

by the Commission free and clear of all debts and liens, but the Commission shall make a party defendant of any person, firm, or corporation having any recorded lien or encumbrance against the same, and the Circuit Court may determine the respective amounts due the defendants; and from and after payment into Court or to the proper parties as hereinabove provided, the Commission is authorized to take possession of, maintain, and operate the system, which shall be subject to the same regulations and penalties as though the system so acquired had been constructed and put into operation by the Commission under the provisions of this subtitle; provided, however, that no building or premises actually connected in an adequate manner with the acquired system shall be required to pay any connection charge.

(d) Whenever there is in existence a privately-owned water supply or sewerage system which in the judgment of the Commission is ~~unfit~~, UNSUITABLE in whole or in part, for incorporation into the Commission's system, the Commission may disregard the existence of said system of ~~unfit~~ UNSUITABLE part thereof and extend its system to serve the area tributary to the existing system or ~~unfit~~ UNSUITABLE part thereof, and all the provisions of this subtitle relating to systems constructed by the Commission apply thereto.

#### 408. Acquisition; purchase or gift.

(a) The Commission may purchase or acquire by gift any existing water, sewerage, or drainage systems, or parts thereof, including those owned, operated by, or serving any municipality, or any land, structure, buildings, stream bed, water rights, or watershed, either in fee or as an easement, which in its judgment is desirable or necessary for the purpose of providing adequate water, sewerage or drainage service or either for the residents of the county. Any such purchase is subject to the approval of the County Commissioners and may be made upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, but before any part of the purchase price is paid, other than a nominal sum of money to bind the agreement, it is the duty of the vendor or agent to furnish a statement to said Commission setting forth all names and addresses of persons having any interest or claims against the property whatsoever, which shall be verified by an oath in writing.

(b) Thereupon it is the duty of the Commission to notify personally or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, all persons having any interest whatever in the property, and in addition the Commission shall give three weeks' notice of its intention to purchase the property, in a newspaper or newspapers published within the county where the property is located; and each person having any claim whatever against the property shall file its, his, or her claim with the Commission on or before the expiration date mentioned in the notice at which time any and all persons shall be heard.

(c) Any municipality whose system or any portion thereof is acquired by the Commission by purchase may use the amount paid to it for the system for the purchase or redemption of any bonds or debt which may be outstanding against the same; or the Commission, as part of the purchase price of the system, may assume the payment of any such bond or debt. ~~The Commission shall not purchase any existing water mains, sewers, or systems, in whole or in part, which~~