elected for a term of three years, thereafter Commissioners shall be elected for terms of five years each, to hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. At said election in 1951