

The charge for the upkeep on sewers shall be reasonable and collected annually in the same manner as benefit assessments are collected and shall be a first lien against all property having a connection with any sewer pipe under its supervision or ownership. The rates for water service shall consist of a minimum or ready-to-serve charge, which shall be based upon the size of the meter on the water connection leading to the property, and of a charge for water used, which shall be based upon the amount of water passing through the meter during the period between the last two readings, said meter being required to be placed on each water connection by and at the sole expense of the Commission. If the Commission at any time shall not have meters available to install in all the properties in a given locality that are connected to the system, then a flat rate shall be charged all properties in which meters have not yet been installed, which rate shall be uniform in each [sanitary] district and based upon the amount of water used. Bills for the amount of the charges as above specified shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually by the Secretary of the Commission, as the Commission may determine, to each property served, and shall be thereon payable at the office of the County Treasurer; and if any bill remains unpaid after thirty days from date of sending, the Commission shall, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, turn off the water from the property in question, and the water shall not be turned on again until said bill shall have been paid, including a penalty of Two Dollars (\$2.00). If any bill shall remain unpaid for sixty (60) days after being sent by the Commission, it shall be collectible from the owner of the property served in the same manner as other debts are collectible in the County and said ready-to-serve charge, other service charges and all penalties shall be a first lien against said property.

436. The said Commission shall have full power and authority to enter into any contract for the connection of its water supply or sewerage systems, with those of any municipality or adjoining county or state or any other governmental agency, for the purpose of water supply and for the disposal of sewage and other drainage from any [sanitary] district, and to enter into any other agreement concerning any other matter deemed by the Commission to be necessary, advisable or expedient for the proper construction, maintenance and operation of the water supply or sewerage systems under its control, or those under the control of any municipality or county, or other governmental agency.

437. The Commission is authorized and empowered to purchase or acquire by gift, any existing water or sewerage systems in Wicomico County, or any other water or sewerage systems in said County, which in its judgment are desirable or necessary for the purpose of providing adequate water or sewerage service or both for the residents of said County.

438. (a) Whenever said Commission shall have extended its water supply or sewerage system up to and is ready to connect with any municipally owned or privately owned water supply or sewerage system, whether within or outside of Wicomico County, and it deems it advisable and proper for the adequate operation of the system under its jurisdiction to take over the said water or sewerage system, it may purchase the same upon such terms and conditions as may be